



*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.*



(Photo courtesy of Susan Groff, October 2015)

## ***September 2016 Newsletter*** **Unitarian Church of Underwood**

**206 North Main Street  
Underwood**

**Phone: 218/826-6553**

**Website: [www.ucofu.org](http://www.ucofu.org)**

**Sunday Services resume at 10:30 a.m. September – May**

September 2016						
◀ August						October ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Underwood Harvest Festival 12:30 Kiddie Parade 1:30 Main Parade 3-5 pm UCU Open House Pie!!
4 Bob Worner- "Autumn Days"  Adult RE 9:15 am – John Minge, Leader Third Revolution Children's RE	5 AA 7 pm 	6	7 Membership Committee 6:00 pm	8	9	10
11 Van Gooch- Unchange Climate Change .Adult RE 9:00 am Sandy Barnhouse Women's Spirituality Children's RE GWOH-Sverdrup Green Committee 6:30 pm @ church	12  AA 7 pm	13 Speakers Committee 5:00 pm	14	15 Executive Committee 5:30 pm	16	17
18 Kevin Hutch Music = Life <a href="#">Child Care Available</a> Mindfulness Sitting 9-10 am  Shan Bag Making 12:30 pm	19  AA 7 pm	20	21 Board Meeting 6:30 pm	22 Worship Committee 9:30 am@ Susan Groff's	23 Quigstad-Berg House Concert @ Carignans'	24
25 Wayne Barkhouse, "Building Blocks of Universe" Child Care Available Adult RE – Spong's Book of Mark, Bob Worner	26  AA 7 PM	27	28	29	30	Notes:

## **September Speakers**

**September 4 – Bob Worner, "Autumn Days"** – Bob is using the 7th UU Principle and dealing with aging as, not only a part of life, but a reality in our congregation, and a look at how our survival as families and as a church goes on as we pass the torch to those who are younger and who can and must move what we espouse into the future.

### **September 11 – Van Gooch, How You Can Un-change Climate Change"**

"Climate change is a danger to our environment, food supply, economy and health. Let us not leave this as a legacy for our children. The primary cause of climate change is the burning of fossil fuels, but there are other good sources of energy we could use instead. Our government and the world has recognized this problem, but it is going to take time for them to react. But you and I can take action today to reduce our fossil fuel usage. Conservation, along with use of technology can greatly reduce our contribution of green-house gasses to the environment."

Dr. Van Gooch is a retired professor of Biology from the University of Minnesota of Morris. Dr. Gooch was a respected teacher and received the Horace T. Morse Teaching Award. He received his Ph.D. in Biophysics from the University of California, Berkeley in 1973. Upon retirement, Van and his wife, Sue, built a zero energy home 12 miles southwest of Alexandria. They are also involved with the Citizen's Climate Lobby, a nonpartisan group interested in curbing climate change.

**Sverdrup Lutheran Church - God's Work, Our Hands – service @ 9 a.m. Work Projects 10 - 11:30 a.m. – (more information below)**

**September 18 – Kevin Hutch, "Music = Life" – "Hutch"** lives in Underwood, a black man in a white community. Kevin hails from the upper west side of Manhattan, then moved to Harlem in the 90's. He experiences "hip-hop up close and personal," a Heavy Metal Emcee, a Rapper, a set designer, a performer/collaborator with hip hop groups, a DJ, a documentary producer, an independent album maker, a world traveler, a student of life. He recently presented musical freedom fighters, Hip Hop/Taggae artists in Fergus Falls live on stage.

Hutch is an opportunist who does motivational speaking about the Hip Hop movement and culture; poetically writing, graffiti, dance, and setting a positive foundation for Hip Hop's future. Hutch reaches out to the masses being spoon-fed fabricated, over-commercialized, zombified, so-called hip-hop. Hutch is very articulate about what he brings to the business. His take is that spreading joy and music is his mission in life.

More at: <https://www.reverbnation.com/kevhutchhustle>

**September 25 - Wayne Barkhouse, "The Building Blocks of the Universe"**

## Religious Education Classes Resume!

### Adult Religious Education

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month beginning September 4, 9:15-10:15 a.m.** - Join **John Minge** in furthering discussions of white privilege and racial inequities using the book by Rev. Wm Barber, *The Third Revolution*. For more information, see below.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month beginning September 11, 9:00-10:15 a.m.** – **Sandy Barnhouse** will lead studies on the history of the women's spirituality movement (open to change):

September 11 — History of the movement 1850s-1930s

October 9 – History, Part II; "Signs out of Time" DVD, the life of Marija Gimbutas; book assignments

November 13– *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven*, the UU connection

December 11 – *The Chalice and the Blade* and "The Goddess Remembered" DVD

January – *When God Was a Woman* and *the Great Cosmic Mother*

February – *The Spiral Dance* and "The Burning Times" DVD history of witch suppression and burnings in Europe

March – *Women in Pre-history* and *The Return of the Goddess*

April – *The Alphabet Versus the Goddess*

May – From Ritual to Romance and God of the Witches and "Full Circle" DVD

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, September 18, 9:00-10:00 a.m.** – **Mindfulness and Quaker Quiet Time.** From **Stan Carignan**: "What started as Mindfulness Sitting has evolved into Mindfulness and Quaker Quiet Time because almost half the group have Quaker backgrounds. The Mindfulness and Quaker Quiet time group is now a uniquely UCU spiritual group as we have combined the two traditions in our shared appreciation for sitting in quiet and stillness."

The group was excited to sit with Lee and Reid again after their summer absence when so much was happening in their lives. We say goodbye to a summer regular, Chuck Adelsman as he is headed back to Cottonwood, AZ before our next sitting. It became apparent that we had created something unique when ten minutes into our silent sitting, Chuck shared an experience of nature that he had had. Typically, no one talks during the mindfulness meditation time, but not so with Quaker Quiet time, when people speak as the spirit moves them. We had another first during our sharing time after the silent sitting when Maggie sang to the group. She was moved by a hymn that was a prayer to God to remove the dimness from our minds. She sounded like a song-bird singing softly outside our window. It was beautiful.

