

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

Unitarian Church of Underwood

PO Box 58, 206 North Main Street

Underwood

Phone: 218/826-6553

Website: www.ucofu.org

facebook.com/www.ucofu.org

Sunday Services

October 7 - Richard Kagan

October 14 - Stan Carignan

October 21 - Rev. Thomas Schmidt

October 28 - Bob Worner



Lorelei, Bernice Johnson, Violet, Yvonne Garcia, Sequoia, Amari
Photos Courtesy of Yvonne Garcia

October 2018 Newsletter

October 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 AA 7 pm	2	3	4	5	6
7 Richard Kagan, History of UU Adult RE & Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children's RE 10:00-11:15 am	8 AA 7 pm	9 Battle Lake/Underwood U Group 3 pm @ Joanne Cress'	10 Speakers Committee 3:30 pm Alexandria U Group 7 pm @ Widseth... Office Bldg/	11 Perham U Group 6:30 @ Stan Carignan's	12 Private Piano Salon @ church	13 St. Cloud Fall Workshop 10 am – 3 pm ++
14 Stan Carignan, Habitat & Stan Mindfulness Adult RE & Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children's RE 10:00-11:15 am	15 AA 7 pm	16	17 Board of Directors 5:30 pm	18	19	20
21 Rev. Thomas Schmidt, Paganism ... Adult RE & Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 Children's RE 10:00-11:15 am\ Parent/Teacher Meeting 11:45	22 AA 7 pm	23	24	25 FF U Group 6:30 pm @ Diana Zieseimer's	26	27
28 Bob Worner Adult RE & Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children's RE 10:00-11:15 am	29 AA 7 pm	30	31			



October 7: Richard Kagan, “The Historical Origins and Current Themes in Each UU, Unitarianism and Universalism.” Richard’s talk will include the differences and similarities between the two; the major themes; the relationship with Christian ideas and atheism. It is his hope to give a greater appreciation for our history and a challenge to think about how we are related to each U in the present and the future.

Note: New Member Welcoming during the service.

October 14: Stan Carignan, “It’s a Wonderful Life,” UU Principles 1 & 2. Stan will address the importance of Fergus Falls Habitat for Humanity to West Ottertail County. Habitat’s vision is a World where everyone has a decent place to live, which supports the inherent worth of every individual, as well as supports the principle of equity in human relations. He will discuss why it is important to have a Habitat Affiliate in our community and our plans for the future. He will have hand outs and will keep the talk short and will speak extemporaneously and provide a lot of time for questions. Stan is the current Executive Director of the Fergus Falls Habitat for Humanity.

October 21: Rev. Thomas Schmidt, “Paganism: Synchronicity of the Universe.”

From Thomas: “Could You Be a Pagan Without Knowing It? In my many years as a Unitarian Universalist, I have heard many people declare they were UU their whole lives without knowing it. I have found the same to hold true to Paganism, once someone learns more about it. For this talk we will consider the core of Earth-centered spirituality through the evolving lens of a UU Pagan.”

Following two full decades as a lay and ordained leader in our Unitarian Universalist movement, Thomas has shifted his focus to writing and other projects. Having served churches in California, Texas, South Carolina, and Florida, he is now working to develop an interfaith ministry in Bemidji intended to share the good news of religious liberalism beyond the confines of our traditional church/fellowship setting. Thomas made the move North to live with his partner, Rita, where both are active with local environmental and justice groups and the larger Unitarian Universalist movement.

Note: Children’s RE Parents/Teachers meeting following Sunday service.

October 28: Bob Worner, to be announced.

Look for more details on upcoming October speakers in the Sunday church bulletins and on the Facebook Page.



October Children's Religious Education Schedule

It is now 6 months since the UCU Children's Religious Education has been meeting weekly. Thanks to the volunteers who have stepped forward to lead, to the parents for bringing their children and especially to the children who have come. Lorelei Delabre has gold stars for her attendance every week. Yay, Lorelei!!

