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**

206 North Main Street Underwood Phone: 218/826-6553 Website: <u>www.ucofu.org</u> <u>www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org</u>

Servíces October 1 - Ellen Eastby October 8 - Julia Nerbonne October 15 - Willard Yellow Bird, "We are all Related" October 22 - Rev. Ian Evison "Small, but Mighty!" October 29 - Chris Shuelke





Fall Bouquet & Photo courtesty of Mikkel Thompson & Florance Thompson

October 2017 Newsletter

Services Begin at 10:00 a.m.



October 2017								
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
1 Ellen Eastby, "Grieving Losses, Celebrating Gains" Adult RE 8:45 am CC	2 AA 7 pm	3	4	5	6 Celebration of Mickie Edmonds 1:00 p.m.	7		
8 Julia Nerbonne "Connecting Head, Heart & Will Adult RE 8:45 am CC	9 AA 7 PM	10 Feminist Resistance in Columbia - Potluck/Rojas Presentation 6 pm Battle Lake U Group 3 pm @ Joanne Cress'	<b>11</b> Alexandria U Group 7 pm @ Widseth Office Bldg/ Executive Committee	<b>12</b> Perham U Group 6:00 pm @ Stan Carignan's	<b>13</b> Celtic Music Concert 7:30 pm @ UCU	14		
<b>15</b> Willard Yellow Bird, "We are all Related" Mindfulness/Quaker Quiet Time Sitting 8:30 am Children's RE 10:00 Board Meeting	16 AA 7 PM	<b>17</b> Fergus Falls U Group 6 pm @ Diana Ziesemer's	18	19	<b>20</b> UU Area Fall Workshop Registration 12 – 1 PM Italian Supper Evening Conversation	21 UU Area Fall Workshop – 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM		
22 Rev. Ian Evison "Small, But Mighty!" Adult RE 8:45 am CC	23 AA 7 PM	24	<b>25</b> Communications/Tech Team 5:00 pm	26	27	28		
<b>29</b> Chris Shuelke, Otter Tail Hate Child Care	30 AA 7 PM	31	Celebration of the Life of Mickie Edmonds to be held October 6, 1 p.m. Unitarian Church of Underwood					

### **October Speakers/Presenters**

**October 1 – Celebrant, Ellen Eastby, "Grieving Losses, Celebrating Gains."** Ellen will be speaking about community, specifically, our church community. She chose this topic for three reasons. First, we have recently lost three members. Our grief of their passing is something that we can or maybe even should acknowledge as a church community. Second, it is good to reaffirm that we are a pretty amazing community. Third, it is a fitting topic for New Member Sunday, as we celebrate the gain of new members into our community.

October 8 – Julia Nerbonne, Executive Director of Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (MNIPL), "Connecting Head, Heart and Will." Julia will discuss the role of faith communities in climate justice. She will describe the formation of MNIPL, actions other Minnesota congregations have taken, and how UCU can grow in the interfaith climate movement. Please join us for her climate conversation.

**October 15- Willard Yellow Bird, "We are all Related"** in God's (Creator's) healing particles and healing, We will learn from Willard how we are all related through spiritual energy through Native American traditional teaching; the important of using our native plants (sage, sweet grass and cedar) and prayers to feed our spirit; and how strong our Spirit will become and help heal the body and mind.

Willard is a shaman and a current cultural planner for Fargo who works closely with the Native American Commission. He teaches people how to get back the old traditions to make their spirits strong again and to overcome their difficulties.

**October 22 – Rev. Ian Evison. "Small, but Mighty!"** Rev. Evison will be here participating in the UU Area Fall Workshop and our guest speaker this Sunday. He will focus on the power of the communities we build – especially as small churches in a rural area.

Ian is a UU minister who has served in a variety of ministries, including parish ministry, theological education, a research project at the University of Chicago in Family and Religion, and service at the Alban Institute as Director of Research. Current passions include future trends in American religious life, new frontiers of organizational development. He also has a geeky interest in change strategies and denominational structures. To keep sane he cooks, gardens, frequents farmers' markets, and makes large quantities of compost. Ian and his wife, Leah, split their time between Chicago and St. Paul.

October 29 Chris Shuelke, Executive Director of the Otter Tail County Historical Society: "Interpreting Sensitive Matters in History." Interpreting complicated history is a challenging but essential element for pubic historians. Organizations such as the Otter Tail County Historical Society want to present accurate information but is often pressured to sanitize or self-censor historical events. This could entail a local crime, scandal, racial issue, or personnel tragedy. Do we tell these stories, sweep them under the rug, or use them to engage in dialogue? There is no easy answer.

## Adult Religious Education Classes September – May Mindfulness Sitting Year Round

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month, 8:45 - 9:45 a.m. – John Minge leading discussion from: "A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota." The book consists of 16 or 17 essays written recently by people with different racial/ethnic backgrounds with a strong connection to Minnesota, most live here. It challenges the assertion that we are as "nice" as we claim to be. "How can a place renowned for its hospitality and its progressive values have proven to be so profoundly inhospitable toward its people of color?"

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, 8:45- 9;45 a.m. – Sandy Barnhouse leads the Ancient Religions Class. The broad question of the year is, "Did religion begin as a survival strategy, as a teaching on how to stay alive? Was earth worship a universal tendency?" This subject of learning reminds us that ancient earth religious recognition and celebrations lead us to the environmental justice awareness of today as we continue to honor and treasure our earth.

**3**<sup>rd</sup> **Sunday of the month, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.** Stan Carignan leads Mindfulness/Quaker Quiet Time Sitting. "It is a wonderful feeling to let go of all your stress each day. To let go of the petty hurts, jealousies, or sadness from the day. To let go of all the worries about the next day or the next week. To simply give yourself the gift of being for just a few minutes."

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month beginning October 22, 8:45 – 9:45 a.m. Bob Worner uses the book studied by the Celebrants, *Fluent in Faith* by Jeanne Harrison Nieuwejaar. It is "A Unitarian Universalist Embrace of Religious Language." There will be discussion of our beliefs using and redefining traditional religious language.

