

Newsletter October 2019

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

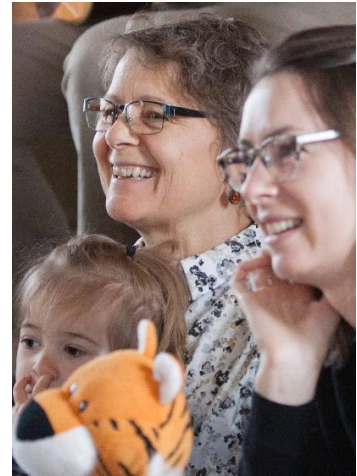
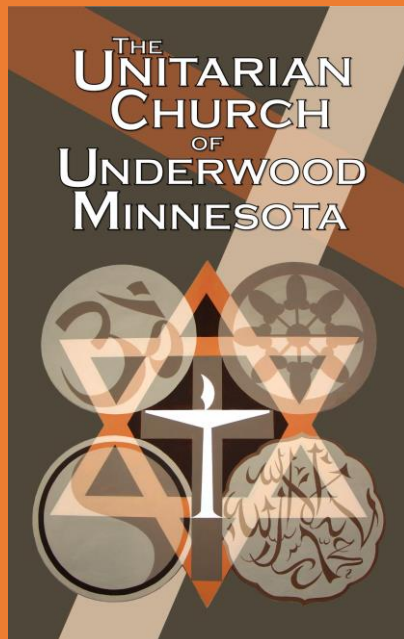
Unitarian Church of Underwood

PO Box 58, 206 North Main Street
Underwood

Phone: 218/826-6553

Website: www.ucofu.org

www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org



Three Generations attending UCU - Katy Olson, Cedar Walters and Hera

Sunday Services 10 a.m.

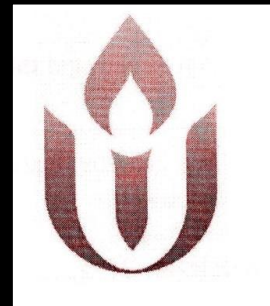
October 6 – Shannon Smith,
"First, Do No Harm"

(New Member Welcoming)


October 13 – Sydney Bauer
Student Climate Striker

October 20 – Noreen Hautela, SUJR

October 27 – Ann Reed, Story-
teller/Musician



October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Shannon Smith, "First, Do No Harm" New member Welcoming Children's RE 10-11 am #300 Mindfulness Sitting 9:15-9:45 am #300	7 AA 7 PM	8 Battle Lake/Underwood U Group @ Bergs @ 3 p.m.	9 Special Board Meeting 6:30 pm Alexandria U-Group: 2 nd Wed @ 7:00 pm @ Widseth, Smith & Nolting Office Bldg.,	10 Perham U Group @ Stan Carignan's 6:30 p.m. Speakers Committee 5 pm @ #300	11	12
13 Sydney Bauer, Climate Striker Ancient Religions Adult RE 8:45-9:45 am Children's RE 10-11 am Mindfulness Sitting 9:15-9:45 am #300	14 AA 7 PM	15	16 Board of Directors Meeting 5:30 pm	17 Fergus Falls U Group @ Diana Ziesemer's @ 6:30 p.m	18	19
20 Noreen Hautela, SURJ Adult RE 8:45-9:45 am. Children's RE 10-11 am #300 Mindfulness Sitting 9:15-9:45 am #300	21 AA 7 PM	22	23	24	25	26 Ann Reed Concert at Bergs (Space Limited)
27 Ann Reed, Musician Adult RE 8:45-9:45 am. Children's RE 10-11 am #300 Mindfulness Sitting 9:15-9:45 am #300	28 AA 7 PM	29	30	31		



Monthly Greeting from Board President, Kris Warhol

The light within shines bright. We share common principles and living traditions as Unitarian Universalists. A faith strong enough to tolerate one another - not just inside this church but outside these walls as well.