On October 21, we invite the parents/grandparents/RE volunteers to attend a meeting at Sverdrup #300 following the Sunday service. We will evaluate the workings of the first six months, address any issues and dialogue suggestions to improve the program. We welcome your attendance! Added volunteers to assist with the kids are always welcome!! *Mary Anderson & Kris Warhol, Co-Coordinator*s

October 7	Cedar Walters	Jon Solinger	UUA "Home," lesson #5
October 14	Ron Graham	Bert Whitcombe	
October 21	Ron Graham	Audrey Dittberner	Parent/Lead Meeting 11:45 a.m.
October 28	Wally Warhol	Kris Warhol	Activities & learning to play the Recorder

Stay^oinformED

Website:
www.ucofu.org

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

Wi-fi Now Available at UCU
**See Bulletin Board or Bulletins for
Password**

To be included to regularly receive
weekly church reports and monthly
newsletters, please contact Ellen Eastby
@ eastofellen@hotmail.com

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

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

Please submit your ideas, articles and photos to:

maryanderson8380@msn.com or
maryleonaanderson@gmail.com

Editing: Stephanie Sanderson

Emailing/ mailing: Ellen Eastby and JoAnn Larson.

Website: Ellen Eastby

Facebook: Melody Shores

Photos courtesy of Norm Kolstad & credited
others.

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

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

Nurture Your Spirit ...

U Group Schedule (Meetings Monthly)

- Alexandria U-Group: 2nd Wed @ 7:00 pm @ the office building of Widseth, Smith & Nolting Office Bldg., 610 Fillmore, Alexandria: Facilitators: Lee Becker/Susan Sanford
- The Battle Lake U Group, the 2nd Tuesday @ 3:00 p.m. @ home of Joanne Cress and Luke Anderson. Facilitators: Bob Worner/Joanne Cress.
- Fergus Falls U-Group: 4th Thursday @ 6:30 pm @ Diana Ziesemer's, 934 W. Linden St., Fergus Falls. Facilitator: Jacob McKnite/Melody Shores.
- Perham U-Group: 2nd Thursday @ 6:30 p.m. alternating between homes of Stan Carignan & Mary Anderson. Facilitator: Stan Carignan.

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

To learn more or join a group, contact Lead Co-Facilitators: Kris Warhol @ mwarhol7up@gmail.com or 218/205-1644 or Shannon Smith @ shannonsmith20@gmail.com or 218/630-6330

Adult Religious Education Classes

Each Sunday of the month, 9:15 – 9:45 a.m.

Stan Carignan leads Mindfulness Sitting.

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

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

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

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

Shan Schools Fundraiser

"Over \$1,500 was raised for SSR (Schools for Shan Refugees) at the fund raiser Sunday, September 9. Thanks to the RE kids for doing the bake sale; thank you to the merchandise sellers, Amy and Molly; and thank you to each person who contributed by making purchases and contributions. Thank you to JoAnn Larson and Mary Anderson, committee members.

During the church service Bernice Johnson, founder of Schools for Shan Refugees, introduced Yvonne Garcia, an SSR board member, who is monitoring the program in Thailand as Bernice

can no longer do the traveling. Yvonne and Bernice then joined the RE kids in making presents for Yvonne to take back to the Shan kids.

Yvonne and Bernice met in Thailand where they both have been spending their winters. Yvonne has a special place in her heart for the Shan migrant workers as her father was a migrant worker in California. (Her mother grew up in North Dakota.)

Yvonne experienced a warm welcome from our congregation and looks forward to returning yearly to update us on the SSR work.” *Submitted by Mary Worner, Board Member of the Schools for Shan Refugees*



Photos courtesy of Yvonne Garcia



**Adopt a Highway
Roadside Clean-up
Tuesday, October 2, 5:00 p.m.**

Join Dave McRoberts and others for the spring roadside clean-up by meeting at County Highway 1 and Waterstreet Road on Tuesday, October 2 at 5:00 p.m. (If weather is prohibitive, backup date for Wednesday, October 3). Dave will bring the safety vests and the bags. For your own comfort, dress appropriately and bring and wear work gloves. The more that join, the faster it goes to pick-up the junk and garbage for this 2-mile stretch along

highway 1. This is an easy environmental justice project!! Call Dave McRoberts for more information at 218-405-0730.



New Member Welcoming October 7, 2018

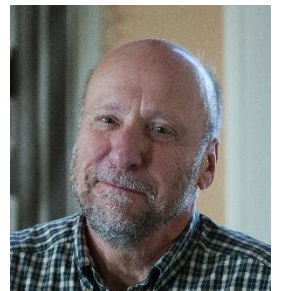
New Member Welcoming is held twice a year, the first Sunday in March and October. October 7, we will welcome new members: Molly Delabre, Audrey Dittberner and Bert Whitcombe and any others who sign the silver book prior to that Sunday.

The UCU Policy Statement #2 Article II Definitions B. states that: "A voting member is one who has signed the membership book and completed any of the following: has participated in an activity of the congregation in the past year, has made a recorded financial contribution since the beginning of the fiscal year, or expresses verbally, or in writing, a desire to remain a member."