> Children's Religious Education September – May 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. – Dance & Song with Mikkel Thompson October 15 & November 5



A meeting with the parents/grandparents provided information on what parents wanted for children's religious education. They emphasized:

- Community and support teaching ethics and how to be a good person
- Religious literacy teaching that there are many religions and not just Christianity recognizing and respecting other beliefs.

Based on that feedback, Mary Anderson took it upon herself to research the uua.org website and found terrific children's religious education material. Tapestry of Faith, Chalice Children seemed to best fit the needs described. That material is now adapted in a consistent, fun format to be used as a guide for both the child care providers and the volunteer parent leader on their assigned Sundays once/month. Children will be led through fun songs, chalice lighting, or my feelings expression, and then proceed to a lesson and activities, with clean-up, and closing. After which, the children will rejoin their families. Tentative schedule subject to change is below. Please watch announcements for firm dates.

We are delighted that Mikkel Thompson agreed to lead the children for three Sundays in Scandinavian song and dance. Thank you, Mikkel!!

We are excited that the kids will be able to occupy space in Sverdrup Suites #300 beginning October 7.

On Children's RE Sundays, the children will gather in church, be acknowledged and then leave for their own time. On non-RE Sundays, they will stay until sung out right before the offertory and the Child Care providers will escort them to the other building.

If you wish to assist with Kids' RE, please contact Mary Anderson at 218/346-6638 or <u>maryanderson8380@msn.com</u> or Kris Warhol at <u>mwarhol7up@gmail.com</u> or 218/205-1644.

#### Children's Religious Education Classes Tentative Schedule 2017-18

October 15– Song & Dance with Mikkel Thompson November 5 – Song & Dance with Mikkel Thompson November 19, 10:10 -11 a.m. – Kris & Wally Warhol and Bonnie Albers- Children's December Program Planning with the kids December 17, 10:00 -11 a.m. – Children's Program January 14 or 21 10:10-11 a.m. – JoAnn Larson & Alisha Piekarski February, 10:10-11 a.m. – JoAnn Larson & Alisha Piekarski March 11 or 18, 10:10 -11 a.m. – Tina Stone & Alisha Piekarski April 15, 10:10 – 11 a.m. – Jon Solinger & Alisha Piekarski May 20 or 27 – "Old Fashioned Sunday School Picnic" @ Phelps Mill or God's Acres

Other parents/grandparents/volunteers are welcome to assist!

\*Child Care on non-RE Sundays 10:15 – 11:00 a.m. with Breanna Boomgaarden and Skylar Swanson or others

## **Sverdrup Suites Unit**

Plans are underway for UCU occupation of the vacated Apartment in Sverdrup Suites effective October 1. There may be need for gently used furnishings and other items. Donations made must be first approved by the Facilities Committee, Susan Groff, Katy Olson and Kris Warhol. A task force will be formed to plan short and long-term use of the unit. Watch for further information.

#### U Groups

The U Groups got off to a good start with the self-examining topic of "Racism." Stan Carignan and Luke Anderson lead the facilitators with a monthly meeting to go through the coming lesson and to discuss logistics and upcoming lesson review. To learn more or join a group, contact Luke at <u>luka@arvig.net</u> or 218/209-7809 or Stan at <u>Stanley.a.carignan@gmailcom</u> or 218/841-2657.

#### **U Group Schedule**

- Alexandria U-Group: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed @ 7:00 pm @ the office building of Widseth, Smith & Nolting Office Bldg., 610 Fillmore, Alexandria: Facilitators: Lee Becker/Susan Sanford
- The Battle Lake U Group, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday @ 3:00 p.m. @ home of Joanne Cress and Luke Anderson. Facili10tators: Bob Worner and Joanne Cress. When Joanne and Luke are gone for the winter, Kris Warhol will co-facilitate with Bob and the group will meet with a host to be announced.
- Fergus Falls U-Group: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues @ 6:00 pm @ Diana Ziesemer's, 934 W. Linden St., Fergus Falls. Facilitator: Jacob McKnite with Mary Worner.
- Perham U-Group: 2nd Thursday @ 6:00 p.m. at Stan Carignan's. Facilitator: Stan Carignan.

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



**URGENT NEED for Technical Sound and Support Assistance** What: Help run the sound and media systems on Sunday morning and for special events at UCU

When: Rotate responsibilities for Sunday mornings Why: Folks need to hear and see!

How: Contact Wally Warhol at 218/205-4111 or <u>tropbrass@gmail.com</u> or Tere Mann at 218/205-4931 or <u>teremann@gmail.com</u>. Training will be provided!! Newsletter Submissions Please submit your ideas, articles and photos to: maryanderson8380@msn.com. Editing: Stephanie Sanderson Emailing/mailing: Ellen Eastby and JoAnn Larson.

Note: Announcements sent the Newsletter editor are also forwarded to JoAnn Larson, Administrative Consultant for church announcements; Ellen Eastby for website updates at www.ucofu.org and Bonnie Showers for Facebook Page updates. <u>"Like" UCU on Facebook: see</u> www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org

Wi-fi <u>Now</u> Available at UCU See Bulletin Board or Bulletins for Password

## September Happenings Community Outreach

#### Underwood Harvest Festival



For our fourth year in making our presence further known, the Unitarian Church of Underwood joined the Underwood Community in the annual labor day week-end Harvest Festival Parade. JoAnn Laron and Sequoia Ann with the help of Alisha Piekarski set up a produce booth to successfully raise funds for the Shan Schools. Florance Thompson dressed in her Norwegian costume to let folks know that the Unitarian Church of Underwood had been established by Norwegians in 1889. Parade marchers included: Heather Morris, Sterling & Precious Czeck, Chet & Theresa Czeck, Sequoia Ann, Kris Warhol, Betsy Wells and Bob Worner. Thanks to all who participated in this celebration!