Our church has weathered several changes and challenges that included periods of lean years and dwindling membership to now - a strong movement towards growth. We can have strong opinions and different views as we work together to serve and grow our congregation.

“Imagine if every church became a place where everyone is safe, but no one is comfortable. Imagine if every church became a place where we told one another the truth. We might just create sanctuary.” Rachel Held Evans

We all need to bring our agendas into this house where we worship even as we realize it may make some of us uncomfortable. Yet that isn't what we stand for. It is courage and not power. Courage is the power of the heart. Each and everyone one of us hold the power. Courage is another name for character. Courageous people move themselves past obstacles that might paralyze others.

We hold church to empower each other. The power we hold together in this church stands to radically change the world today. The time is now. The time is urgent.

We need to risk as well as own that UU's build bridges and can create change in the midst of chaos, infusing depth into being churchd. We need to bring the conversations of discomfort and dialogue outside. We need to transform systems that have failed the disenfranchised. We continue justice efforts in our communities through our involvement and commitment to local efforts.

We as Unitarian Universalist have an obligation towards justice, compassion, equity. We need to have those uncomfortable conversations with one another; engage, challenge, listen, affirm. Today is the deadline. If we seek a religious community that welcomes all while undermining each other, what message is this sending? Leadership is a privilege and if asked to serve, we welcome the opportunity.

We are no different because we are Unitarians. Church work is courageous. We must be a safe house where all opinions are heard and respected. Shall we be wakened or broken? We stand to love and embrace each of those inside this church. We stand together. Let no one divide us.
M. Kristine Warhol

I asked God for religious certainty, and God gave me relationships instead. I asked for solid ground, and God gave me human beings instead---strange, funny, compelling, complicated human beings---who keep puncturing my stereotypes, challenging my ideas, and upsetting my ideas about God, so that they are always under construction. I may yet find the answer to all my questions in a church, in a book, a theology, or a practice of prayer, but I hope not. I hope God is going to keep coming to me in authentically human beings who shake my foundations, freeing me to go deeper into the mystery of why we are all here. (from HOLY ENVY, Finding God in the Faith of Others by Barbara Brown Taylor as referenced by Rev. Roger Parks 9.8.19)

Stay^oinformED

Website:
www.ucofu.org

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

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

Contact Mary Anderson @218/346-6638 or maryanderson8380@msn.com for Sunday announcements. Contact Kris Warhol @ 218/205-1644 or mwarhol7up@gmail.com for local media notifications.

U Group Schedule (Meetings Monthly)

- Alexandria U-Group: 2nd Wed @ 7:00 pm @ the office building of Widseth, Smith & Nolting Office Bldg., 610 Fillmore, Alexandria: Facilitators: Lee Becker/Susan Sanford
- Battle Lake U Group, the 2nd Tuesday @ 3:00 p.m. home of Steve & Linda Berg Facilitators: Bob Worner/ Joanne Cress/Kris Warhol.
- Fergus Falls U-Group: 3rd Thursday @ 6:30 pm @ Diana Ziesemer's, 934 W. Linden St., Fergus Falls. Facilitator: Melody Shores.
- Perham U-Group: 2nd Thursday @ 6:30 p.m. @ Stan Carignan's. 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 Facilitator:
Shannon Smith @ shannonsmith20@gmail.com
Or 320/630-6229

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

Please submit your ideas, articles and photos to:
maryanderson8380@msn.com

Editing: Stephanie Sanderson

Emailing/mailling: Ellen Eastby and Mary Anderson

Website: Ellen Eastby

Facebook: Melody Shores

Photos courtesy of Norm Kolstad & credited others.

Credited Articles

Note: Send Announcements for church bulletin and monthly newsletter to Mary Anderson @maryanderson8380@msn.com. She forwards 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.

Adult Religious Education Classes & Mindfulness Sitting

2nd Sunday of the month, 8:45- 9:45 a.m. – Sandy Barnhouse leads the Ancient Religions Class using *Sacred Pleasures* as resource.

