



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)

December 2015 Newsletter **Unitarian Church of Underwood**

**206 North Main Street
Underwood**

Phone: 218/826-6553

Website: www.ucofu.org

Email: ucofu@ucofu.org

Sunday Services Begin at 10:30 a.m.

Note: Ten minutes prior to beginning of service, there will be issued a "Call to Gather" to alert folks to assemble in the sanctuary so that the service can start promptly.

~ December 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Adult RE 9:15 – 10:15 Prophets led by John Minge (LL) Child care TALK – Katy Olson, Inherent Worth, A Broader Perspective AED Demo	7 AA 7 p.m.	8 Fergus Falls/Erhard @ Carole Mitchell's 7 – 9 p.m.	9 Alexandria U Group 7 p.m. @ Widseth, Smith & Nolting Office Bldg	10 Perham U Group @ Mary Anderson's 3:30 p.m.	11	12
13 U Kids/UTeens RE 10:30 a.m. TALK - Ashley Horan, MUUSJA; Black Lives Matter and Social Justice Curry & Caroling	14 AA 7 p.m.	15 Fergus Falls U Group @ Tere Mann's 6:00 p.m. Foundation Advisory Committee 5:30 @ church. Discussion Group?	16 Speakers Committee 5:30 p.m. @ church Board of Directors 6:30 p.m. @ church	17	18	19
20 Mindfulness Sitting 9-10 a.m. (Ellison Rm) TALK- Holiday Celebration Through the Eyes of Our Children – U Kids/U Teens	21 AA 7 p.m.	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Traditional Service 5 p.m. @ church	25 Merry Christmas 	26
27 Child Care Talk – Jill Fazio, Fergus Falls Kinship	28 AA 7 p.m.	29	30	31	Notes: Notes: Meeting Notices should be sent by the 28th of the month for the next month maryanderson8380@msn.com	

Note: The Battle Lake U Group will not meet in December.
Bob Worner's Adult RE Class will not meet on December 27.

The Month That Was

Sunday Talks

November 1 - Bob Worner led the service, and was the speaker. Entitled "Soul Survivor", Bob talked about what is soul. This is something that he has been fascinated since childhood. It is a difficult subject to discuss because:

- it is challenging to accept and affirm each other's definitions because they are different and personal
- it is not a usual UU subject

Today, Nov. 1 is All Saints Day; a day of honoring and praying for saints in heaven. Tomorrow, Nov. 2 is All Souls Day. In the Hispanic culture, this is celebrated with alms, masks, and prayers for those who have died but have not reached heaven.

John Donahue told Bob of a friend who sees each person not just as a person, but as a soul (with depth, etc.). In his life, this has eliminated racism, sexism, and other prejudices.

Bob feels a spiritual quality in the UCU building, but he feels the souls of each of us who are present, each of deep and unique. This is a wonderful thing to him.

If the universe has a soul, then we are a part of it, and it has preceded us and will succeed us. This is also true of the earth – we are part of it, also.

November 8 - Ken Hamrum was the speaker today and talked about the history of an instrument that is near and dear to his heart, the trombone. He has played and studied the trombone for ~50 years.

The evolution of the trombone has had three major influences – technology, artistic creativity, and fashion (music). All wind instruments are resonating tubes. Most create different pitches by the covering and uncovering of finger holes. The U shaped sliding tube of the trombone was an advancement because, with it, one could produce an infinite number of pitches. Also, the tubes could be made in different sizes so that there were alto, tenor, and bass models (and probably soprano).

Dating back to the 13th century, trombones were originally called "sackbuts" and were considered a folk instrument. In those days, there were no formal orchestras; music was played by the combination of instruments that were present at a gathering. Trombones were made of metal, plated with bronze, silver or brass. In 1565, a trombone player created a model that was used until 1915. In the 1500's, the trombone was the pre-eminent church instrument. Use of bass, baritone, and tenor trombones matched the pitches of the male choir members.

Until 1600, the trombone was the “king of musical instruments”. Beginning in 1602, baroque music gained in popularity and featured the harpsicord. The trombone was too loud to play with the harpsicord. The trombone was also considered/represented death or the devil or the underworld, so its prominence decreased. However, with the emergence of classical music in the mid 1700’s, Mozart and Beethoven revived the use of the trombone in musical numbers.

In the early 1800’s, valves were added to some trombones to extend the range of pitches that could be played. This was particularly useful when trombones were played by members of cavalry regiments. Extending a “regular” trombone to its full length would have been difficult on horseback.

In the 1840’s, brass bands emerged. During the Civil War, most regiments had brass bands, (although few included trombones). In the late 1800’s, John Philip Sousa directed a Marine band, which included trombones.

In the 1900’s jazz music incorporated and often featured trombones.

Now, in the U.S., there are 25,000 school bands which involve thousands of kids; ensuring the future of the trombone.