We, like other UU Fellowships, have voting members; others who though not voting members, attend regularly or come for our featured speakers or other offerings; some who consider themselves members but are unable to participate; and some who come sometimes as visitors. We welcome everyone: "no single belief includes us here; no disbelief excludes us."

New UCU Board Member: Tim Lanz

Stan Carignan recently resigned from the UCU Board of Directors. Tim Lanz was appointed to fulfill Stan's remaining term. Tim lives with his wife, Pam, on Sybil Lake, near Vergas. He is a retired state employee of the Department of Corrections. He's been attending our Underwood services for a few years now, and finds our community engaging and caring. He also has been active with Fergus Habitat for Humanity and enjoys participating in our Perham U Group. He's already discovered there's a fair amount to learn as a new member, but he is hoping to be an asset UCU community by his service on the Board. Please introduce yourselves and welcome Tim to the Board. (We already know he is an asset as a dishwasher at the annual Chili dinners!)



Ellen Eastby New MUUSJA Board Member



Ellen Eastby was recently invited to be on the Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Association's (MUUSJA) Board of Directors. We congratulate Ellen on this appointment!

MUUSJA's goal is to build the capacity for justice work by area Unitarian Universalists by helping UU individuals, congregations, and institutions become better equipped to do powerful, sustainable, accountable, spiritually-rooted work. This creates impact both in the local context and in the broader public sphere.



UCU Records Recall

The Record Maintenance Committee is requesting that any/all holders of church information, including photos, items of historical interest, news articles, etc., find and bring to church these items on or before **November 1**. Once records are back at church, the Committee will determine what records to retain and how to retain them. Many records are being maintained on google.docs with fire-proof storage under consideration for others.

The Record Maintenance Committee also requesting that all Committee Chairs review with their committees, the records they may be keeping or records that should be kept and report back to the Record Keeping Committee so that on-going procedures may be developed to obtain, protect and retain those records.

This is an opportunity to systematically record the soon-to-be 130-year history of the Unitarian Church of Underwood and establish processes to monitor and maintain ongoing records. Otherwise, much of value could be lost to future generations. The Unitarian Church of Underwood holds a significant place in the history and continuity in the community. *Record Maintenance Committee: Norm Kolstad (chair), Mary Anderson, JoAnn Larson, John Minge, Kris Warhol.*

"UU Social Justice Outreach in Challenging Times"
MN UU Social Justice Alliance Fundraiser and UU Cluster Meeting
10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, October 13, 2018

St. Cloud Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, St. Cloud, MN
3226 Maine Prairie Rd. (not a mailing address)

With Guest Speaker Danny Givens, MUUSJA, as Sunday speaker, October 14.

Workshop Sessions

- "A Food & Farming System for People & the Earth" —Terry VanDerPol

- MUUSJA Training: “Nurturing Skill & Courage for Social Justice Leadership”
“Social Justice Community Outreach”—SCUUF Members
- “Tar Sands Pipeline Through Northern MN?”—Rita Chamblin (Bemidji)
- “Improving Water Resources with Native Plants”—Wayne Cymbaluk

Mindfulness Sitting, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Various Afternoon Activities, 3:30-4:30 p.m. (details available with registration materials).

St. Cloud Fellowship provided potluck at 6 p.m.

Registration materials were due September 29 but to register late, please contact: Judy Foster @ jfoster58@charter.net or Mary Anderson @ maryanderson8380@msn.com. The UCU Board has approved payment of the \$20/registration fee for church attendees.

My, How They Change....

Many of you will remember the two Muslim student-exchange boys, Elshan and Fikriamat who were hosted by Mary Anderson in 2012-13. Both young men inquire regularly about friends from UCU and routinely ask for mom to pass greetings to family and church friends. So, from Elshan and Fikri: “Salam. May Allah bless you all and give you the best in everything!”

Elshan, now 23, has completed his first four years of college and is beginning a master’s program in Chemical Engineering in his home town of Baku, Azerbaijan.

Fikri was reluctant to tell “Mom” (Mary) that he had married – he explained that it was culturally acceptable for them at 22; they had both families’ approval; that he is economically stable, so she is not to worry because he was old enough and responsible enough to marry.