Everyone in the group is excited to get back to a 9:00 start time in September. Anyone who wants to experience shared silence is invited to sit with us on the third weekend of the month."  
– Stan Carignan

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month beginning September 25, 9:15-10:15 a.m.** – **Bob Worner's** class will continue this year with a study of the New Testament, using **John Shelby Spong's book BIBLICAL LITERALISM: A GENTILE HERESY**. After an extensive introduction, it deals primarily with the Gospel of Matthew, but as a book, it is written to be read in the synagogue and

corresponding to the Jewish liturgy. We will meet from September through May. In September we will work on the Preface, and Part One, through page 58.

### **Children's Religious Education**

Following the service, there was an organizational meeting for the upcoming year for Children's Religious Education. Highlights include: Kids RE will meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays of each month at 10:30 a.m. beginning September 4. Child Care will be provided the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays and if a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Bonnie Bell will involve the children on visioning and preparation for the Eden Play to be presented April 9. Sunday Services planned for October 9 and December 18 will involve the children. Plans for R Teens will likely not involve Sunday classes but will involve the teens in other UCU activities.

**Needed: At least three individuals to serve together as anchors/assistants for 2-3 month intervals. Curriculum and training/expectation walk-throughs will be provided. Anyone who is interested in volunteering to assist with the children in other ways, would also be welcome. This might include sharing your music, drumming, nature, art, bike safety, healthy eating, other expertise or just your interest in children. To volunteer or obtain further information, please contact Katy Olson @ [katyjolson@gmail.com](mailto:katyjolson@gmail.com) or 218/770-6681.**

### **Child Care**

When Children's Religious Education classes are not held, Child Care will be provided from 10:15 – 11:30 a.m. (or end of service), usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. Jewel Swanson (14) will continue to be one of the providers with her friend, Brianna Blomgaarden (14) assisting her. Cedar Walters and others will act as substitutes.

### **The Month That Was**

**August 7 – Ellen Eastby** began her talk “**Beyond Science: The Case for Mystery and Wonder**” with a quote from Albert Einstein. Ellen referred to Living Tradition 1. Ellen related that she loves the theatre – after viewing a performance, it “made me different;” “I could take it with me.” It gives her the same feelings as when she encounters mystery and wonder.

At the class she took a year ago, individuals were to describe their theological belief. Ellen was unable to define it then but in evolving she realized that 1) mystery and wonder “rock my world.” 2) What difference does it make if I can't label it? I don't need to fit into a neat category.”

Ellen told the story of the elephant and the blind men, each feeling a different part of the elephant and taking that part for the whole. The whole truth is too big to be captured completely. The whole is unanswerable – the mysterious.

The sense of “awe” brings exhilaration. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson looked at the stars overhead differently with Dr. Watson viewing it with wonder and Sherlock Holmes' analysis:

“Someone has stolen our tent.” Sherlock would wonder “who?” while Dr. Watson would wonder “why?”

UU Principle 4, “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” The search for truth may be an intellectual search. The search for meaning is more likely an emotional, spiritual, personal search.

Ellen’s last story was of a father and little boy watching the sun go down. The little boy: “What makes the sun go down?” The father trying to explain how the earth spins, etc. The little boy: “Oh, I was hoping it was God” - bringing mystery and wonder to the back yard.

There is a part of us that needs to contemplate mystery and wonder to amaze, sustain and exhilarate us.

Some comments: Quote from Book of John, “from where do the winds come.” We start with “child-like wonder,” “never want to grow up,” but find better “adult-like wonder.” Grandchildren can open that wonder for us again.

Attendance: 44

**August 14 - David Myers, Program Director of the Center for Interfaith Projects in Fargo. David** spoke on “**Dual Belonging**” **Principles 3 & 4 and Living Tradition 4.** David was raised Methodist in Houston, Texas. But early on he struggled with the beliefs. If each religion said they only held the Truth, someone had to be mistaken. Even with his skepticism, he was still drawn to religious community that was welcoming of questions, committed to social justice, saw the equality of men and women, and was LGBT friendly. He found his home and converted to Judaism but was still attracted to Buddhism and so he practices “dual belonging,” alternating his daily religious practices between each. One is argumentative, the other quiet and reflective so he preserves the distinctiveness of each. “The heart has its reasons that reason doesn’t understand.” On his Jewish dates, he wakes up with the prayer in Hebrew, “I am grateful.”

Judaism relates to a personal God and arguing with God is traditional. In Judaism, time is looked at with a beginning, a middle and an end. In Buddhism, time is cyclical, ie. death, rebirth. In Judaism there is a view of self – eternal, permanent, survives death. In Buddhism, there is no eternal self, the end of individual. But practices from both give him spiritual meaning and support.

So from David: “who am I?” His answer, “I don’t know.” So many religions of the world try to tell us what is Truth. The world itself does not tell us – all is open to interpretation. It is ambiguous, not clearly defined. The different interpretations give meaning to each of us. In his book, *Toward a True Kinship of Faiths*, the Dalai Lama talks about the 1) metaphysical aspects of the religions (soul, God, heaven) and 2) the ethical teachings that transcend the religions (social justice, kindness, generosity, compassion) – repairing the world.