3rd Sunday of the month, 8:45 – 9:45 a.m. – Ellen Eastby will lead a discussion using the book, *White Fragility* by Robin Diangelo.

4th Sunday of the month, 8:45-9:45 a.m. Bob Worner leads the discussion completing the book, *Unbelievable* by Jon Shelby Spong.

Each Sunday of the month, other than 3rd Sundays (see above): 9:15 – 9:45 a.m., Stan Carignan leads Mindfulness Sitting @ #300 Sverdrup Suites.

Speakers Coming in October

October 6 – Celebrant, Shannon Smith – “First, Do No Harm”

The adage, “First Do No Harm” has a depth of meaning and action that can help us respond to many of the issues and difficulties we encounter in our lives. It also applies to how our UU congregation can look forward to our future. How we respond to and are seen in our community will have an impact on the success of our church.

New member welcoming: Lance Albers, Kelly Barrett, Amanda & Robb Sutter

October 13 – Sydney Bauer - a recent graduate of UM Morris, and one of the organizers of the Morris Climate Strike activities.

October 20 – Noreen Hautala will speak to us about Standing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) and lead an hour-long discussion following the service.

SURJ is a national network of groups and individuals working to undermine white supremacy and to work toward racial justice. Through community organizing, mobilizing, and education, SURJ moves white people to act as part of a multi-racial majority for justice with passion and accountability.

SURJ works to connect people across the country while supporting and collaborating with local and national racial justice organizing efforts. SURJ provides a space to build relationships, skills and political analysis to act for change.

October 27 – Ann Reed



Songwriter, singer, guitarist Ann Reed has been performing for more than 35 years with her rich, dark-chocolate voice, storytelling from the human experience and songs that find a permanent place in the heart. Of course, some of her songs and stories might end up closer to your funny bone – a little irreverence never hurt anyone. Ann has toured North America coast to coast, doing concerts, clubs, festival, and she’s met wonderful fans and made friends all along the way.

The basics: Ann is a Minnesota native. She began teaching herself how to play the guitar at the ripe old age of 12 and has been a performer for her entire adult life. Growing up with two older brothers, she was influenced by whatever they were listening to – Kingston Trio, early Joni Mitchell, Vanilla Fudge, Cream, Buffalo Springfield, Beach Boys, Beatles, Pete Seeger – plus the writers and singers of her parents’ era: Cole Porter, George and Ira Gershwin, Ella Fitzgerald, Rosemary Clooney, Mary Travers – of Peter, Paul and Mary fame – was the first singer Ann heard who sang low, just like her. Validation!

Ann wrote and performed *Heroes: A Celebration of Women Who Changed History and Changed Our Lives*, a theatrical presentation produced by Minnesota Public Radio. And in a departure from her usual repertoire, she developed *Nothing but Class: The Songs of Dorothy Fields*, honoring the first woman to be inducted into the Songwriters' Hall of Fame.

Notice of Special Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 9, 2019 @ 6:30 p.m.

The Board will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, October 9 at 6:30 p.m. with one agenda item to discuss the job position for congregational assistant or coordinator. Please contact your church board members if you have questions, ideas, or concerns.

This meeting results because although there was a lengthy hiring process to fill the position that was vacated March 31, 2019, the finalist declined the position. Since then, there has been further thoughts of the role and responsibilities of this position. The Board continues to seek members' input on what is seen to be needed in the way of administrative supports to fulfill the church's mission.

Make Membership Official
Become a UCU Voting Member



and New Member Welcoming, October 6, 2019

New Member Welcoming is held twice a year, the first Sunday in October and in March. New Member Orientation is held one or two weeks prior to the welcoming. Watch for one again in February 2020.

To become a voting member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Underwood, you indicate your wish by signing the "silver" membership book. To do so, see Kris Warhol, Board President or Mary Anderson, Membership Committee Chair. **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."