Fikri is completing his studies on a full scholarship majoring in International Communications in Istanbul, Turkey. He and his wife, Citra, are both Indonesians: he, Sumatran and she, Javanese. Their families speak different languages, but they have Indonesian as a common language. They met in Turkey as members of the Indonesian Student Association for which Fikri is President and she is secretary. Fikri and Citra returned home to Indonesia this summer for the “Bride party” (see below). He has recently made application to study next in Australia.

Let’s just say “Mom” is pretty proud of her boys! *Mom- Mary Anderson*



Fikri says this is about "2/5th" of his Indonesian family that gathered in celebration of his and Citra's bride party

September Happenings

Notes from September Presentations

Sunday Talks available via POD Casts @ soundcloud.com/user-927528278

September 2 - Bob Worner's talk was titled, "**Open Hands**" and addressed Principles 1 & 4. Our society has widening divides. These include political polarization as well as economic disparities, which is very evident as one drives around OTC. And there are divides related to race, education, etc.

UU's are positioned to make positive changes in relation to these challenges. We pride ourselves in being open minded. However, sometimes we struggle with hearing opposing views.

Having "Open Hands" implies several things:

1. Generosity – giving of ourselves to others through sharing of resources from UCU inheritances (Empowerment Grants), and sharing of our own resources of money, time, skills, etc.
 Social Justice – supporting UCU and UUA's Social Justice work, and sharing by individuals of time and volunteer work in the community
 Being involved in the political arena
 Supporting one another
2. It is about receiving – gifts and assistance
 Being open to new ideas
 much we need to learn
3. Important for grasping – such as when we are sinking we can reach out and grasp

a helping hand.

4. It is about no fists; no pointing fingers; and being ready to let go of fear, pride, etc.
5. There are things/ideas we need to hold on to – UU principles and history, teachings from other religious practices. And we need to hold on to our dreams and hopes and each other.

Attendance: 40

Podcast found at: <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/open-hands-bob-worner-september-2-2018>

September 9, Rev. Roger Parks delivered the last in the series of his three talks using as his theme, the African-American spiritual “This Little Light of Mine.” Earlier this summer, he’d spoken first of the light within as a blessing of creation, but that it takes work through contemplation, mediation, listening in silence. Secondly, he’d talked about sharing the light, “hiding it under a bush, oh no.” Today’s talk is on **“Becoming a Lighthouse for the World.”**

Today’s song included a third verse, “Building up a world.” We are part of a movement because we can be brighter than our individual lights. There is an intersection between politics and religion – faith has real consequences in our world. For engagement in our political process and/or political action, we should be informed by spiritual thoughts. The three religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam are each at their core committed to compassion and hospitality.

A transformative change depends on a clear view of the desired end: an inward and outward transformation. We need to take time in contemplation before we engage in collective action.

There have been efforts by economists (and others) who seek their own ends and thus, try to shape our thinking, laws and actions through narratives they’ve written. Be aware of the motives.

Elections matter. Engage, apply spiritual perspectives of community – not “they,” but rather “us.” Listen to the still small voice within. The human heart is the home of democracy. Make judgments through compassion and care.

Podcast can be found at: <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/becoming-a-lighthouse-forthe-world-roger-parks-september-16-2018>

Attendance: 46

September 16 - Update on Shan Schools with Bernice Johnson, President and Founder and Yvonne Garcia, Associate who will be taking on the duties in Thailand of reviewing budgets, visiting the schools, and helping the teachers.

Bernice thanked UCU for all the support given for the Shan Schools. Turmoil continues in Myanmar with the persecution of the Rohingya, imprisonment of 2 reporters, continued militia

bad treatment of Shan, Shan migrants living in Thailand with and without papers with raids upon the camps. Shan Schools are behind on budget needs for this year to pay the teachers. The two full-time teachers get \$1300-1400/year. The 7 volunteer teachers about \$670/year.

Bernice introduced **Yvonne Garcia** with the best description of her as “dynamic.” They saw each other for some time in the city they both lived in until Yvonne went up to Bernice and asked her directly what she was doing there. When Bernice gave her the brochure, Yvonne said, “What can I do to help.”

Yvonne spends her winters there, attended the student scholarship event and marveled at the gratitude of the parents for the \$30 scholarships awarded their children, has visited the camps and raised significant funds for the schools through her jewelry making and sales. She is booked already to return to Thailand January 8, 2019.

Bernice & Yvonne then left to join the Children’s RE class to share with them information on the Shan children.