Attendance: 50

***Note: Nearly 30 attended the dialogue on race relations/inequities with the request that more be scheduled soon! Thanks to Victoria Creek for facilitating. See below for follow up activities.***

**August 21 - Rev. Roger Parks** in his 3<sup>rd</sup> of his three talks on Reformation of Christianity. His first talk in June was on his contemplation of Christianity having a dualistic view, not a holistic one. His second talk about a core set of beliefs coming from a Phoenix group that moved more to progressive, inclusive thinking. He follows Richard Rohr, a Franciscan priest who looks to a more hopeful world – calls for a radical shift from sin, hatred to love, inclusiveness. The need to shift consciousness to a new awareness of the higher moral grounds, a new way of living, a new way of being – not adhere to prescribed beliefs but to a way of being/living/connecting to one another and to all creation.

In the unity way of thinking there are four moral equivalencies:

- 1) Jesus and others – whatever you do to others, you do to me.
- 2) Between Jesus and God – I and the Holy One are One. We are at one with the Holy One.
- 3) Between any person and God – The Spirit is within you – the Holy one in me, with us.
- 4) Between any person and any other person – In everything you do, treat others as you would have them treat you. Love without qualifications – love others for who *they* are, not because of who *we* are.

How can we implement to make dominant this narrative/story? Comments: Be cautious with our stories, honor other's stories. Quaker – There is that of God in every person – answer that of God in other people. We forget to ask questions of the other person's story – we are too busy thinking of our story. We give our power to others by reacting the same - we need to love back. Responsibility and ownership are OURS - not someone else's. Treat others not as you want to be treated but as THEY would like to be treated. Put space around the issue so not caught in dualism. Stretch out thinking to embrace both sides as one. When you move away from the prescribed belief, it can be scary, messy. We seek order – the paradox and mystery are not absolutes. "Absolutely, there are no absolutes."

Rev. William Barber, a preacher/activist says there are challenges ahead but we will win – reconstructing a movement mentality. We are partners with the Creator.

Attendance: 38

**August 28 - Dave Haage**, an award winning journalist and writer currently with the Star and Tribune. Dave's message was entitled "**From Wittenberg to Guttenberg: Journalism's Reformation**" addressing UU Principles 4 & 5.

**Dave Haage**, the Science and Health Editor at the Star and Tribune. In his talk entitled **“From Wittenberg to Guttenberg: Journalism’s Reformation”** addressing UU Principles 4 & 5, **Dave** spoke about the changes that are occurring in journalism and their effects.

**Dave** grew up as a “Swan Lake Rat” where he and his family still have a cabin. Many Swan Lake residents were among today’s attendees. He and his wife, Therese, are members of the Unity Unitarian Church in St. Paul.

Dave began by comparing the impact of the changes in journalism to the Reformation (of the Catholic Church). In October 1517, Martin Luther in Wittenberg, Germany posted his 95 Thesis which then led to the revolution against the Catholic Church and began the formation of Protestantism.

To compare to journalism: before the digital revolution, the news was controlled and delivered by newspaper publishers identified as a “small privileged, priestly class that translated wisdom.” This meant that we all received similar information. Today, anyone can deliver “news”, which has democratized journalism and expanded the availability of information. This has been good for consumers – offering more choices and access. It has been bad for the industry, especially economically. In 1979, the Tribune employed 2,000 people. Today it employs 700. Twenty - thirty years ago, 2/3 of the cost of publishing the paper was covered by advertising (1/3=subscribers). Today only 1/3 is covered by ads. Today, the Star Tribune has a record number of readers, indicating that people still want news. But news is not free. It can cost a news bureau \$1 million/year for one foreign bureau. Just to cover the MN legislative session, it costs about \$1/2 million. So there is still the question, how to pay for it.

Another conundrum of the digital revolution and the vast amount of information available is that we have to/get to choose our sources and what we read. The tendency is towards “confirmation bias” which means looking for and believing information that confirms our beliefs. Thus, we have different fact worlds that has created deep polarization and paralyzed us into sides in our society. We have lost Walter Kronkite of CBS who we once looked to for one with the facts. “It is now the world according to me.” For us to move forward, we need to have common trusted sources of information.

How do we find common sources? A couple of suggestions:

- Read op eds. by writers you disagree with
- In your circle of friends, include people with differing views
- Read something that you didn’t expect to read

Yet, because of the brilliant young journalists coming in, Dave is still encouraged that the future looks bright.

Attendance: 65



*Join Us!!*  
***Underwood Harvest Festival***  
***September 3, 2016***

Kris Warhol, Community Outreach Coordinator, is working with others from UCU on participation in the Underwood Harvest Festival, September 3. Plans include joining in the parades, serving pie, coffee and lemonade at an open house at church from 3-5 p.m., featuring information on "UCU Empowering Local Communities and Beyond" - how we are involved and how we contribute to the community. We welcome for your presence and participation to serve pie and/or join the parades!! Contact Kris at [mwarhol7up@gmail.com](mailto:mwarhol7up@gmail.com) or 218/205-1644.

### **September 3: UCU Fun Events & Details**

#### Overview

Kid's Parade Line-up 11:30 AM, parade at 12:30 rain or shine

Main Parade Line-up 12:30 PM, parade at 1:30 rain or shine

Pie Social at UCU 3-5 PM

Shan Benefit: Veggie Sale and Bernice's Wares at UCU 3-5 PM

#### Details

##### **Pie Social at UCU 3-5 PM**

Pies and kitchen help needed, contact Kris Warhol, [mwarhol7up@gmail.com](mailto:mwarhol7up@gmail.com), 218-205-1644.

Open house 3:00 to 5:00 serving lemonade and slices of pie.

##### **Shan Benefit at UCU 3-5 PM**

Please bring your extra garden produce to church September 3rd. Homemade canned goods, baked goods, and crafts are also welcome. The church will be open during the parades, so please drop off your produce anytime from 11:30 to 3:00. During the pie social at church, a produce table will be set up and all proceeds from sales will go toward scholarships for the Shan refugee children. JoAnn Larson is coordinating this table and will also be selling Bernice Johnson's scarves, jewelry, and other items, again in support of Shan scholarships. Thank you for your green thumb and generosity!