## **Ride for Refugees**

On September 30, six riders: Stan Carignan, Katy Olson, Ron Roller, Dave Sanderson, John & Terry Shaw participated in the 30-mile bike ride from Underwood to Glendalough State Park raising over \$750.00 for the Shan Schools. Thank you for your energy, commitment and diligence!

The Unitarian Church of Underwood and others are committed to this work because of stories like the one below that founder, Bernice Johnson provided us in her visit and annual update to UCU on October 1. More complete information on the stories of the Shan teacher that Bernice shared can be found in the September 29 Shan Schools newsletter attached to the October 1 Sunday church report or at: www.shanrefugeeschools.org.



Ying - Shan nursing graduate 2017

"Since a young child, this young Shan woman attended school on scholarships from us. Then she got a 'for real" scholarship' to a Thai university and recently completed her nurse's degree. If you had seen her living conditions and known the hardships the Shan endure, you would realize, as I do, that this is a mini-miracle. The Shan call themselves 'try hard' people. I feel blessed to have worked with them for sixteen years. *Bernice Johnson - Founder* 

For these and other stories about these amazing young Shans and what is happening in Burma and within this charity for displaced Shan youth and children in Thailand, please see <u>www.shanrefugeeschools.org</u> - September Newsletter.

## "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter." Martin Luther King

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As of September 22, 2017 courtesy of Stan Carignan

"We are on schedule to begin framing on Monday, 2 October. The framing part is the most fun I think. Nothing beats a beautiful fall day outside - building <u>something</u>!

Give me a call if you think you or your group can help the first two weeks of October. So far, I have confirmed commitments from God's Work Our Hands who will be on site on Friday, October 6. Concordia College students will be on site on Saturday, October 7. Ottertail Power will be on site on Wed. the 11th. Newman Construction Services will be donating their time and skills to shingle the roof on Saturday, October 14. (They may be assisted by Zion Lutheran Men's Group - yet to be confirmed).

I have unconfirmed commitments from other groups and I will begin calling you all in earnest next week. Thanks so much for being a part of this effort. Kwende and Heather are a wonderful couple and this home will make a significant difference in their lives." *Stan Carignan, Habitat for Humanity Executive Director* 

#### **Notes from September Speakers/Presenters**

**September 3** - **Katy Olson** spoke about the visit she'd made with her friend, Adele to the Eden Prairie Al-Anaan mosque where they were warmly welcomed and heard a lecture on **the Islamic Faith Teachings.** 

Katy's imagination of what it might be was kind of like the anticipation of a blind date – The "build-up" what to expect and the real thing were quite different. The mosque was in an office building sans turrets and elaborateness. It was rather ordinary, "a center for you – for shared community."

An Iman with three advanced decrees led the lecture about the core teachings of Islam. Since her visit, Katy read further James W. Laine's book, *Meta-Religion*. She learned more about the history of the Ottoman Empire, parts cosmopolitan and inclusive where Biblical and Hellenistic cultural beliefs merged with Islam.

Islam believes in one God with the Arabic name, Allah. Islam builds on Judaism and Christian history and beliefs and is seen by Muslims as superseding those teachings. The teachings of Muhammed (who was illiterate) were written after his life by high ranking recorders of his teachings.

Allah (God) has no beginning and no ending – the creator, the sustainer – man was created to worship God. The greatest sin is to not hold God first. Faith resides in the heart and is proven through actions. Islam is the final and complete way of life. The recorded Koran (Quran) is a guide to teach how to worship God, how the individual can lead a conscientious life. It remains in its original form as written 1400 years ago. The word Koran (Quran) means "oft repeated."

The purpose of existence is manifested through ritual and daily actions and worship of God with pure intentions to please God. It is memorized and thus becomes deeply imbedded. The five prayers a day call one back physically and mentally to connect to God.

The mosque is the community center. Ramadan is the month long fast for spiritual cleansing with increased charitable acts. The Koran expressively calls for giving to charity 2.5% because all wealth comes from God.

Muslims are encouraged to make the Haj, the pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in their lifetime. Other beliefs are parental obedience, preservation of family, kind treatment to others. Spirituality is God consciousness.

There is belief in life after death because this life is temporary – to prepare for the here-after and in fear of accountability for the life led. We all return to God at the end and are rewarded generously for good and punished for evil.

Jesus was human, a prophet, who came to deliver the message from God. He is not regarded in Islam as divine but as a messenger. The Virgin Mary is exalted and referred to more times in the Koran than in the Bible.

The authentic pure teachings from God as revealed through Muhammad are recorded in Arabic with exact memory of Muhammad's revelations and practical injunctions.

Jihadists use a reference in the Koran, that God gives permission to use violence to build empires. They, like Christian Fundamentalists are fearful of a changing world and their

perceived diminishment. However, Islamic Fundamentalists are a very small number of those who profess to practice Islam and 90% of Muslims do not support that view.

Islam is the fastest growing religion with large number of converts. Women comprise the majority of the converts. Contrary to perceptions, outside some countries' cultural norms, most Muslim women are exalted, very literate, own their own property. One woman commented that the dress coverings allows freedom for your character to be assessed, not to be assessed for your physical attributes as judged by more Western perceptions of a woman. And so, it is freedom, not bondage for her.

Katy was struck by the central universal, religious messages, instructions for conduct of Islam and the other majority religions and saw our Unitarian Universalist Principles not incongruent with those values.

**September 10 - Nik Nerburn**, self-described, "radical" photo journalist created the film **"Prairie Dreamers"** to depict the history of the Fergus Falls' Springboard for the Arts. He is currently working on a polaroid project in Duluth, "Whose Neighborhood is This?" He often works with people on the fringes.

Springboard for the Arts in Fergus Falls helps artists make a living and a life. Springboard helps artists navigate and build on the community around them. The film depicted FF Springboard's inception and history with testimonials by many artists on how it has worked for them and from community leaders on how it works for the community. Springboard has brought in over \$1.4 million to the community through the National Endowment for the Arts, the State Arts Funds, McKnight and Bush Foundations.