Betsy introduced the panel of men responding to “**Me Too**” with moderator, **Darryl Booker** and panelists: **John Heine, Bert Whitcomb and Richard Kagan**. “Me Too” started with Tarana Burke with a post to raise awareness of the pervasiveness of sexual abuse and assault and the phrase developed into a broader social movement. The panel today is intended to hear from some men on their perspective.

Question 1: Why are you here?

Question 2: What are your current thoughts?

John here because he is part of this community with a common search for meaning. He ponders more questions: What do I do here? What do we say? What do I do in response to the massive chorus of women’s common take? What about the single voice? How can I listen and learn?

Bert here because he was a victim himself. He was in the military with top secret clearance during the Vietnam War and learned things that his parents and others did not know or were told differently. When he questioned it, he was beaten, sexually violated. stripped of his security clearance, discharged. He suffered with anger & rage as his wife and children learned over the years. Many children of those who served during this time lived with violence and the child acted out violently themselves.

Richard is here: 1) he is Jewish and had relatives in the holocaust that consequently affected his social and political views; 2) interested in cultural differences and saw things through the viewpoint of his African-American son; 3) asked his students their first year of college their reactions with 80% of women responding with emotional terms and 80% of men no expression

of emotion; 4) his daughter telling him that all women are scripted, subjected to oppression and reduced to non-existence. His take is that we must develop “emotional intelligence.”

Current Thoughts:

John: he’d just gone through a recent training with the legal standards on harassment. He recognizes his male privilege – that he doesn’t have to think how to respond daily as a woman does or as a non-white person does.

Bert: He attends a co-ed mental health group at the VA where there is trust because “they know each other’s secrets.” His answer for health is to spend time with children – you start them young to understand sexuality and respect for each other; that it is ok for men to show tenderness.

Richard: Men may be feeling attacked. There can be false accusations. It is important to speak up for a person and then talk with that person as to their feelings from that attack/accusation. It isn’t made “just in fun.”

Audience comments ranged from the value of speaking up to personal examples of having been a victim or maybe’s of why one hadn’t felt a victim.

References provided by Richard Kagan:

<http://www.acalltomen.org/>

<https://www.refinery29.com/sex-myths-hookup-lies-men-pleasure>

<https://www.refinery29.com/how-to-make-the-first-move-asking-consent>

<https://www.refinery29.com/sexual-harassment-assault-bystander>

<https://www.refinery29.com/what-is-toxic-masculinity-social-manhood>

Attendance: 46

September 23: Sandy Barnhouse described “Autistic Life, “Not ‘Life with Autism”” referencing Principle #1. It wasn’t until Sandy was 56-years old that she learned about the autism spectrum. As a child wanting to play but never being asked, feeling laughed at, feeling like trouble comes from behind, having people fall away, her social antenna missing. She thinks the word, “radar” a better description than “empathy.”

It was with her readings of Silberman that she learned about biological “neurotypical” brains where individuals have learned what others described as a socialized consciousness, intimacy, conventional behaviors, learning quickly what is expected of behaviors with other children. Autistic individuals can feel alienated, that they don’t fit in.

Sandy clings to the Asperger’s label to describe herself. She may be regarded as being unable to express love, but she has loved deeply. She has had “embarrassing socially immature” moments. With age, some behavioral issues have calmed down. One in 58 are now judged to be on the autism spectrum with 85% being boys and 15% girls. Odd behaviors are too often now regarded in school as “deficiencies.”

Consider that no two brains look alike. It was hard for Sandy to read so she majored in her creative side with art. Consider our own developmental digressions. It is speculated that people learn within two generations to make adaptations beginning with our own grandparent immigrants who had to learn quickly to “get along with strangers” and make those social adjustments signaled to conform to the culture. Notable people over the years may have been in fact autistic. The evolution of autism is needed – the creativity, the acceptance, the offerings of individuals. The evolution of consciousness need not happen lineally but in every direction.

What Sandy asks:

- 1) Believe us – take us seriously.
- 2) Treat us with dignity.
- 3) Keep us aware of the dynamics that we may not be able to read for ourselves.
- 4) Invite us – we like to be included.
- 5) Don’t go behind our backs.
- 6) Lend an ear as we obsess (focus on different things).
- 7) Empathize and be willing to take a disproportionate share of the load.

Attendance: 41

Podcast: <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/autistic-life-not-life-with-autism-sandy-barnhouse-september-23-2018>

September 30 – Substituting today, Bob Worner used a sermon he’d given May 2, 2010, “**Good Things Happen to Good People,**” referring to UU Principle #1.