##### **Parade Info.**

Parents, Grandparents and Interested Friends,

The Underwood Harvest Festival is Saturday, September 3 with the Kiddie Parade at 12:30 p.m. (11:30 line-up) and the main parade starting at 1:30 p.m. (12:30 line-up). My kids and I plan to bring our horses and ride in the main parade to represent UCU and the Wadena 4-H Horse Project that received an Empowerment Grant. **We invite other horse riders to join us!!**

I'm also planning to dress up Precious and have her lead her horse, Crash, in the kiddie parade. It would be so fun if you can **have your kids come in costumes of your choosing to also**

**walk/ride or pull their wagon in the parade to represent our kids at church.** We'll get some candy for the kids to throw! Please pass the word.

Please contact me, Heather Czeck at [763/219-7187](tel:7632197187) or [tinker-2000@hotmail.com](mailto:tinker-2000@hotmail.com) and let us know if we can count you in!! Or tell Grandma Mary - [218/346-6638](tel:2183466638) or [maryanderson8380@msn.com](mailto:maryanderson8380@msn.com).

*Heather Czeck and kids, Skylar, Jewel, Sterling and Precious*

P.S. animals can also include stuffed animals. If anyone needs help or ideas, please feel free to contact Heather.

**Note:** The City of Underwood is requesting some help BEFORE Harvest Festival weekend:

- Weeding flower beds at Underwood Community Center
- Weeds out of fence at Bicentennial Park
- Trim pine tree up at Bicentennial Park.

Contact Kris Warhol if you are available.

### Harvest Time "Four in the Field"



Painting by Mickie Edmonds

**Sverdrup Lutheran Church Annual  
God's Work, Our Hands  
Sunday, September 11, 2016**

**Special music will be provided by UCU musicians.**

For their 4<sup>th</sup> year, Sverdrup and Tingvold Lutheran Churches celebrate with nearly 10,000 other ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Churches of America) in God's Work, Our Hands. Sverdrup Church has again invited the Unitarian Church of Underwood to participate in the work. **We will have our regularly service at 10:30 a.m. but for those who'd like to be a part of GWOH, the joint worship service at Sverdrup's is at 9 a.m. with guest speaker, Bishop Larry Wohlrabe and special UCU guest musicians performing.**

Community service projects will begin at 10:00 a.m. At 11:30 those who participated will meet at Sverdrup for lunch and fellowship. The community service projects have been selected for all ages and all mobility and physical capabilities.

Some of this year's projects include:

- Because this is the 15th anniversary of 9/11/2001, celebrate our day to day heroes: Underwood Fire Department, First Responders, EMTs, Ringdahl Ambulance Staff and Law Enforcement. They will be recognized during the church service and then with the making of special cards and treat bags to thank them for their unending help and support. .
- Organize LWR School Kits and supplies.
- Wash the Underwood Fire Department meeting room floor and windows.
- Apple Picking at the Parsonage and Deliver Produce to Tamarac Manor. Donations of other fresh produce for the Tamarac residents is also welcome.
- Clean around the UHS Rocket & mulch.
- Paint light poles bases on Underwood Main Street.
- Tingvold road ditch clean-up on Hwy #35.
- Sverdrup road ditch clean-up on Hwy 210.
- Lunch set-up and serve committee

If you would like to participate, select a project and please contact Ellen Eastby at 218/731-0803 or [eastofellen@hotmail.com](mailto:eastofellen@hotmail.com).

**Newsletter Submissions**

Please submit your ideas and articles for the Newsletter to: [maryanderson8380@msn.com](mailto:maryanderson8380@msn.com). Editing is provided by Stephanie Sanderson and emailing/ mailing is provided by Ellen Eastby and JoAnn Larson. Mickie Edmonds usually provides one of her paintings each month for our appreciation! When you have photos of a UCU event and are willing to share, please forward them to Mary.

**Help Make Bags for Shan Children  
September 18  
Following Treats**



**Washing Facilities in a Shan Refugee Camp**

Bernice Johnson has asked us this year to make little bags that she can carry to Thailand for the Shan children. Bernice intends to fill them with goodies that she will purchase in Chiang Mai – items such as toothbrushes/paste, lip salve, socks, etc. Bernice tells us: “It would just be fun for them to have their own little bag of ‘stuff.’ One year a friend from the UK brought carefully chosen gifts for each of the children in our first school and some of them liked the bags as well as or better than the gifts that were in them.”

Flannel and novelty fabric and cording will be provided so you’ll be put to work cutting, sewing, stringing, pressing. Bring your favorite cutting tools and a dish to share and please join us!! Many hands make easy work!

**Unexpected Donation of \$500  
From Farmers State Bank of Underwood**

Letter from Ronald Shernack, Bank President to the Unitarian Church of Underwood:

“Over the past several years, it has been my pleasure to witness all the special things members of the Unitarian Church have done for the community of Underwood. All you have done has not been lost to the officers and staff of the Farmers State Bank.

Please accept the enclosed donation to continue commitments and good deeds for our community.”

*The Board of Directors all signed and sent a thank you back to Ron.*

## **2016-2017 U-Groups Resume**

The Small Group Ministry known at UCU as U-Groups will be forming their meetings in September with each group finalizing the facilitators, day, time and place. Sign-up sheets are available at church. If you or others you know are interested in participating in a U-Group, sign the sheet or contact Co-Facilitators: Connie Stigen @ [dcstigen@gmail.com](mailto:dcstigen@gmail.com) or 218/731-1443 or Tere Mann @ [teremann@gmail.com](mailto:teremann@gmail.com) or 218/205-4931.

We do not have facilitators nor a host for a Fergus Falls daytime U-Group as has been requested in the last year. If anyone is interested or if you know of possibilities, please contact Connie or Tere.