One UCU member attested that it brought him from a retired English teacher to a play writer!

September 17 - Ghazi Hassoun gave highlights about "My Odyssey from Palestine to America." Ghazi was born in Palestine in 1935 when it was under British Mandate. Palestine had formerly been part of the Ottoman Empire. His father was an Ottoman soldier and was captured by the British during the Suez Cannel War. His mother had to manage on her own the six years his father was gone and was a nanny to an Anglican minister. She and his older brother established a laundry that they operated until 1947 when because of the influx of Jews and the Resolution to Partition Palestine, his family became refugees in Lebanon.

Ghazi went to primary school, finished high school with honors and went to the American University in Beirut – known as the Arab Harvard. He came to America and earned his master's and doctor's decrees at the University of MN. He then went on to teach physics for 30 years at North Dakota state university.

He was married 44 years to his first wife who hailed from Bismarck that he'd met as a Christian Scientist. His current wife, Linda accompanied him here today.

In his retirement years, he is focused on peace making between the Arabs and the Jews. He was raised a Muslim Shiite, went to a Muslim Sunni school and was assisted in his academic pursuits by Anglican Christians.

Ghazi is the author of *Walking Out into the Sunshine* and he read passages from the epilogue: May the Almighty give man understanding; may there be faith, love and brotherhood; may souls be cleansed with healing work.

The Hassoun's brought copies of his book to purchase.

Attendance: 48

September 24 – Stefan Jonasson's talk was titled "The Longer View." He began by reflecting on the sad state of affairs that is coming from President Trump's administration and how this is validating some attitudes of prejudice, sexism, etc. It often feels like we are revisiting issues that we thought had been put to rest.

However, we cannot afford to despair nor be discouraged; the welfare of our planet and future generations is at stake. This is not just a political crisis, but also a spiritual one. Often, despair arises out of wallowing in the present, and not being able to hold on to a longer view and hope.

We are the descendants of survivors; and we hold the seeds of progress and the future. Just as many have come together to help after the disasters of recent hurricanes, we can also work together for a better future. Our DNA harbors compassion, empathy, kindness and goodness.

George Dodson said, "Wisdom is knowing what to do next. Virtue is doing it."

Stefan has visited the Unitarian Church of Underwood regularly since 1984!

Attendance: 55

"Whatever discouragement, pessimism, and despair there may be today is often a result of too great absorption in the present. The gloom due to the short sight is dissipated by the courage, hope and faith that comes from the long view." George R. Dodson in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century



# "Growing in Presence! Growing in Justice! Growing in Spirit!"

Time is closing in as we get ready to host our second UU Area Fall Workshop scheduled for October 20-21 with special guest speaker, Rev. Ian Evison on Sunday, October 22. The full itinerary will be posted soon. Highlights include:

Registration will begin from 12:00-1 p.m. on Friday, October 20. **Rev. Ashley Horan, Executive Director and Rev. Danny Givens, State Coordinator of the Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Association (MUUSJA)** will conduct an **afternoon social justice workshop** from 1 – 5 p.m. with focus on:

- The role of the church on social justice.
- How to build useful partnerships to embody our values.
- How to sustain spirit as we go about this work.
- Special challenges to smaller, rural fellowships usually isolated in the communities.

Following the Friday afternoon workshop, UCU will serve an **Italian supper** (volunteers needed!). Supper will be followed by the attending group **conversing on our experiences and practices** and learn better how to have hard conversation, build resiliency and stay balanced in the midst of increasing world tension and personal disagreements. The conversation will be led the reverends: Ashley, Danny, Ian Evison & Phil Lund.

Other special guests for the workshop duration are: **Rev. Ian Evison and Rev. Phil Lund, both Congregational Life Consultants with the UU MidAmerica Region. Ian will be our guest speaker on Sunday, October 22.** 

The workshop continues Saturday. Early Saturday morning, there will be opportunity to:

- Join Joan Vorderbruggen (7:30-9:30 a.m.) in a "Forest Bathing" walk at Phelps Mill
- Participate in a Mindfulness Sitting (8:30-9:30 a.m.) in quiet space at Sverdrup Suites, Apartment 300.

We will serve a **light breakfast** (volunteers needed!) before the **Opening Ceremony** from 10:00-10:30 a.m. We will then break into two concurring break-out sessions (10:30 a.m.-12:00 N) on: **1) Growing and Sustaining Members and 2) Growing in Social Justice** (one notetaker/timekeeper needed for each session).

We'll have **lunch catered at the Community Center** (volunteers needed for food pick-up, setup/serving/clean-up). After lunch, we'll return for further concurrently running break-out sessions from 1:15-2:45 p.m. on: **3) Growing in Environmental Justice and 4) Growing Visibility and Community Connections.** There will be a full gathering of attendees to close out in **celebration** from 3:00-3:30 p.m. Hopefully, all attendees will leave with feelings of renewed energy, power and spirit!! As you see from the above, we have need for many **volunteers**. **Sign-up** sheets will be available during up-coming Sunday services. See JoAnn Larson or Mary Anderson for how you can help!

The cost of the 1 ½ day workshop to non-UCU attendees is \$25 for materials and food. We have reduced the **cost to UCU members to \$20** (\$15/one day) because of the work you'll be contributing!! You'll recognize that we do have to pay for the materials and the catered meal. The registration form is at the end of this Newsletter or available at church. Please complete yours and mail or drop off with your check made payable to Unitarian Church of Underwood or UCU – memo: "workshop."

In our planning, we've been thinking of the other fellowships but when we look at the richness of offerings, we feel this is also a gift to ourselves, the Unitarian Church of Underwood. We look forward to ALL of you joining us as we celebrate with our neighboring UU fellowships, our continuing growth in presence, justice and spirit!!