We are being bombarded by bad news that is neither positive nor uplifting. There is a price to be paid:

- 1) Loss of hope referring to the book, “Voices of a People of the United States” that spoke of those with human goodness, truth, upward movements, an inquiring society. We need to find hope in the human condition.
- 2) Loss in the ability to celebrate, referring to Mary Oliver’s “Wild Geese” poem – the world goes on.
- 3) Loss in sight of the power to change referring to Dan Brown’s *Lost Symbol* describing the science of noetics, measuring inner knowledge and potential. Thoughts and spirit have a mass holding together that you can’t destroy. Think of the Muslims who face Mecca to pray 5x/day. Think of all the possibilities of a collective mass of concentrated thinking imposed on problems.

Atonement is believed by some to be the need to suffer and die. However, Mary Baker Edy’s definition of atonement was exemplification of our unity with God – “at one” with God/each other.

We took a moment to think of the displaced children. What if, during our service, we took a few minutes for one thought – concentrating together. Could we make a difference in sharing that unity among us? We “covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person.” What if we add the word power? ...”to affirm and promote the inherent worth, dignity and POWER of every person.” Therein, could be great power.

Attendance: 47

From *Radical Hospitality*

By [Marilyn Sewell](#)

Submitted by Kris Warhol

Life is a lot like a hilltop. We gather to have the hell scared out of us. Literally. We catch a glimpse of each other, we sense the smell of God, and although we rush away from the holiest of moments we are utterly changed. Life slams us into God, and if we have any sense knocked into us we realize that behind all the ordinary stuff there is something more dazzling and real than we can understand. Life is risky. Life is holy ground.

Underwood Harvest Days

September 1-2

Parade Saturday @ 1 p.m.



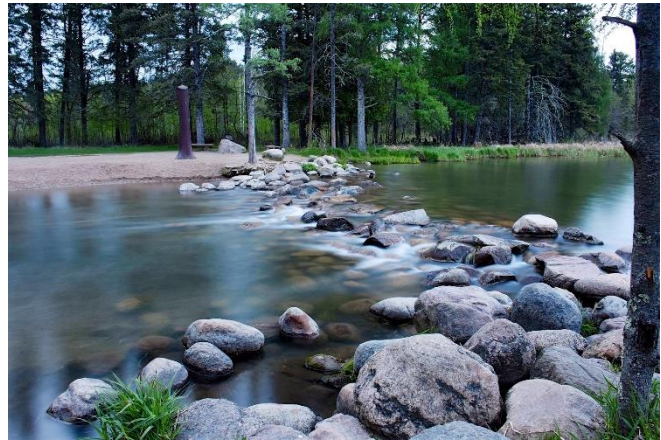
For the Harvest Festival Parade on Saturday, September 1, Kris Warhol and Chuck Adelsman rode one of Chuck's John Deere tractors to represent UCU's commitment to local farmers' markets and to plug Dalton's 65th Threshing Days Celebration. Thank you, Kris & Chuck!

Kris and Alisha Piekarski managed the extended garage sale on August 30th and raised an additional \$112.00. Thank you for all your work, Kris & Alisha!

Protect our sacred waters



The sacred waters of the Great Mississippi River are threatened by the proposed Line 3 pipeline, which would cross the Mississippi near the source of its 2300-mile journey. Janell Miersch and Shelly Hedtke gathered with people of many faith traditions to affirm the sacred nature of water and our moral commitment to protecting life. Before they left for the September 22-23 gathering they were asked to bring an attitude of respect realizing the difference between acquired knowledge and lived experience.



Part of the group toured wild rice areas on the Wild Rice River and Upper Wild Rice Lake on Saturday afternoon. Others went on a tour of the Line 3 route north of Itasca State Park where they spent the weekend. That evening they had a community meal and speakers at Lake Ozawindib Group Camp. Winona LaDuke, youth climate intervener Nina Berglund and her siblings spoke. Two people who were incarcerated after Standing Rock also gave their perspectives on the oil industry relating to the environment.

Winona said, “We have had a really bad addiction to oil for too long. We are going to extremes to extract oil from the Earth.” She said 75% of the oil producers (multi-national corporations) are in Canada. She said, “the rights of corporations should not supersede the rights of people and the Earth. This is an epic moment in our lives. We need a lot of people to have a voice. Have your churches come.”

On Sunday, the churches did indeed come. Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (MNIPL) hosted a Leech Lake drum group, indigenous people from around the Midwest, and many faith leaders at the Mary Gibbs Mississippi Headwaters Center. Indigenous women led a sacred water ceremony honoring the Mother. They sang the Nibi song which translated to English is “water we love you, we thank you, we respect you.”

