

## Unitarian Church of Underwood September, 2013 Newsletter

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.

### Coming Up in September

#### Sunday Morning Service Begins at 10:30

September 1 – Bob Worner

September 8 – Patty Kakac & Anne Dunn – *Grandmothers Voices*, Bernice Johnson, UCU Kids

September 15 – Meredith Albers – *A Living, Breathing Soil of the Earth*, Celebrants - Equinox

September 22 – Nita, Jo, Plus One – Marimba Music

September 29 – David Gaian (Formerly David Schachtschnieder) – *Holy Communion –vs- Natural Sacrements: and examination of the gnostic origins, institutional desacralization, and entheogenic reemergence of the Divine Eucharist*

#### Sunday Morning Meetings Begin at 9:15

September 8 – Adult RE - Adult RE will resume meeting the first Sunday of each month beginning in October

September 15 – Writing As Spirtual Practice

### Blu-ray/DVD Player Needed

The church is in desperate need of a Blu-ray/DVD Player. If you would like to purchase one for the church please contact Dave McRoberts at [microberts\\_pd@hotmail.com](mailto:microberts_pd@hotmail.com) or Ellen Eastby at [eastofellen@hotmail.com](mailto:eastofellen@hotmail.com). Thank you!

### Photo Directory

The UCU Membership Committee is producing a picture directory of members and friends of the UCU. We will use our own resources to do so. **You can submit a favorite recent photo or have your photo taken by Luke Anderson or Norm Kolstad either September 15, 22, or 29 following church service.** We will then produce a photo membership directory for distribution and a photo board for display at church. The directories and photo board will be part of the 125 year celebration with first events scheduled for January, 2014. Authorizations for Use of Picture and Contact Information for you to complete and return and further details will be in the late August bulletins.

### Quote

“Our faith is not interested in saving your soul – we’re here to help you unfold the awesome soul you already have.” – Andrea Lemer, District Executive - Metro New York

## Sunday Morning Speakers

**September 8** - Performances by Patty Kakac and Anne Dunn in a program entitled *Grandmothers Voices* in which Anne tells Anishinaabe stories and Patty Sings. Anne says, *Grandmothers Voices* echo the wisdom garnered on a journey through life. The elders tell us when we are old, we should have something to say and we should say it in a way that others will want to listen."

**September 15** – Meredith Albers – *A Living, Breathing Soil of the Earth*, Celebrants – Equinox

**September 22** – Nita, Jo, Plus One – Marimba Music - A Marimba is a large wooden percussion instrument with resonators, resembling a xylophone

**September 29** – David Gaian (Schachtschnieder) - *Holy Communion –vs- Natural Sacraments: and examination of the gnostic origins, institutional desacralization, and entheogenic reemergence of the Divine Eucharist.*

This talk will attempt to touch upon and further support:

- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part
- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and openness to the forces which create and uphold life
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

David is a native-born Minnesotan who at an early age, making best use of both passion for experiential learning over book learning and what would surely now have been diagnosed and medicated as ADD, hit the open road. He has since spent the better part of the past three decades traveling throughout and living among peoples of foreign lands, languages, cultures, and religious belief systems, learning all he could along the way. Recently resettled to the US, with his Ukrainian-born wife of 10 years – Dasha, the couple maintain an active web development consultancy during their work days and in their evening burn the late night oil researching and seeking to identify which US cooperative community they will either be joining or helping to co-create in order to begin building their own family. The opportunity to gather among, speak to, and share lively discussion with a UCC congregation, especially ours here in his father's own home town, is of special meaning to David as he is finally succumbing marital and parental pressure to "put his career where his mouth is", and consider returning to formal university studies with an eye towards graduating with some form of eventual ministerial and/or community service degree.

## New Members

If you are interested in becoming a member of UCU, new member orientation and welcoming will be held in October. Please see JoAnn Larson to indicate your interest and give her your contact information

## Summer Read

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Churches chose the book *The New Jim Crow: Mass incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander as their Common Read for the 2012-13 year. After seeing some interest to read and discuss this book by a few members of our congregation, a Common Read was organized at UCU. Two of us read the first couple of chapters of the book and met to discuss them.

Just to fill you in, the first chapter tells about the history of black women and men in America in a way that is different from any history class most of us have ever attended. The second chapter talks about the current culture of the justice system with particular attention to race. Both of these chapters are eye opening and shocking. They left us with a feeling of “now what?” We felt our first step was to encourage others to read the book. To do that, we are creating a Summer Read.

The Summer Read gives everyone time to read the book. We will come together September 22 at 9:15 to begin to discuss the book. The book can be purchased at the UUA bookstore at <http://www.uuabookstore.org/>. Please read the book and join us for a discussion.

## SAVE THE DATE

UCU is sponsoring an Area UU Workshop "Building Stronger UU Congregations" on Saturday, November 9. Save the date letters have been sent to area UU churches and fellowships, which include UU Church of Fargo-Moorhead, Grand Forks UU Fellowship, Bismarck-Mandan UU Fellowship, Headwaters UU Fellowship (Bemidji), Northwoods UU Fellowship (Pine River), UU Fellowship of Mankato, St. Cloud UU Fellowship, St. Cloud Spirit of Life, and UU Church of Willmar. We are very excited to announce that Rev. Ian Evison, Church Life Consultant, from the newly formed MidAmerica Region will be coming to the workshop on Saturday and will be our speaker on Sunday morning. Planning for this workshop will continue over the next couple months. We will need many, many of volunteers for the day!! So, mark your calendar for November 9<sup>th</sup> and stay tuned for more details.