Workshop Planning Task Force Members: Mary Anderson, Ellen Eastby, JoAnn Larson, Louise Lovdahl, Janell Miersch, Alisha Piekarski, Bonnie Showers, Bob Worner in consultation with: Janice Cheney (Bismarck-Mandan UU), Judy Foster (St. Cloud UU) and Kay Slama (Willmar UU).



Forest Bathing (also called Shinrin Yoku) is a mindful, slow-paced walk through a natural landscape, where one is gently guided to immerse him/herself in a present-centered relationship with the natural world. This type of intentional, focused (yet sometimes playful!) connection can bring healing, relieve stress, and increase one's overall sense of well-being – to a greater degree than would simply going for a walk or a hike.

Soon to be certified, UCU member, Joan Vorderbruggen will lead the Shinrin Yoku walk. There is no formal fee structure until she is certified, but Joan can receive a free-will donation. The walks are non-strenuous and will take about two hours, yet cover less than a mile.

Directions and/or rides will be provided to the off-site locations.

Depending on interest, on Saturday, October 21, Joan will guide an early morning walk and/or a late afternoon walk. Please indicate on the registration form, if you are interested in participating.

## Other October Happenings!! HOLD THE LINE. STOP PIPELINE #3. Environmental Impact of Tar Sands Oil and Pipeline #3 October 5 - Doors open @ 6 pm 6:30-8:00pm Presentation MState Fergus Falls - Legacy Hall 1414 College Way, Fergus Falls, MN

Enbridge, a large Canadian Co., plans to build a large Pipeline #3 in Northern Minnesota to transport tar sands near fragile watersheds and across tribal lands.

**Marty Cobenais**, a Red Lake Ojibwe, is the former Pipeline Organizer for the Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN). He is a leader on pipeline safety issues, having lead resistance to pipeline construction in Montana and Idaho. Mr. Cobenais has worked with several tribal governments, grassroots tribal members and non-native environmental groups and individuals in the process. Currently he lives in Bagley, MN.

**Scott Russell**, co-chair of the Beyond Oil and Tar Sands Committee for the Sierra Club's North Star Chapter, also volunteers with Healing Minnesota Stories, an interfaith effort to promote dialogue, understanding and healing between Native and non-Native peoples. Scott is a retired journalist who writes and blogs on a variety of social justice issues.

Sponsored by Sierra Club Organized by Otter Tail Indivisible

> "We have this prophecy called the time of "The Seventh Fire," which we're told that we have a choice between two paths. One path, they say, is well worn, but it's scorched. The other path, they say, is not well worn and it's green. It's our choice upon which path to embark." – Winona LaDuke

> > Feminist Antimilitarist Network Carol Rojas Potluck/Gathering October 10, 6 p.m. At Unitarian Church of Underwood



Come and bring a dish to share at this social justice opportunity. Free will donation will be taken to support the work of the Feminist Antimilitarist Network. Carol Rojas will be accompanied by a sponsor from Witness for Peace (WFP).

Then on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, Carol Rojas Opportunity to learn about popular education and peace-making from the Antimilitarist Feminist Network will be presenting in the Sociology classes at M State at 11:00 and 12:00 in Library Building Rm 120. Rojas will present on popular education and intersectional organizing in a dynamic of escalating post-accords Colombia.

#### About the Speaker: Carol Rojas

"In the Antimilitarist Feminist Network, I learned about working class feminism and discovered the need to collectively build forms of life that invite the transformation of the living conditions of those who have suffered war, hunger, dehumanization, lack of education, work, and health. Changing imagery, denaturalizing war and violence, working towards peace and building women's power.

I am a popular educator who accompanies formative processes with men and women who live in working class neighborhoods. My primary objective is to demilitarize and undo the patriarchy that exists in peoples' bodies and minds so that they can transform their territories based on an antimilitarist working class feminism and the commitment towards the democratization of the Colombian state, which is a key idea for the construction of peace."

#### The Context: Social Movements Amid Armed Conflict

WFP has documented the consequences of US-sponsored Plan Colombia military and counterinsurgency aid to the Colombian government since 2000. Colombian human rights defenders, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Colombians and campesinos are continually targeted for torture, disappearance, and displacement through the unrepentant violence of right-wing paramilitaries and state-sponsored military and police. Neoliberal policies, armed actors and multinational companies have converged to extract the rich resources in the countryside while violating human and labor rights of many Colombian communities. Despite progress in the peace process, violence and impunity have not stopped but escalated.

## Celtic songs and tunes for pipes and guitar October 13 @ 7:30 p.m.



WHO: Patsy O'Brien & Dick Hensold
WHAT: Celtic music concert, songs and instrumentals
WHEN: October 13, 2017 at 7:30 pm
WHERE: Unitarian Church of Underwood, 206 N. Main St., Underwood MN
TICKETS: \$12.00 - available at the door

A concert of traditional Celtic music, but with unique and innovative arrangements, including a variety of songs from Britain and Ireland, accompanied by guitar and Northumbrian small pipes (a quiet bagpipe from Northeast England), or various whistles. It also features traditional and historical tunes from Cape Breton Island, Scotland, Ireland and Northumberland, with a good measure of original music in the traditional style. Along with a broad range of styles of Celtic music, this program also features an impressive range of expression, from the jaunty and humorous to soulful, led by Patsy's warm and multi-colored baritone voice, Dick's variety of pipes and whistles, and the nimble instrumental virtuosity of both musicians. (Please note that NONE of the various bagpipes used in this concert are very loud.)

**Dick Hensold:** Northumbrian small pipes, Scottish reel pipes, whistles and recorder. The leading Northumbrian small piper in North America, for the past 20 years Dick Hensold has performed and taught in England, Scotland, Japan, Canada, and across the United States. He is an active composer, writing music both in the traditional Celtic idiom, and in more elaborately-scored pieces in the same style. This repertoire is featured on his solo CD, *Big Music for Northumbrian Smallpipes,* released in 2007. He is also a studio musician and theater musician, and is a 2006 Bush Artist Fellow.