They ask you, as they were also asked, to be mindful of the work we are asking others to do for us. For more information on Line 3 go to <https://stopline3.org> We need to stay informed and engaged.



To learn more about Canadian oil producers, the number of oil leaks and spills, and other news about existing and proposed pipelines, please start with the stop line 3 web site.

You can also go to the Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light web site to learn more about how to get involved <https://mnipl.org/what-we-do/take-action/pipelines/>. *Submitted by Janell Miersch, UCU Connector to MNIPL.*



Leech Lake Drum Group



In attendance: Rev. Laurie Bushbaum



Numerous other attendees

Note: Janell, Beth Monke and Patty Shol, Climate Change Lobby friends, will present information during October Sundays at Federated and Bethlehem Churches in Fergus Falls. They are scheduled as speakers at UCU on November 11.



Follow progress of the Fergus Falls build at the [ucofu.org](https://www.ucofu.org) Facebook Page.



Megan Butenas (soon-to-be homeowner) and Stan Carignan (Habitat Executive Director) showing off their hard work after a full day of siding.

Volunteer Details/Reminders:

- Work on the build is Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 8:30-3:30 with lunch around noon. Come for a couple hours, half-a-day, or a full day.
- Reminder - you don't have to necessarily know the specific skill(s) for that day to be helpful on the job site. We can teach you! We want you to feel comfortable when you are there and have a good, enjoyable experience.

**421 W. Fir Ave.
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
(o) 218-736-2905
(c) 218-205-5739
www.fergushabitat.org**



*Shelter and Support
in a Spiritual Setting*

Churches United for the Homeless

"The Battle Lake U Group went to the Churches United for the Homeless shelter in Moorhead on Tuesday August 21 (which happened to be my birthday, and prepared and served lunch to about 85 people. This is the second year we have done that, and it is a good community project. We have also been supporting the shelter with a gift from our Empowerment

Grants. Attending the event this year were Shirley Spanhanks, Roger Parks, Ron Graham and Mary and Bob Worner." *Submitted by Bob Worner (Belated Happy Birthday, Bob!)*

We Are Part of the Larger UU!

LOVE **RESISTS**

Dear Unitarian Church of Underwood,

We see the force of our power when we come together.

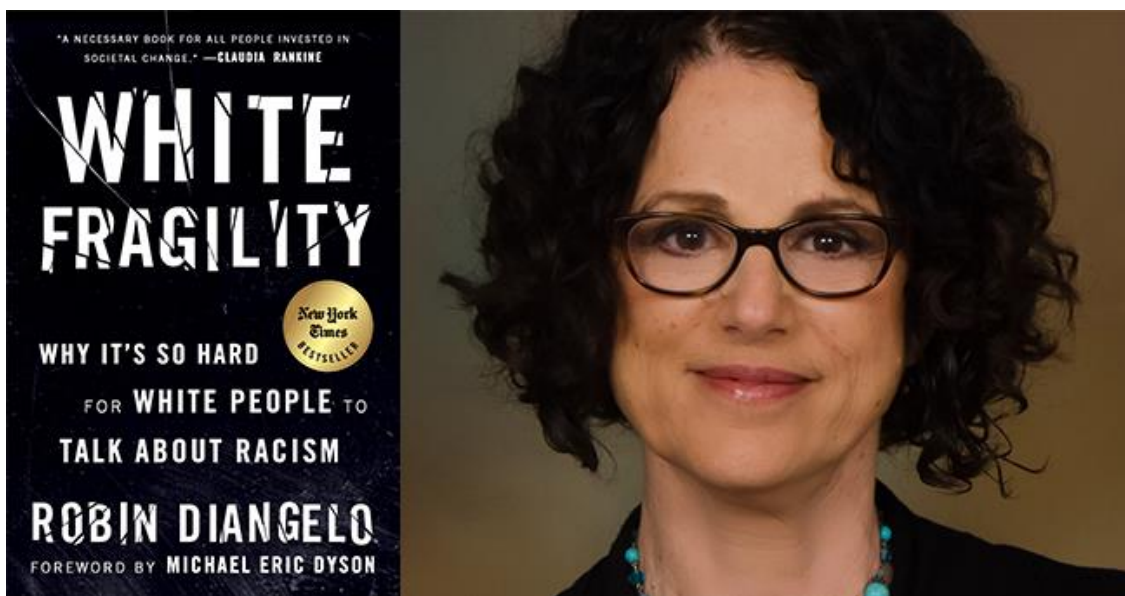
Every day we see you offering housing, sanctuary, respite, sponsorship, bond money to our community members harmed by ICE. We see you fighting for ICE-free cities, schools, and neighborhoods. This past summer, when asylum-seeking children were being ripped from their parents, we were angry and determined not to allow business as usual until it stopped.