For planning and project purposes, the Stewardship and Membership Committees assessed the composition of the current membership and found:



89
Members
Certified in
2019

Level of Participation

1) Inactive, maintain check-in	15
2) Sporadic, once/year	13
3) Attend sometimes, 1+ area	17
4) Regular, 2 areas of involvement	17
5) Regular, 3+ areas of involvement	20
6) Seasonal attendance	3
7) Relocated	4
	89

Families with children regularly participating in Children's Religious Education **5 with 9 children**

Level of Giving

1st quartile of giving	3%
of households	
2nd quartile of giving	8%
of households	
3rd quartile of giving	12%
of households	
4th quartile of giving	77%
of households	

Includes cash gifts of \$5173 attributed between quartiles

Range of Ages for those Active Adults

3 – 90+
5 – 80+
18 – 70+
24 – 60+
11 – 50+
5 – under 40

Notes from September Speakers

September 1 - Bob Worner, "Late Summer Day's Dream" based on the 6th UU principle "the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all."

Dreams (as in hopes and goals) are important. They are when our inner voice speaks to us. They encourage us to live in the present, with goals and merriment; to awaken and enrich us. As they flow into our consciousness, there are three aspects we experience. Acceptance allows us to be at peace with what's happening in the current moment. Enjoyment is found any time we are present. And enthusiasm – which comes from the Greek word "entheos" which means "possessed by God". With dreams, we wake up and live with "merriment beyond merriment"; anything can happen.

Talk not recorded so podcast unavailable.

Attendance: 40

September 8 - Rev. Roger Parks, "Holy Envy, Appreciating Alternative Spiritual Practices," with a focus on Barbara Brown Taylor's new book of that title on wide-ranging spiritual practices.

Podcast @ <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/holy-envy-appreciating-alternative-spiritual-practices-roger-parks-september-9-2019>

Attendance: 33



September 15 - John Donahue, "All the World's a Stage" of the 7 stages of human experiences, ages, using various poets who also speak of these tragic or humorous stages.

John was brilliant in a 45-minute memorized presentation that touched us all.

Not microphoned so no podcast.

Attendance: 52

September 22 – Lindsey Scherloun, “We Tell Time by the Sun and the Moon: Humbled by the Ethnosphere.” (note: text at end of the Sunday Church Report of September 22, 2019)

Podcast @ <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/we-tell-time-by-the-sun-and-the-moon-humbled-by-the-ethnosphere-lindsey-scherloun-sep-22-2019>



Attendance: 45



September 29 – Larry McDonough, "Resistance"

Larry on vocals, story and piano with his wife Carol Bergquist on flute for selected pieces, presented folk and jazz tunes that inspire and encourage RESISTANCE.

Postcast@ <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/resistance>

Attendance: 46



Children’s Religious Education

Cedar Walters with Ron Graham’s assistance led the first two Sundays of September. Their lesson was based on the UUA Tapestry of Faith Curriculum focusing on the theme of home, lesson # 7 “Bless this Meal.” They talked about what makes a meal special, read some sample graces to use for snack time and set a pretty table. They inserted a message about the importance of Labor Day.



On the following Sunday, the class reviewed graces, had a snack of garden veggies giving thanks for the bounty of the season. They used a few examples of Christian graces for mealtimes, listened to the garden song, made pictures of gardens and played. They are planning to make zoodles at the end of the month depending on the availability of zucchini (like that's ever a problem!).

On September 15, the children were visited with special guests, Mary and Eddie Graham (Ron's sister-in-law and brother). Mary shared with the children information about deaf people (and animals) and taught them some signs, holding the children's interest unusually long. They had time to have their snacks at the park and came back for some dancing.

On the last Sunday of September, the children continued to learn from their Bible Stories series from the Old Testament, the story of Joseph with some conversation ensuing about sibling jealousy, how the "coat of many colors" was tediously made, and though it may seem hard to do, learning that how what seems to be bad can turn out well.