*"The piping is fluent and assured... his technique is impressive... delightfully interpreted"— FolkWorld CD Reviews* 

#### "North America's foremost small piper" -fRoots

**Patsy O'Brien:** vocals, guitar. As well as supplying the driving guitar rhythms of Celtic/World Music diva Eileen Ivers' last European tour, and collaborating with many giants of the Celtic/World music scene (Paddy Keenan, Cathie Ryan among them), award-winning artist Patsy O'Brien hosts guitar workshops all over the country, and NPR saw fit to feature one of his song arrangements on the prestigious All Songs Considered. With 4 critically-acclaimed solo albums under his belt along with numerous live and studio collaborations, Patsy's songwriting reflects his penchant for seamless genrehopping, and a strong interest in roots Americana as well as jazz influences.

*"Ireland's best-kept musical secret" — Irish Examiner* 

"Provocative, genre-defying excellence." — FreeWorldMusic



# DEB WALLWORK

## PHOTOGRAPHS ARTIST RECEPTION

Friday, September 29, 2017 5-7 PM

114 W. Lincoln Ave Fergus Falls MN 5-7 PM Exhibit through the end of October

ARTIST STATEMENT

My work is an investigation of the relationship between ourselves and the natural world. I am fascinated by landscape, I love the shapes of rivers and branches and waves, their unpredictable lines. I am interested the otherness of Creation that has its own order and sense.

Though we continue to want to fit the world like a glove to our wants and desires, Nature will always disrupt it. The milkweeds, the sumac, the hills, the butterflies and fireflies, these surprise and elude us. It is in nature that I find both irony, and serenity.

**Deb Wallwork** is a filmmaker and photographer. Her still photography has been exhibited at the Rourke Art Gallery, the Creative Arts Studio, the Kaddatz Gallery, Plains Art Museum, and the Minneapolis Photography Center.

## *"I DON'T THINK POLITICS HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH LEFT, RIGHT, OR CENTER. IT HAS TO DO WITH TRYING TO DO RIGHT BY THE PEOPLE."* PAUL WELLSTONE

## Writing in the Rural School Dist. No. 182 Underwood, MN



Candace Simar

Angela F. Foster

Writing Class-Retreat for Fiction and Memoir Writers <u>Getting Started: Writing the Scene</u> <u>The Basic Building Block of Story</u>

Creating Vivid Scenes Through the Use of Sensory Details, Dynamic Prose and Showing versus Telling With Prize-Winning Author Candace Simar And Writing Instructor Angela Foster



## Cost \$60 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2017 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Underwood, Minnesota

This event is hosted by Sandy Barnhouse at her rural school home on the corner of Highway 1 and 35. Cost -\$60, bring your own bag lunch. Questions: Angela at 612-242-8911. Mail checks, along with name, address, phone and email to: **Angela Foster, 30036 St Croix Road, Pine City, MN 55063.** 

# **A Special Invitation from MUUSJA**

Dear Unitarian Church of Underwood,

Every year, the Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance hosts its annual fundraiser and celebration to bring together Unitarian Universalists and our partners to build relationships, deepen connections, and celebrate our shared work for justice. Please join us again this year for this very special heart-filling evening:

Radical Collaboration: Honoring Partnership & Prophetic Witness for Justice Thursday, October 5 -- 6:00-8:30pm First Universalist Church, 3400 Dupont Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN



This year's keynote will feature Rev. Karen Van Fossan, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Bismarck/Mandan, which has been a close partner with the Water Protectors at Standing Rock and other Native nations for the duration of the ongoing struggle to resist the Dakota Access Pipeline and work for Indigenous sovereignty. Speaking from her own experiences over the past two years, Rev. Karen will reflect on the relationship between healing work and decolonization as spiritual justice practices, the transformative power of deep partnerships across experiences and identities, and the inevitability of making powerful mistakes in the work for powerful change.

At the event, you'll also get to meet and hear from MUUSJA's new statewide organizer, Pastor Danny Givens, and enjoy some delicious food and drink from <u>the Sioux Chef</u>. Additionally, we'll be presenting the 2017 MUUSJA Justice Awards to a congregation, individual, and youth group who are doing inspiring work for justice in their communities. (<u>Click here</u> to make your nomination today!)

#### Follow this link to RSVP for the event and see the full agenda.

If you aren't able to join us in person, please take a moment to become a sustaining donor or make your one-time contribution today. Right now, we are growing our staff, our outreach, and our partnerships to make sure that there is a widely-felt Unitarian Universalist voice in movements for justice in Minnesota--and we need your financial help to sustain this critical work. <u>Click here</u> to make your gift in support of MUUSJA's mission to *unleash courageous leadership and collective power to build a just and loving world.* 

In faith and solidarity,

The MUUSJA Board of Directors & Rev. Ashley Horan, Executive Director



## A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Ones,

Hurricanes. White supremacist rallies. Nuclear tests, Dreamers being expelled, climate disasters across the globe. These are wearying, infuriating, terrifying times, beloveds. If you're like me, every day you're walking a fine line between numbing yourself to the incessant barrage of bad news, or struggling not to become frozen when you consider what we're up against. It's hard to know what to do, where to seek courage and comfort, how to be of use, how to face the day.

At the same time--in what can seem like a huge contradiction--both our Universalist and our Unitarian sides are theologically optimistic: our religious ancestors have traditionally believed that people are fundamentally good, that our actions in the world make a difference, and that in the long run, the universe has a preference for justice and harmony.

#### How can we reconcile the realities of oppression and heartbreak that we see all around us with this theological vision of "a world made fair, and all her people one?"