### **U Group Schedule**

#### **(Subject to some changes after first meetings)**

- Alexandria U-Group: 2nd Wed @ 7:00 pm beginning September 14 @ the office building of Widseth, Smith & Nolting Office Bldg.; Facilitators: Lee Becker/Susan Sanford
- Battle Lake U- Group: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday beginning September 13 @ 3:00 p.m. @ JoAnne Cress' 846 Lake Shore Drive, Battle Lake; Facilitators: 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 at another home.
- Fergus Falls U-Group: 3rd Tues @ 6:00 pm beginning September 20 @ Tere Mann's, 1319 N Park, Fergus Falls; Facilitators: Tere/Connie/Mary Worner
- Perham U-Group: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday @ 3:30 p.m. beginning September 8 @ Stan & Lisa Carignans' - 35452 Inlet Estates Drive, Ottertail; Facilitators: Stan Carignan/Louise Lovdahl

Note: We invite our old members of each U-Group to join us again and those new to U-groups are welcome as each U-Group holds an empty chair for anyone who wants to join with a group.

Tentative U-Group topics are:

- September - "Civility"
- October - "Citizenship" or "Resistance" - TBD
- November - "Blessings"
- December - "Play"
- January - "Renewal"

Community and UCU projects:

Each group commits to doing a community project and/or a church project each year. So far, for this coming year, the Facilitator's Group plans to again serve at the Someplace Safe Tea in February. The Perham U-Group is completing their last year's community project with a concert fundraiser (Linda & Steve Quistad-Berg) on Sept 23rd with proceeds going to Kinship Kayaking Project spearheaded by John Minge (see the announcement below for details). The other U groups will decide their projects as they move forward.





# **House Concert**

## **“Country Roads - Take Me Home”**

Songs and Stories about Family, Farm and the  
Mountains - with Steve and Linda

### **To Benefit Perham Kinship**

**~John Minge’s project - building kayaks with  
youth~**

# **Friday, September 23, 2016**

**6:30 pm - Gather at the home of Stan and Lisa Carignan  
(35452**

**Inlet Estates Drive, Ottertail) for finger food and socializing  
before the concert.**

**7:00 pm - The concert will begin.**

**A hat will be passed - All funds raised will go directly to  
Perham  
Kinship.**

**The audience is limited to 25 people.**

**To reserve your spot call Lisa @ 218-841-  
2302**

**Directions: take Highway 78 to 355<sup>th</sup> to Inlet Estates Drive**

## *Perham Kinship Kayak Project*



**Early days of kayak building by John Minge and Kinship boys**

The Perham U Group is choosing to donate the funds from this house concert to the Perham Kinship Program's special kayak project.

John Minge, a member of the Perham U Group and a Perham Kinship volunteer, has for some time been floating the idea of building some kayaks for Kinship. His idea has been to build the kayaks with some of the Kinship kids and their mentors (if they have mentors). In early August, he began to make that idea a reality. At that time, he and three teenage boys began to build three kayaks for Kinship. (Two more kayaks are being built--one for John and one for his son Raymond.) John has the help of another Kinship adult volunteer--someone who John describes as being "a very nice guy who has been exceedingly helpful". John hopes that the boats will be done by mid-September. If that happens, they will be launched on an area lake or river. John likes the idea of the Otter Tail River as a launching sight--perhaps to end up at Zorbas on Little Pine Lake.

If all goes well, five (maybe one or two more) additional kayaks will be built next summer. Some of next year's builders asked will be girls.

John says that some parts of the building process are quite difficult--at least to fledgling builders. His dilemma is that he wants (1) to have the boats turn out well so that they will provide a fun activity for the Kinship program for years to come and (2) to have the boys and girls make a meaningful contribution to the effort. Finding a balance between those two

objectives is not always easy--especially for someone who has some perfectionist tendencies when it comes to building.

### **Facilities Committee Sound Proofing!!**

There has been concern for a long period of time about the level of noise in the lower level during coffee hour. The Facilities Committee took noise reduction/sound proofing on as a project. So far they have had a sound technician come and meet with Susan Groff, Tere Mann and Katy Olson at the church. Based on her recommendations, they researched companies and prices on line. Now they are working with Acoustical Surfaces in Chanhassen, MN. They have gotten all the measurements and pictures of the space to them and they will have a quote back from them by Labor Day.

They have reviewed several covering options and have picked a lovely fabric that enhances the aesthetics of the space. One of the features that the ladies are particularly excited about is that they plan to cover the wall above the beverage bar with panels that double as a bulletin board. One idea is to feature members' involvement on committees, etc. They hope to have the quote in time to take it to the Board of Directors for approval by the next Board meeting of September 21. Then it can be ordered, installed and enjoyed!!

Thank you Katy, Susan and Tere!!



**Greeters are always needed for Sunday services. Please contact JoAnn Larson @ [redswilds@gmail.com](mailto:redswilds@gmail.com) or @ 218/405-0752. This is an easy and fun way to serve and to get to know other UCU members and friends.**

**Treaters are always needed for the social hour after Sunday services. Please sign up on the clipboard on the kitchen treat counter or contact Anne Andersen @ [ikaue@yahoo.com](mailto:ikaue@yahoo.com). Or you can instead bring treats to freeze that can be used for a Sunday when it is open.**



## *Eden Plan Postponed to April 9, 2017*



Bonnie Albers' priority as the director of this production now scheduled for April 9, 2017, is recruiting more participants for "what we have proclaimed to be the "Parade of Creation" entering in Scene 2. The script specifically references several animals we have not yet secured in our cast, such as the lion, the bird, the cat, the deer, the orangutan, the hyena, the fish, the cow, mice, dingo, Chihuahua, even an elephant. Sandy Barnhouse graciously agreed to be our Eagle. Our dolphin is also cast. This is a great opportunity for many more children AND adults to participate. With all these critters our 'parade of creation' will be stupendous!"