We were glad to see Reece and Violet's friend and we were glad to have Deb Ferguson helping. Reece beat Ron in a race (with just a "little" help from Amari's effective blocking).

Note: Additional Leaders/Assistants needed for Children's Religious Education. If interested, please contact Kris Warhol @ 218/205-1644 or mwarhol7up@gmail.com.



Underwood Annual Harvest Day Festival & Parade August 31, 2019



To continue the Unitarian Church of Underwood's traditional participation in the Underwood Harvest Festival parade, Janell Miersch and Kris Warhol walked while Cedar drove the Recycling Truck. Hart was tossing out handfuls of candy to the hundreds of adults and kids on the four-block procession. Meanwhile, Janell and Kris tossed and handed out cloth bags along with several items made from recycling material. From straws to pencils, pens, and spatulas.

Thank you to Otter Tail Solid Waste Management.

Sverdrup & Tingvold Lutheran Churches
God's Work, Our Hands
Annual Community Clean-Up, Fix-up Projects
September 8, 2019

Our UCU once again joined with Sverdrup and Tingvold Lutheran Churches on their annual community clean-up, fix-up projects. This year, John Miersch, Wally and Kris Warhol helped with John painting a shed; Wally painting some curbs yellow; and Kris delivering vegetables from the garden to the folks living at Tamarac Manor.

Wally stayed for the lunch that followed and enjoyed seeing our friendly neighbors, catching up on all the exciting Underwood activities.

Our participation in both these ventures gives us visibility in the community to show our commitment and dedication to be a part of Underwood and its surroundings.

In Memory of
Elizabeth Eriksson Sweder
1936 – September 8, 2019



Elizabeth Eriksson Sweder, age 83, passed away September 8 in Fergus Falls, MN after a brief illness. She was born in Fergus Falls in 1936. From early childhood, she expressed creativity in many ways, establishing a lifelong passion for and accomplishments in the creative arts. She married Don Sweder in Minneapolis in 1956. As a homemaker in Grand Rapids, MI., Minneapolis and Edina, MN., she helped raise two daughters while also enjoying sewing, interior design, gardening, and painting. After her children left home, she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in ceramics and sculpture, graduating summa cum laude in 1994 from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Liz and Don designed and built their retirement home on Jewett Lake north of Fergus Falls and moved there in 1999. Liz became active in the Fergus Falls Writer's Group and had several stories published in the *Lake Region Review* and *Otter*

Tail Review. She self-published a memoir entitled "*The Red Cottage*" that focused on her life in the 1940s and 1950s. She is survived by her beloved husband of 63 years, Don; daughters Meg (Wayne) and Betsy (Ron); seven grandchildren; four brothers and one sister and many nieces and nephews. A memorial service celebrating her life will be held on Saturday, November 23 at 2 pm at the Broen Home Light and Life Auditorium, 418 East Alcott Ave, Fergus Falls.

An outsider not from around here finds love for older friends

(written by Sandy Barnhouse and published in the Fergus Falls Journal week-end edition, September 22, 2019.

Coming up on the 20th anniversary of my arrival in Otter Tail County, I continue to be from somewhere else, with occasionally alien perspectives; suspect, at times, yet now I have some small personal history here, memories of my own. When I first arrived, I was enchanted. Much of this enchantment remains, if now tattered only by time.

Out of the myriad communities around the state, with differences ranging from tribal customs in Ponsford, to what I've been mentally referring to as "Little Norway," primarily, far west central, with all the possibilities of neighbors, local heroes, artists, and musicians, folklorists, ministers, hermits and eccentrics, I continue to be astonished by what I've found in this region, which I describe as "the last, best place on Earth," and I mean that, in the "reality" sense. Look at the map that shows every lake; decide for yourself.