For me, any grounded-ness that I'm able to muster comes from the spiritual discipline of living in the "both/and"--that is, practicing what it feels like to acknowledge multiple truths, even when what my spirit yearns for is a black-and-white "this is the way things are" kind of Truth. For example, it is true BOTH that there are violent, terrible things happening around us all the time, AND that there is indescribably beauty and goodness surrounding us. It is true BOTH that we are all one human family, more similar than different on a biological level, AND that our experiences and identities profoundly influence how we journey through life and how difficult or easy it is for us to live into our full potential. It is true BOTH that we are called to love one another in the knowledge that each and every human being is precious AND that we must not confuse radical acceptance of all people with radical acceptance of all behaviors and actions.

I don't know much with certainty these days. But I do know that what is saving me from both the heartbreak and the discomfort of ambiguity are the real relationships with real people who are also struggling to make sense of the world around us; connections with people who are committed not just to principles and ideals, but who are ready to hold people as they cry, to savor the sweetness and rage at the brokenness with their whole bodies, to roll up their shirtsleeves when there are tasks that need doing.

MUUSJA is committed to creating containers in which those relationships--those connections--are not only possible, but inevitable. In the upcoming events listed below, I hope you will find opportunities for connecting deeply, building resilience, forging relationships across our Unitarian Universalist communities and beyond. As we all navigate the ambiguity that surrounds us, and as we seek sources of courage and grounding to keep us connected and nimble, may we lean into the impulse to resist isolation, and to build Beloved Community as the most powerful, most embodied form of resistance and revolutionary dreaming there is. It is a blessing to be human together.

In faith and solidarity,

Rev. Ashley Horan, Executive Director

# Note: Ashley and Rev. Danny Givens will be our featured guests and facilitators at the UU Area Fall Workshop October 20-21. Don't miss them!!



## Register now for Fall Covenant Groups for Justice Leaders

Are you interested in nurturing your spirit, connecting with other leaders, and exploring the intersections of Unitarian Universalism and social justice? Then our covenant groups are for you! In these intimate monthly online gatherings, facilitated by MUUSJA Statewide Organizer Pastor Danny Givens, small groups gather in virtual community for deep sharing and reflection on a monthly theme. Each month's theme is drawn from the Soul Matters Sharing Circle program, but tailored specifically to explore the theme through the lens of justice & faith.

Please register for a fall Covenant Group <u>here</u>! Deadline for registration is September 30. Please <u>email Pastor Danny</u> with any questions.

## **Convening Calls are Back!**

Convening Calls are back for the 2017-2018 church year! Each month, we will explore a pressing justice issue, or tackle a topic related to spiritually-rooted justice leadership. All are invited to join these 90-minute online monthly gatherings, hosted this year by MUUSJA's new Statewide Organizer, Pastor Danny Givens.

### **Resilience & Self Care in a Hostile World**

In August 2017, white nationalist groups convened a rally in Charlottesville, VA that ended in racialized violence. Faith leaders, activists, and community members across the nation are now left with the daunting task of finding sources for healing, strength, and resiliency in a hostile world. Pastor Danny Givens, MUUSJA's new Statewide Organizer, will share principles of self-care and harm reduction, and participants will have the opportunity to discuss our experiences and practices for building resiliency and staying balanced during the unceasing onslaught of heartbreaking news. In this first call of the year, Rev. Ashley Horan introduces Pastor Danny for a discussion about how we tend to our souls and spirits as we are called to sustain our resistance to white supremacy, antisemitism, and violence.

To join the call by computer or phone:

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: https://zoom.us/j/7206017196

Or iPhone one-tap (US Toll): +16465588656,,7206017196# or +16699006833,,7206017196#

Or Telephone: Dial: +1 646 558 8656 (US Toll) or +1 669 900 6833 (US Toll)

Meeting ID: 720 601 7196

## Does your congregational Social Justice work need a reboot? MUUSJA can help!

Is your congregation struggling to integrate social justice work into the broader life of the congregation? Are your social justice leaders burned out? Does your social justice team want to build more effective organizing skills, or connect more deeply with other faith communities and justice organizations in your area? MUUSJA can help!



Too often, our congregations feel disconnected and ineffective in their social justice work. MUUSJA offers consulting services to Minnesota UU congregations looking to:

-Integrate justice work into their mission and practices

-Train leaders in best practices for congregational social justice organizing

-Articulate a deeper sense of how our UU principles and values call us to justice work

-Build dynamic, sustainable partnerships with community and interfaith organizations

MUUSJA staff is available for phone and in-person consultation, offered on a sliding scale fee basis depending on congregational needs and size. We will work with your congregation to plan a customized leadership retreat, congregational workshop, or ongoing consulting relationship.

Fees are based on congregational budget and membership size. Please <u>email</u> MUUSJA Executive Director Rev. Ashley Horan for more details.

## Don't forget: Rev. Ashley Horan with Rev. Danny Givens who will be here to lead the Social Justice Area UU Fall Workshop October 20 – 21!!

## This is where your smartphone battery begins

https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/business/batteries/congo-cobaltmining-for-lithium-ion-battery/

Mark Jacobson encourages us to read the above article that describes the conditions of mining for cobalt used in cell phones and other batteries. Mark says: "I have a personal interest in this because I was US Peace Corps volunteer in Lesotho, 1981-84. South African gold, diamonds, and apartheid in general were being boycotted. (Successfully.)

Tens of thousands of young men from Lesotho worked in the mines in the RSA. They came home for Easter for ten days, partied 24-7, got their wives pregnant and then went back to the mines for the rest of the year. Many young men from Lesotho were killed in these mines every year.

It also had not rained, except once, during my PC service. So, I joined the Lesotho Drought Relief Logistics Unit as the Accounting and Admin Advisor (USAID). Many children were going hungry. (I still cannot stand to watch anyone throw food in the trash.) So, articles like this fire me up. At least some progress is being made." *Mark Jacobson* 

## **UUA News Alert**

The Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), and Thomas Andrews, President and CEO of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), issued the following statement in response to the Trump administration's announcement to end the DACA program:

"As leaders in faith and human rights, and working jointly through the Love Resists campaign to protect communities targeted by hate, we are



appalled by the Trump administration's announcement to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. DACA has provided protections from deportations and the ability to work and attend school for more than 800,000 young immigrants. The United States is home to these brave people. Taking away DREAMers' legal status and leaving them vulnerable to deportation is immoral and wrong. DREAMers are not bargaining chips to be used for political gain, and the further criminalization and persecution of the broader immigrant community is disgraceful. These individuals are not statistics; they are students, doctors, and veterans, they are hard-working members and leaders of communities, they are parents, friends, neighbors and loved ones. Tearing our communities apart makes no one safer.