Indulge Bonnie's vision further and see the possibilities of the parade including representations of the plant life referred to in the play. Her husband, Lance has "agreed to be a player in the production as the Tree, the Cat climbs to get the Bird! and Adam climbs the tree! Can we cast the Apple(s), the Peach(es), the Plum(s), the Daisy(ies), the Rose and the Orchid, the Vine(s) and the Grass(es)?"

"Just how many people in our congregation can we involve? How fun would it be to have everyone dressed up acting out their parts! What a spectacle we could make together! I encourage all here to assist me in talking this up with our spouses, the youth, our friends, and new acquaintances at church."

The Eden Play spectacle depends mightily on the interest, time and skill we can gather in costuming this production. Mary Anderson and Tina Stone have volunteered so far but much more help is needed. Our first planning session will be September 18th after church when we meet to sew bags for our friends the Shan refugees. If you know anyone interested in helping with costumes let Bonnie know.

Susan and Anders are teaming up for sound effects. Bonnie and cast also hope to secure microphones for our main characters and we need a sound tech volunteer to help in this regard.

As to regular rehearsals starting up again, Bonnie will create a master calendar to publish with everyone by September 1<sup>st</sup> with some Sunday after church rehearsals combined with Monday

afternoon rehearsals. Please let Bonnie know of your availability in general and any dates that are off the table for you. As for now your confirmed commitment is needed for the Performance Date of April 16<sup>th</sup>; Dress Rehearsal on Saturday April 15; and a First Run Through on Sunday April 9th when we can set up the pews for the production and keep them arranged through the performance.

To participate in **any/every way**, contact Bonnie at [BonnieBellAlbers@gmail.com](mailto:BonnieBellAlbers@gmail.com) or 218/731-5824.

**Invitation to Join UCU  
As a Voting Member  
Welcoming October 2 - During Sunday Service**

To become a voting member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Underwood, you indicate your wish by signing the membership book. We invite you to participate in new member orientation and the welcoming new member ceremony that is held twice a year, **the next planned for October 2, 2016**. Please see JoAnn Larson for further details.

**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 a number of people who attend regularly, those who attend periodically, some who consider themselves members but are unable to participate, and others who are not members, but come to enjoy our featured speakers or other offerings. We welcome everyone: "no single belief includes us here, no disbelief excludes us."



**Summer Flowers from the garden of Bev Parker**

# Farmers market offers free fresh food to kids

reported by Jacob Tellers, Fergus Falls Journal

Published 10:26 am Wednesday, June 29, 2016

The Fergus Falls Farmers Market will be offering free, fresh produce to kids this year thanks to a grant from a local church.

Starting Saturday, and then continuing on the first Saturday of the month through October, the Farmers Market will be giving two \$1 tokens to any children that come to the market.

There's a catch. The tokens can only be used to purchase produce.

The program, called the Power of Produce, is a national one aimed at encouraging kids to become excited about eating fruits and vegetables, according to Farmers Market organizer Diane Johnson.

The farmers market ran a trial run of the program last year and had about 100 kids show up, she said.

"The concept is designed to introduce fresh fruits and vegetables to kids and get them excited about participating, cooking and enjoying local produce," she said.

A \$1,000 grant from the Underwood Unitarian Church has enabled the market to expand the program this year.

Besides stirring up interest in vegetables, the program can also help children with math, as they decide how to best spend their tokens, Johnson said.

During the Power of Produce days, there will be other activities for children as well.

"One vendor at the market will instruct and direct the creation of Fairy Gardens which kids can then take home," Johnson said. "Others will provide the materials to decorate cookies and construct personal jewelry and pendants. There will be an art exhibit booth where participants can draw and show off their personal representations of fruits and vegetables."

There will also be a treasure hunt designed to take kids through the market.

The Farmers Market meets on the front lawn of the Otter Tail County Historical Society Museum Wednesday and Saturday from June through October. It is open 2-5:30 p.m. Wednesday and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday.

Tokens will be available at the information booth.

*Annual Community  
Rummage Sale  
Raised \$500 for  
Habitat for Humanity*



**Because of the many donations and the hard work of Kris Warhol and Alisha Pierkarski, the Annual Rummage Sale proceeds came to \$500.00. The Board presents check to Stan Carignan, Executive Director for Fergus Falls Habitat for Humanity, recipient of the funds.**

***Social Justice Action!!***

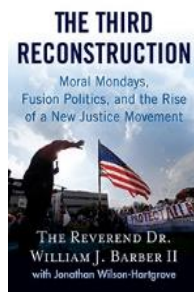
Twenty-eight people stayed after Sunday services, August 14, to participate in a conversation about race relations/inequities. Victoria Creek led a circle to respond to the questions: “Why are you here?” and “What is your fear?” and “What do you want to see happen” and “What will you commit to?”

Dialogue will continue along with other efforts to educate ourselves further on the history and making leading the establishment of white privilege and the breakdown in racial relations and making of racial inequities. John Minge has selected for his Adult Religious Education, a study of Rev. William Barber’s Book, *The Third Revolution*. Join his class on the first Sunday of each month at 9:15 a.m.

Under consideration is scheduling of a workshop with Ashley Horan, Executive Director of the Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Association (MUUSJA). These workshops guide congregations through the steps to take effective social action.

Meantime, each of us can pay attention to what others in the area have underway to address social issues, be that of other progressive faith communities, helping agencies and organizations, West Central Initiative, etc. Whenever, wherever we can build links, it increases power to affect change.

The articles below may help stimulate further interest and ideas for combating race inequities and other social justice issues.