No, no, it's more interpersonal than that. It's a good place, geographically, but little did I know there would be the people here I've come to know, or have known, and loved. When I first began exploring local activities, Art of the Lakes seemed like a good fit for me. They had just moved into their new gallery storefront, right next to Granny's candy shop, easily the busiest stretch in summer, along Battle Lake's main drag. I heard comments, how proud they were to refurbish that new space. And walking into the gallery was positively uplifting, every time; still is.

In those earlier days, the arts group was governed by many of its original members, or, the Board was comprised of women who had been at it for a while, since the 1960s, when the group of watercolorists first was organized. There's a longer history now. It was this group that introduced me to Mickie Edmonds and Liz Sweder. Both of them were on the Board in 2003, the year I joined. The Board was welcoming and eager to cultivate new members; I felt like I belonged, soon after joining. And every woman on the Board was unique, her own person, with years of experience and knowledge, knowing what to watch out for.

I fell in love with Mickie, our treasurer at the time; and I fell in love with Liz, who made unusual clay sculptures. On one side there was a couch, with Mom and a book, reading to her young daughter, while behind was a whole forest of trees, holding up the back of the couch. I wish I could look at them all again. Surely her kids now treasure them.

I loved Liz because at church coffee time, she would speak as though it was important to communicate her thoughts with me, like I mattered to her, and it was important to share the knowledge and impressions she was having for the moment. I thought of her, after a while, as a good friend, because Liz seemed to like me—but most importantly, I knew that Liz would never deliberately hurt anyone. She had a natural way of imparting respect, as we conversed.

Mickie was ready with biting, sometimes cruel wit, which made me laugh out loud. I couldn't get enough. We drove to St. Paul together to influence the legislature in supporting the arts throughout Minnesota. She gave me a pair of her hand-knitted socks, and introduced me to Bud Nornes, in his St. Paul office. On the way home, she generously came down hard on a theory I was writing, sort of with a chuckle.

Linda Doebbert, a highly disciplined watercolorist from Detroit Lakes, used to invite me up for beer and pizza in her backyard sunroom. I now have many of the watercolors her husband nearly took to the dump, when he cleaned out her studio. (One of her large field paintings hangs at Bigwood.) I once drove both Linda and Mickie together, to Itasca once; ate tuna sandwiches on a picnic table.

Mickie painted dozens of 30 x 40-inch, perfectly crafted watercolors, about life around hereabouts, on 300 lb. cold press. "Watercolors will paint themselves on that kind of paper," Linda once said.

Liz, beautifully dressed in perfectly new, wool sweaters from 1957, was always ready to tell me how she was doing, what she was up to—composing in her poke-along writer's voice, her memoir of an innocent girlhood and large family, summers at the lake. She could take me back to those same decades where parts of our separate lives were similar. I recall her soft, hesitant chuckle, when she'd finally get her point across, and that satisfied smile. Liz was easy to love. Her husband, Don, had planted several Honeycrisp trees in their yard on Jewett Lake, and one evening I stood there, and boldly picked an apple and ate it.

Recently, these artists have died; these friends are missing. *Sandra Barnhouse*

Note: Liz Sweder, along with her husband, Don, still living, were long-time friends of the Unitarian Church of Underwood.



"Ready for Harvest"
Painting by Mickie Edmonds

Events in October



“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Saturday, October 5, 2019

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Everyone is Welcome!

Sverdrup Lutheran Church Annual Bazaar

Underwood, MN

Menu: Egg Bakes & Sweet Rolls 9:00 – 10:30 am Wild Rice Soup, Vegetable Beef Soup, and Ham Sandwiches 10:30 am – 1 pm Pie Ala Mode, Coffee, Milk, Lemonade & FRESH LEFSA

Bring your family & friends to enjoy morning coffee & breakfast, a delicious lunch topped off with fresh pie and ice cream. Shop a nice variety of handmade crafts and holiday items, baked & canned goods & plenty of FRESH LEFSE!

A delicious assortment of cookies will be sold by the pound at our Cookie Shoppe. Featured in Grandma’s Attic you’ll find vintage, gently-used items like dishes, linens, jewelry, home décor and more!