## Links of Interest

Stand 4 Food – Made possible, in part, by a UCU Empowerment Grant  
[www.standforfood.wordpress.com](http://www.standforfood.wordpress.com)

MidAmerica Region ( Replaced Prairie Star District) - [www.midamericauua.org](http://www.midamericauua.org)

Unitarian Church of Underwood Web Site [www.ucofu.org](http://www.ucofu.org)

Values In Action – Newsletter from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee -  
[http://actnow.uusc.org/site/MessageViewer?em\\_id=13161.0&dlv\\_id=16061](http://actnow.uusc.org/site/MessageViewer?em_id=13161.0&dlv_id=16061)

## U-Groups Start in September

New U-Groups begin again in September. So far, four groups are scheduled to meet monthly as follows

The second Tuesday from 7 to 9 pm at John and Janelle Miersch's in Fergus Falls

The third Thursday from 4 to 6 pm at Diana Zieseimer's in Fergus Falls

The second Thursday from 3:30 to 5:30 at Mary Anderson's in Perham

The fourth Tuesday from 3:30 to 5:30 at Ross and Mary Larson's in Battle Lake

Sign-up for the groups continues Sundays after church through September 8 on the table at the top of the stairs. More groups will be added if needed.

A sample session will be held Sunday, September 8, after church; join us if you would like to have a U Group experience before signing up.

Contact Connie Stigen (218-731-1443 or [dcstigen@gmail.com](mailto:dcstigen@gmail.com)) or Stephanie Sanderson (726-2616 or [highlife@prtcl.com](mailto:highlife@prtcl.com)) if you have questions. It'll be another great year together. Join us!

### Email Lists Hosted by the UUA

Taken from the UUA Website

<http://www.uua.org/lists/index.shtml>

The mission of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) email lists is to provide a way for groups of Unitarian Universalists (UUs) and like-minded individuals to communicate via email on issues relating to Unitarian Universalism, the UUA, and UU congregations and districts.

Email lists are a great way to receive announcements or participate in online discussions. The UUA sponsors over 300 different mailing lists and participation is free.

- [Most Popular Lists, Annotated & Sorted](#)
- [All UUA.org Lists](#)

Although the messages exchanged in these mailing lists are not reviewed or approved by the UUA, the lists have gone through an [application and approval process](#) for sponsorship by our organization.

- [Subscriber Guide](#)
- [Manager Guide](#)

## What Is an Email List?

An email mailing list, sometimes called a "listserv" (though that's a trademarked name), is a group of people who exchange messages as a group via email. On *announcement lists*, only one person can send messages and everyone else receives them, creating an email-based newsletter (the UUA-L list is of this type). On *discussion lists*, any subscriber can send messages that are received by all the subscribers, creating an email-based conversation. Most of the UUA's lists are of this type.

The UUA's email lists cost nothing to subscribe to. To subscribe, participate, and sign off, all you need is an Internet connection and an email address.

## Types of Lists on UUA.org

- **Open to the Public:** anyone can join.
- **Closed to the Public:** Some lists are open only to individuals who meet defined subscription criteria, such as membership in a particular UU-related organization.
- **Moderated:** Lists that are for announcements only or that filtered through a moderator who can reject messages that don't match the criteria for the list.

*The messages on UUA-managed mailing lists do not necessarily represent the views of the UUA, UUA-affiliated organizations, or any UU congregation. Members of the UUA staff, Board of Trustees, and Committees who participate on the UUA.org lists do so solely as private individuals, and should not be assumed to be participating in any official capacity unless otherwise stated.*

Lists on UUA.org are managed by the [ITS Web Team](#).

For more information contact [web @ uua.org](mailto:web@uaa.org).

This work is made possible by the generosity of individual donors and congregations. Please consider [making a donation](#) today.

## Letter to the Editor

[Standforfood.com](http://Standforfood.com) is a blog dedicated to promoting the Sustainable Food Production Program formerly at MState Fergus Falls. The Sustainable Food Production Program has teamed up with CURE (Clean Up our River Environment) and SFA (Sustainable Farming Association) to educate local communities about the importance of affordable training for local food producers.

The Sustainable Food Production Program is a positive force in our community - its graduates have been instrumental in starting two local farmers markets, and a few have become members of the Unitarian church. Ultimately, we hope through continuing education and awareness the Sustainable Food Production Program will be reinstated at MState. Until then SFA has agreed to sponsor the program for a three weekend intensive this fall. These alliances are crucial for building the local food systems and educating the public about why local food is important.

We are asking for support from Unitarian Universalists because it fits solidly with our principal of justice, equity and compassion in human relations. Good food is a human right and this program is an important tool in helping provide good food to our community. The Sustainable Food Production Program teaches students respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are all a part.

We are asking for your financial support at this critical juncture for this valuable program.

Sincerely, Katy Olson, Ron Roller, Cedar Walters and the instructors of the SFP program - Sue Wika and Tom Prieve.

## **Underwood Unitarian Church Board Minutes for July 21, 2013**

Board members present: Ellen Eastby, Don Siems, Norman Kolstad, Mary Worner, Dave McRoberts, John Miersch, and Mary Anderson. Absent: David Wass, David Sanderson, Alisha Piekarski.

Also present: Administrative Consultant JoAnn Larson.

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Ellen Eastby at 11:30 a.m.

John Miersch offered a meditation/reading.

The agenda was approved (Siems/Miersch).

The minutes of the June 19, 2013 meeting were approved as printed (McRoberts/Anderson).

### Reports:

Treasurer: Eastby reporting for Wass  
 Administrative Consultant: JoAnn Larson  
 Program Committee: Werner  
 Outreach Committee: no report  
 Facilities: McRoberts

Old Business topics discussed: floor insurance claim, strategic plan, executive committee meeting set for July 31, regional workshop November 9, planned giving, new board binders, congregation picture directory photo schedule September 15, 22, and 29.

New Business: none

The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Norman Kolstad