## UUA Common Read 2016-17

*The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement*, by The Rev. Dr. William Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove (Beacon, 2016), has been chosen as the 2016-17 Unitarian Universalist Common Read. Unitarian Universalists were electrified at General Assembly 2016 by Rev. Barber's call for building and sustaining a movement for justice for all people. The Common Read selection committee believes that this is a moment for Unitarian Universalists to answer that call. *The Third Reconstruction* offers helpful, practical guidance for engaging with justice movements born in response to local experiences of larger injustices. Drawing on the prophetic traditions of the Jewish and Christian scriptures, while making room for other sources of truth, the book challenges us to ground our justice work in moral dissent, even when there is no reasonable expectation of political success, and to do the hard work of coalition building in a society that is fractured and polarized.

Congregations, groups, and individuals are invited to purchase the book or find it in a public library and begin reading. A paperback edition will be available for purchase at [inSpirit: UU Book and Gift Shop](#) in late September; bulk discounts for both hard cover and paperback are available. Make plans for an in person discussion group in the fall or winter and/or find a reading buddy and begin informal conversations as you read the book together. A discussion guide for Unitarian Universalist congregations, groups, and individuals will be available for download October 1. The guide will include plans for both a single session and three more in-depth sessions.

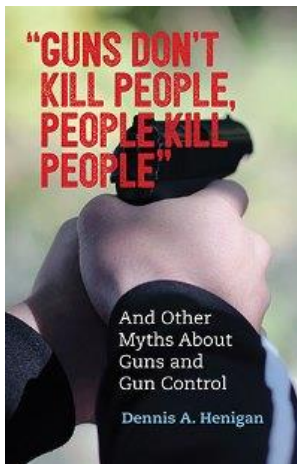


Note: This editor found an article in the winter 2015 UU World Magazine (pages 29-35), "The New Fusion Politics" that was adapted from Rev. Barber's book, *The Third Reconstruction*.... You can find the article at <http://www.uuworld.org/articles/new-fusion-politics>.

## inSpirit

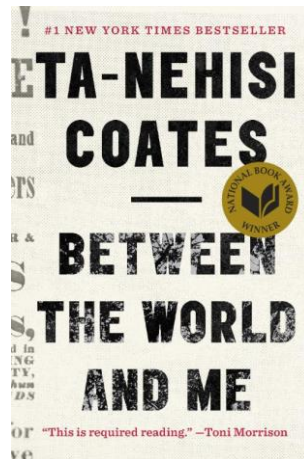
Your Search for Truth and Meaning Begins Here

Unitarian Universalists are dedicated to ending racial discrimination and injustice, starting within ourselves and moving out into the world around us. We support multiracial, multiethnic congregations, and advocate for stopping racist policies like mass imprisonment and attacks on voting rights. The following books offer important context, history, and guidance in our efforts for racial justice.



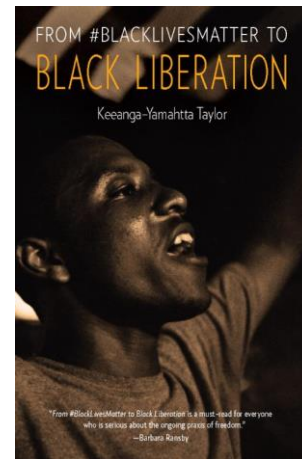
***Guns Don't Kill People, People Kill People: And Other Myths About Gun Control* by Dennis A. Henigan**

"Henigan effectively disarms the gun lobby's arguments, fighting back with equal doses of common sense and uncommon insight. . . . A must-read for every American who longs to bring sanity to our nation's gun laws."  
-Arianna Huffington



***Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates**

"I've been wondering who might fill the intellectual void that plagued me after James Baldwin died. Clearly it is Ta-Nehisi Coates. The language of *Between the World and Me* . . . is visceral, eloquent, and beautifully redemptive. And its examination of the hazards and hopes of black male life is as profound as it is revelatory."



***From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation* by Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor**

"Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor's searching examination of the social, political and economic dimensions of the prevailing racial order offers important context for understanding the necessity of the emerging movement for black liberation."

[Purchase today.](#)

-Toni Morrison

[Purchase today.](#)

-Michelle Alexander,  
author of *The New Jim  
Crow*

[Purchase today.](#)

## UU Bulletin

A monthly newsletter from the Unitarian Universalist Association to keep you and your congregation informed.

### Take Part in the Defying the Nazis UU Action Project



#WeDefy

Carry on the legacy of Waitstill and Martha Sharp by defying hatred, fear, Islamophobia and senseless refugee policies today. Ken Burns PBS film airs 9/20/16, with book from Beacon Press.

[uua.org/sharpstory](http://uua.org/sharpstory)

Unitarian Universalists across the country today are fighting Islamophobia and religious intolerance as modern-day parallels to the brave actions of WWII Unitarians Waitstill and Martha Sharp. With the September PBS release of Ken Burns' *Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War*, the inspiring tale of how the Sharps helped hundreds escape Nazi Europe, UUs are taking action to follow their example. The Defying the Nazis UU Action Project, co-sponsored by the UUA, UU Service Committee and the Fahs Collaborative at Meadville Lombard, helps congregations

and individuals take action and share their story. Visit the [project site](#) to download the congregational action guide, refugee action toolkit, and add your action to the map. Carry on the Sharps' living legacy by promoting interfaith justice in the face of anti-Muslim bias and the refugee crisis. Visit [UUA.org/sharpstory](http://UUA.org/sharpstory) and follow the discussion on social media with #WeDefy.

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**Get Out the Vote 2016**

The Fund for UU Social Responsibility is pleased to announce that grants of up to \$500 are available for 2016 Get Out the Vote Projects. UU congregations frequently support the democratic process in an election cycle in a non-partisan manner by participating in voter registration drives, providing non-partisan educational materials or forums for voters, or by volunteering to help registered voters get to the polls on election day. [Apply](#) by Nov. 1 online or call 617-971-9600.