Check out the themed basket raffle. REGISTER to win a DOOR PRIZE!
(This event has received support through a grant from Thrivent Financial)

Ann Reed House Concert

(Preceding her UCU talk for Sunday, October 27)

Saturday, October 26 beginning at 6:30 p.m., Steve and Linda will be hosting a house concert with Ann Reed. Anyone potentially interested in attending should contact Steve Berg (stevebergretired@gmail.com) or Linda Quistad-Berg (507-450-9414) concerning cost, location and other details. Seating is limited and once seats are fully reserved there will be a waiting list.



Ann Reed is an American singer-songwriter and guitar player from Minneapolis, Minnesota. She is one of the few women guitarists who primarily play the twelve-string guitar. Reed has appeared on Good Morning America and on radio shows such as A Prairie Home Companion and The Morning Show on Minnesota Public Radio, All Things Considered, and Mountain Stage.

She has performed at folk festivals including Bumbershoot and the Winnipeg Folk Festival and continues to perform in concert. In recent years, Ann has also developed her talents as a playwright and voice-over talent, creating and producing a podcast called The Henry and Buster Show. She donates up to 25% of her concert tour bookings for organizations that primarily address issues affecting women and children. See more at www.annreed.com.

Living Out Our UU Principles



Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive, controlling behavior that can include physical abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, sexual abuse, or financial abuse (using money and financial tools to exert control). People of all ages, races, religion, gender, economic status, sexual orientation and identity, can be victims of domestic violence.

Did you know? In 1977, Minnesota became the first state in the nation to award state funds to battered women's shelters. Additionally, in 1981, the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project in Duluth developed a model for a coordinated community response to the issue of domestic violence. The approach, now known nationwide as the Duluth Project, uses a multi-disciplinary effort to tackle the many facets of the problem.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an opportunity for our communities to get involved in ending violence throughout October. Here are a few ways you can participate:

Support a Victim or Survivor

Provide a listening ear or helping hand to a friend, family member, or co-worker who may be in an unhealthy or abusive relationship. Assist in connecting them with needed help or services at Someplace Safe or their local advocacy program, if desired.

Get Involved in a Local Event

By volunteering at a community event or attending one of our fall fundraisers, you are supporting local survivors by supporting the critical services provided by Someplace Safe. Check out our website event calendar at www.someplacesafe.info/events/calendar to see what is happening in our community throughout the fall.

Join the Day of Purple on October 24th

Someplace Safe invites you to participate in the annual Day of Purple on October 24th. On this day, community members may stand in solidarity and wear purple clothing to honor and remember those who have lost their lives, while bringing hope to the survivors of our community.

Post your participation photos on social media. Show your support for #dayofpurple19! Free stickers and posters are available to help spread the word about the *Day of Purple*. To request your free materials, contact your local Someplace Safe office or send an email to newsletter@someplacesafe.info.



Make an Impact With \$1 Per Day

All it takes is just \$1 a day this October to make a difference in the lives of local survivors. In fact, a contribution of just \$1 per day, less than a cup of coffee, helps local victims access the critical resources needed to live safer, healthier lives.

Someplace Safe assisted **1,638** victims of domestic violence this past year in our local area. See more at www.someplacesafe.info. **Someplace Safe 24-Hour Crisis Line: 800 974 3359**

Additional resources include Minnesota Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, and Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-866-223-1111, National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233, or visit National Network to End Domestic Violence: <https://nnedv.org/>.



Janell Miersch, UCU Connector Reporting for MNIPL

On Friday September 20, 2019 Minnesotans joined more than **4 million people around the world** for the Global Climate Strike, now the largest day of climate action in history. Here in Minnesota there were 17 climate strikes, from Grand Rapids to Rochester, with more than 6,000 people at the Saint Paul event. Watch videos of youth speakers [here](#).