Congress is now considering billions of dollars of increased funding for immigration detention, deportation, and criminalization of immigrants and we have the power to stop it. We are halfway through the Interfaith Immigration Coalition's Faith Week of Action, and we continue to resist any funding increases for family separation, immigration detention, and ICE.

Please take a moment to tell Congress: We won't pay for family separation, detention, and ICE.

www.loveresists.org

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



Dear Reader,

[White Fragility](#) has been on the *New York Times* best sellers list for 11 weeks . . . and is still going strong! Its success continues to prove that **Robin DiAngelo** is dropping the truth bombs white people need to realize how they're sustaining racism without realizing it. It's an uncomfortable reckoning, but sorely needed nonetheless.

In a time when we see numerous incidents of **#LivingWhileBlack** reported on the news, DiAngelo offers the hard-hitting insight as to how white people uphold systemic racism. Remember the calls to the police and 911 on the black child who mowed part of the wrong yard? On the black woman using the private pool in her gated community? On the trio of black

filmmakers staying in an Airbnb? “These incidents have always happened,” DiAngelo said in [Vox’s piece about the criminalization of blackness](#), “but white people do not always believe it because it doesn’t happen to us. The only real difference we have now is that we are able to record it in a way that makes it undeniable.” But when the white people present at these incidents were asked about what happened, they got defensive and denied that race played a role in the encounter. They didn’t want to see that what they’d done was racist. It’s an example of what DiAngelo calls the “good-bad binary,” the idea that racism is an intentional act done exclusively by bad people. “It exempts virtually all white people from the system that we’re in,” she said. “As long as we think nice people can’t be racist, we’re going to protect the system.”

What further fuels the “good-bad binary” is the fact that white people are still raised to be racially illiterate, meaning that they do not learn what it means to be white. Racial illiteracy reinforces a simplistic definition of a racist as a bad person and exempts white progressives from such behavior. As DiAngelo wrote in her [NBC News THINK op-ed](#), “the mainstream definition of a racist set me up beautifully to not only deny any impact of racial socialization, but to receive any suggestion of racially problematic behavior as a personal blow—a questioning of my very moral character . . . this is what I term white fragility.” DiAngelo’s book, thankfully, lays out the steps to take to become racially literate. And as fellow Beacon author Lori Tharps [wrote](#), “If we want to make progress in dismantling [white supremacy], we all need to understand how it all fits together. Reading *White Fragility* will help us in that fight.”

If you haven’t read *White Fragility* yet, get to a bookstore now and grab a copy!

Ellen Eastby is considering doing a class using this book. She has read a meme recently that said when are we going to stop asking ourselves if we are racist and start asking ourselves what in culture has shaped our racism. Ellen states: “I don’t think there is a person on the planet who doesn’t have some sort of ‘ism’ bias. The sooner we accept we are ‘ist’ about something, name that, and start to examine how to change that thinking, the sooner things will change. I want so bad not to be racist or any other ‘ist,’ but I am. I continually ask myself. What are you thinking/feeling? Why? Is it based in reality? What do I need to do to change that thinking/feeling? Or, if it is based in reality, listen to that voice inside and honor those red flag feelings.”

Please give Ellen feedback if you’d be interested in joining her for the read and further discussions: ellenofellen@hotmail.com or 218/731-0803.

Take Time to Have Fun!!

Last Dance of the Season!



October 6, 7 p.m. – Fergus Falls Eagles Aerie (120 S Peck)

HOUSE CONCERT

Acoustic Folk by R Mark Fogelson

R Mark Fogelson will perform a house concert at Ron and Barbara Graham's house on Friday, October 5, from 7 - 9. Donation goal \$300. Bring food to share if you wish. First 23 to sign up will have a very enjoyable evening. Reserve your spot by contacting Ron Graham - 218-739-5669 or (preferred) universeron@hotmail.com
More information: Website: www.rmarkmusic.com.



Unitarian Church of Underwood Board Minutes

Because there was not a quorum of Board members in attendance at the August Board meeting, no actions could be taken and consequently, no minutes were taken.