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## **We Say Enough! A National Call to Speak Truth**



The Enough! Campaign is a moral call to the nation that seeks to make questions of poverty, disinvestment, human suffering, and the criminalization of Black and Brown, Muslim and LGBTQ people the moral questions of our day, offering a new vision for addressing the challenges we face that undermine human potential and flourishing. The campaign will host a series of "Speak Outs for Truth" across the country and provide toolkits to people wishing to

organize their own. It will also organize weekly virtual mass meetings as online spaces for education, reflection, and visioning. In December, people from across the country will come together as truth tellers to develop a true people's platform for the first 100 days of the new U.S. president and a comprehensive organizing strategy for moving the vision forward. [Connect](#) online and follow the campaign with #WeSayEnough.

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## **Unitarian Church of Underwood Approved Board Minutes for July 17, 2016**

Board members present: David Sanderson, Mary Anderson, Stan Carignan, David Wass, Kris Warhol, Connie Stigen, Bob Worner, Alisha Piekarski, and Norman Kolstad. Absent: John Miersch. Also present: Administrative Consultant JoAnn Larson.



The meeting was called to order at the church by Board President Mary Anderson at 11:11 a.m. Connie Stigen shared a reading/meditation. The agenda was approved (Worner/Wass). The minutes of the June 15, 2016 meeting were approved as corrected (Sanderson/Stigen).

#### Reports:

- \_Executive Committee: Mary Anderson
- Treasurer: David Wass - expenses to date for Sverdrup Suites. Sverdrup Suites property insurance deductible of \$2500 was approved (Sanderson/Worner). Lawn mowing contracted service was modified to \$35/hour (Wass/Sanderson).
- \_Administrative Consultant: JoAnn Larson
- \_Stewardship: David Sanderson
- \_Program Committee: Kris Warhol
- \_Facilities Committee: Kris Warhol - noise abatement, floor painting, lift repair.
- \_Safety Committee: Norman Kolstad - met July 11, other committee members are Kris and Wally Warhol, David Sanderson, Tina Stone, Susan Adams, and Susan Groff.
- \_Community Outreach Committee: Sanderson - July 16 Bike Ride for Shan refugees.
- \_Other: Underwood Harvest Festival activities September 3, 2016. Bernice Johnson returned her speaking fee.

#### Unfinished Business

Discussion topics: lift repair, no rebate on boiler, various contracts.

#### New Business

- Seven policies were adopted or modified:
- Speaker's Fees (Warhol/Wass);
  - Speaker's contract form (Warhol/Sanderson);
  - Invoice form and procedures (Warhol/Stigen);
  - UUA Fair Share assessment and dues procedure (Warhol/Wass);
  - Team Roles and Responsibilities (Warhol/Sanderson);
  - Event Support policy and request form (Warhol/Piekarski);
  - Building Use Request form (Warhol/Sanderson).

By consensus, a covenant of behavior will be posted in the church. A World Peace flag will be added to the rostrum (Sanderson/Wass). Also discussed: a possible dialogue on social and race relations; Underwood's future. Bob Worner reported on Churches United for the Homeless.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 17, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. The Finance Committee will meet August 11, at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Norman Kolstad

## Unitarian Church of Underwood Sverdrup Suites Expenditures

### UCU 4-Plex Purchase

Date	Paid to	Notes	Amount
3-18-16	Keller Williams	Ernest Money	\$2000.00
4-25-16	MAIS	Inspection	625.00
6-16-16	North Star Mutual	Insurance 12 mo/\$273,300/2500 deductible	\$2271.00
6-16-16	Underwood FSB	40% down + Principle payment	\$94000.00 (+\$2000 earnest money above)
		Loan application fee	1440.00
		Flood determination	13.50
		Appraisal/Milt Paulson	900.00
		Lenders' Title Ins	432.00
		Closing fee/West Central Abstract	150.00
		Title Exam/West Central Abstract	125.00
		Abstracting/West Central Abstract	85.00
		Shipping Service Fee/West Central Abstract	15.00
		Recording fee/deed/County Recorder	46.00
		Mortgage registration tax/County Treasurer	331.20
		Recording fee deed & mortgage/County Recorder	46.00
			\$97,583.70
7/11/16	West Central Abstract	Owner's Title Insurance	\$355.50

Other Information: Total Closing Costs = \$4564.20

CD's Cashed

#8700

\$46,858.60

#8786	\$48,120.41
#8789	<u>\$48,250.21</u>
	\$143,229.22

Other 4-Plex Information:

Loan – Farmers State Bank/Underwood      \$144,000.00  
 (4.5% interest for 5 years, then 1% above the Prime Rate  
 Mortgage Payment      \$729.79/month

Escrow Account (transferred from City to UCU)      \$3,539.25  
 (Rent/Damage deposits in 0.03% interest bearing account)

Rent Money Received  
 Last half of June from City (prorated)      \$1306.20  
 July rent (4 units x \$653/unit)      2612.00

Monthly Expenditures Paid  
 Denzel's Waste monthly rate      70.24  
 (pick up 2x/month)

## Safety Committee Report to Board July 17, 2016

### Church Safety

Outdated extinguishers  
 signs

no guns  
 evacuation maps  
 extinguisher locations  
 poisonous cleaners

Toxic items storage

Egress window

Crash bar door

Key log

Sponsored events waiver

De-escalation

Liquid Benedryl

Child allergies

Fireproof archive storage

Lift repair

Energy savings

### Sverdrup Suites

Smoke detector batteries

Downspout drain on sidewalk

### Policy

### Who

Facilities Comm  
 Warhol/Smith

needed

Warhol

Warhol

Facilities Comm

Warhol & J. Larson

needed

Sanderson/Smith

Sanderson/Smith

add to first aid kit

Adams

budget

Facilities Comm

Green Committee

Facilities Comm

Facilities Comm

Water in garage		problem?
Noxious weeds & pesticide use	needed	
Child safety tip sheet		Adams
Child street crossing designation		budget
Tenant safety/ladders	needed	
Uneven sidewalk		?
Designated walkway	needed	