MNIPL members/friends then traveled to Itasca State Park with partners from Honor the Earth and RISE Coalition for a beautiful headwaters prayer gathering and a weekend of relationship-building and resistance to the Line 3 pipeline.

On the first Earth Day there were more than 20 million people in the streets in the US alone, and we can get there on climate.

Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light works to build a stable climate that support vibrant, equitable communities for all life and believes the active care of creation is integral to spiritual life and social justice.



Justice-seekers, Justice-makers, and Justice-lovers!

YOU are invited to **MUUSJA JAMS*** (*that's the **JUSTICE AWARDS & MUSICAL SOIREE** by MN UU Social Justice Alliance, **Friday October 25 5:30-8:30pm**, at United Theological Seminary in Saint Paul & **LIVE-STREAMED** statewide to your homes or satellite parties. **Supper is free & kids are welcome!** Register at <https://www.muusja.org/youre-invited-to-muusja-jams/> Contact Director@MUUSJA.org or 612-927-2072 for accommodations & questions

We are Part of the Larger UU



New Regional Lead

Rev. David Pyle

“In becoming the Regional Lead I not only get the joy of journeying with your congregations in those times of joy and challenge, but I also get to work with an amazing team of professionals in the MidAmerica Regional Staff. My roots in the work of serving congregations as Congregational Life Staff began in the Central Midwest District, in what was a cross between a good “seminary job” and an internship with Rev. Dr. Ian Evison and the CMWD staff. Not only did I learn about the congregations of the MidAmerica region, but I learned from some of those who are still serving on the MidAmerica staff. That experience eventually led towards my becoming the District Executive of the Joseph Priestley District, and then a Congregational Life Consultant in both the Central East and the New England regions. That journey for me began here in MidAmerica.”



Rev. David Pyle
Regional Lead, MidAmerica Region of the UUA
Congregational Life Consultant
dpyle@uua.org
847-917-0072

[View this email in your browser.](#)



MidAmerica Messenger

Volume 7 Issue 3 | October 2019

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES AS CORRECTED August 21, 2019, BOARD MEETING

Board members present: Tim Lanz, John Minge, Ron Roller, Connie Stigen, Kris Warhol, Bob Worner, Bonnie Shower, and Shannon Smith

Board members absent: Darryl Booker and Allison Francis.

Others in attendance: Mary Worner (only for a part of the meeting)

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 P.M. by Board President Kris Warhol.

1. A motion to approve the agenda passed. (Bob/Shannon)
2. A motion to approve the minutes for the July 2019 board meeting passed. (Shannon/Ron)
3. A motion to purchase a water softener for Sverdrup suites for up to \$600 passed. (Shannon/Bob)
4. Mary Worner reported on what had been accomplished by the hiring task force. Three of four candidates have been interviewed by the task force. The fourth candidate took a job elsewhere and withdrew his/her application. A motion to accept for further consideration the two candidates being recommended by the task force passed (Kris/Shannon). Mary briefly went over the “schedules and procedures” to be followed in the second interview of the two finalists. This interview is scheduled to take place as the last item of business for this Board meeting.
5. Treasurer’s report: Ron Roller reported that the State and Federal income tax returns for the Church had been completed and filed and that the tax liability of the Church was very low. He also presented a one-page balance sheet as of August 20, 2019, and a three-page profit and loss statement for the Church through July of 2019. He commented briefly on each.
6. The Board interviewed the two finalists for the part-time administrative/clerical position to be filled. After the interviews and some discussion, it was moved and seconded that one of the

two individuals interviewed should be offered the position. The motion passed. [Note: Due to the need to maintain confidentiality, the identity of the individual to whom the position is to be offered is not being disclosed. Also, note: Tim and Bonnie left the meeting before the interviews took place and the hiring decision was made.]

7. The meeting was adjourned at about 8:00 p.m. The next board meeting will be on September 18, 2019, at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 27th day of September 2019.

By: John Minge, Secretary