We raise our voices in outrage at the President's betrayal of DREAMers so that he may receive accolades and applause from the alt-right and other white supremacist groups.

This action goes against our nation's principles and the views and wishes of the majority of the country. We are in solidarity with all DREAMers now facing a nightmare of uncertainty because of today's announcement. We encourage Unitarian Universalists and all people of faith and conscience to rise up and resist this latest attack on our immigrant siblings.

To all those directly affected by this decision, we recognize your humanity. You are part of the United States. We will defend your right to stay. We will continue to resist with you in the spirit of love and freedom."

This message is also available on UUA.org.

Workshops and Webinars and Trainings oh my!



Fall Courses at UU Leadership Institute
Youth Events
LGBT Ally Training
Brilliant Bits from Boston
Calendar
Contact Us

## Welcome!

Sharon Dittmar, Congregational Life Consultant

Hello! Welcome to the October issue of the MidAmerica Region of the UUA Newsletter!

Fall is a busy time in our congregations with many activities. We at the Region are hosting a <u>series of</u> <u>webinars</u> this fall, including "<u>Coffee Hour</u> <u>Conversations</u>" hosted by our very own Lisa Presley, a chance for anyone to virtually drop by and talk with others in the MidAmerica Region about how it is going in your congregation. These are monthly conversations and the first one is Wednesday, October 11 at 6:45PM Eastern Time. Hope to see you there!



This newsletter also contains important information on <u>UUA White</u> <u>Supremacy Teach-In 2</u> suggested for October 15 and 22, as well as registration for fall courses at the <u>UU Leadership Institute</u>, and a winter <u>Racial Justice training</u> for UU congregations.

For those of you wondering how to help in the aftermath of recent hurricanes, the UUA has set up a site to give to disaster relief.

As always, be in touch. We know congregational life continues during all seasons and we are here for you. Visit our <u>MidAmerica Region website</u> for more information.

See the full MidAmerica Newsletter at: <u>https://outlook.live.com/owa/?path=/mail/inbox/rp</u>

## Unitarian Church of Underwood Approved Board Minutes for July 19, 2017

Board members present: Mary Anderson, David Sanderson, Norman Kolstad, David Wass, Kris Warhol, Ellen Eastby, Stan Carignan, Bob Worner, John Miersch, and Connie Stigen. Absent: none. Also, present: Administrative Consultant JoAnn Larson.

The meeting was called to order at the church by Board President Mary Anderson at 5:30 p.m.

Kris Warhol shared a reading/meditation. The agenda was approved (Eastby/Sanderson). Minutes of the June 21, 2017 meeting were approved (Warhol/Miersch).

#### Reports:

*Finance Committee/Treasurer*: David Wass - Sverdrup Suites taxes to be more than anticipated; collections down from needed.

Speakers Committee: Kris Warhol - LaDuke scheduled for March 18, 2018. Foundation/Stewardship Committee: David Sanderson

*Program/Worship Committee*: Kris Warhol - U-Groups organizing for new season. *Community Outreach*: Kris Warhol - planning for Underwood Harvest parade participation.

*Facilities Committee*: Kris Warhol - repairs/maintenance proceeding; some shingles damaged; lift repair scheduled; thanks to Katy Olson and Susan Groff for floor painting.

Safety Committee: Norman Kolstad - no report

*Sverdrup Suites:* Mary Anderson - contact information to be updated; Scott Schei accepted lawn maintenance contract; plumbing repair; Roles & Responsibilities updated. *Membership Committee*: Mary Anderson - new member orientation.

*Communications Committee:* Mary Anderson - Sunday recordings or live streaming being worked on.

Green Team (Environmental): Mary Anderson Administrative Consultant: JoAnn Larson

**Unfinished Business:** 

Candidate for president of the UUA, Susan Frederick Gray was elected.

#### New Business: none

The next board meeting is set for August 16, 2017 with an executive committee meeting August 9, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned by Board President Anderson at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Norman Kolstad, secretary. Note: The Board of Directors did not have a quorum for the August 16, 2017 meeting so there are no minutes from that meeting.

Fall Workshop Registration Form Next Page, Print and complete and mail or drop off at church. Or pick-up the form at church to complete and return.

<u>UCU Member</u> Registration for "Growing in Presence, Growing in Justice, Growing in Spirit" UU Area Fall Workshop Friday, October 20 – Saturday, October 21, 2017 @ Unitarian Church of Underwood, Underwood, MN								
Individual Name:	Name:E-Mail:							
Phone:	Mailing address:							
	nation with other attendees	s: () Yes () No	*****	****				
	yes							
<ul> <li>Workshop Set-up (Frida</li> <li>Workshop Registration</li> <li>Friday Break refreshme</li> </ul>	Friday 12-1 p.m ents (Friday afternoon)	Saturday 9-10 a	ı.m.					
<ul> <li>Friday overnight host/ d</li> <li>Saturday breakfast item</li> <li>Saturday lunch set-up/s</li> </ul>	elp/contribution: item: can accommodate # ns serve/clean-up @ Communi	ty Center						
<ul> <li>Saturday - Notetaker/</li> <li>Saturday Event take-do</li> </ul>	time-keeper Gree wn/clean up	eter: Othe	er					
A detailed sign-up sheet	will be available at church hight, contact Diana Ziesem	•		-				
) Both Fri/Sat (\$20.00)	) Friday only (\$15.00)	O Saturday only	(\$15.00)					
○ Special Dietary Needs _								
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