November 15 - The Spiritual Writers group presented their third program today. The group was started by Luke Anderson and, for a while, met monthly at UCU. It no longer meets regularly, but the writers are still writing and eager to share their work with us. Today’s topic was the First UU Principle: “The inherent worth and dignity of every person.” Several people contributed:

- **Luke Anderson** provided an opening and closing reading.
- **Sandy Barnhouse** created a responsive reading “The Life of Quiet Desperation”
- **Stephanie Sanderson** shared an opening meditation, and a closing limerick.
- **Diane Johnson** read a story, entitled “Uncle Rick” by Luke Anderson. This told about someone whom Luke had known for many years and was touched by at a variety of times through his life.
- **John Miersch** read his “A Visitor”, told from the viewpoint of a dog. The narrator had been adopted from the Humane Society, and then was later dumped at the side of the road by this owner. Through the help of a cat and a loving couple, he found a welcoming home.
- **Stephanie Sanderson** read a story she had written about an old woman’s trip through a thrift store. This brought up old, mostly fond memories in the protagonist. But because of her age, she was ignored and forgotten by the people around her.
- **Diane Johnson** read “Remembering Alice”, by Liz Sweder. Alice was a girl that Liz knew when they were both 10 years old. Alice was from a poor family of 10 kids, most of whom were a grade or two behind in school. One day, as an adult, Liz took a nap. When she awoke, she “saw” Alice in the room. Wondering why Alice had appeared to her that day, she later read Alice’s obituary in the Fergus Falls Journal. Alice had grown up,

married, had 4 kids, and it appeared that she had had a “good” life, in spite of a rough beginning. Liz closed by saying, “Goodbye Alice. I’m glad you had a good life. I wish you well, and hope we meet again someday.” Tears welled in my eyes as I put the paper down. The tears were for me, not for Alice.”

November 22 – Jamie Holding Eagle spoke on “**Medicine Seed: Native Culture, Food and Health.**” Jamie is the descendent of the Mandan, Hidatan, Arikara Nations. She is named after her great, great grandfather. Her great, great grandmother named Scattered Corn was the keeper of the seeds. It was the women who had the skill in raising crops – foods are a focal point of culture. Jamie is working on her Master’s degree and was inspired to her work when she heard Winona LaDuke speak on sustainable foods. The world has enough food; it is a matter of access and distribution. She is committed now to grow healthy foods. Seeds want to grow. We can learn to grow them. Jamie is doing classes on seed “keeping.”

November 29 – Wally Warhol, “Growing Up UU in a not so UU World.” Wally may be the only one among us who was “born” UU. His free thinking mother’s family traced back to the Revolutionary War and even further and were long time Universalists. His father’s background was Russian Orthodox and he was very involved with the labor movement. They came together on their social justice thinking.

As a child, Wally attended the Unitarian Society in Minneapolis, a large, vital, thriving congregation involved with social justice/spiritual studies alternating with studies of the physical world. He remembered that one of his first Sunday Schools books was called, “Jesus, the Carpenter’s Son.” They also had lessons on dinosaurs and astronomy. He lived in a progressive community in South Minneapolis that was a melding of a black and white neighborhood who went to each other’s birthday parties. He was still young so little inkling of the danger, but he remembers his sister leaving with other UUs, on a freedom bus during the Civil Rights Movement.

In Junior High, some of his friends envied that he didn’t have to attend religious education in school. He thought he was accepted as a Unitarian Universalist because most kids didn’t know what it was. His teen years with the Channing Club gave him many experiences, including attending other churches and having discussions with the kids from those churches.

He thinks of Unitarian Universalism folks as those “who work well with others,” especially when as creating coalitions and alliances. One example he gave was working together with the Y. But, it was at the United Methodist church where he first met his wife, Kris. His kids “think Unitarian.” Each UU church is somewhat different because the congregation is the governing ruler. The Universalists in the east tended to focus on spiritual matters while the Unitarians of the west focused more on the intellect.

Wally since 8th grade has played his horn in many churches with diverse groups of musicians. He also lived for a time on Franklin Avenue, the largest urban Native American gathering but that is a talk for another time.

For the Good Things Done

(Music & Lyrics by Mark Jacobson and Sung by Mark at Service, November 29)

- 1) Praise the Lord for the Good Things Done
Spend a Moment in Thanksgiving.
Realize all that's done for us, in this Life and in this Living.
And the Seasons Go, as the Reasons Flow
But you and I, we will survive.
Can't you see in this life, a little love must be -
And hey, we're all within the living.
But whoa, don't you know that we're all scheming, 'bout the best in this life;
And can't you see that these days, they gonna work out fine.

- 2) Can't deny the glowing light within, just like you can't deny the sunshine.
So let it grow, let it fill your soul, in this life and in this living.
And the seasons go, as the reasons flow
But you and I, we're gonna survive.
Can't you see in this life, a little love must be -
And hey we're all within the living.
But whoa, don't you know that we're all scheming,
'bout the best in this life;

And can't you see that these days, they gonna work out fine,
If we all just Praise the Lord for the Good Things Done,
Come on, spend a moment in Thanksgiving.
Praise the Lord for the Good Things Done,
Spend a moment in Thanksgiving.

Coming Up in December

More about December Speakers

December 6 – Katy Olson, “Inherent Worth, A Broader Perspective”

December 13 – Ashley Horan, Executive Director, MUUSJA on Black Lives Matter and Social Justice. Following services, John Minge and helpers will provide a Curry Dinner and then stay to enjoy caroling together.

December 20 – Holiday Celebration through the Eyes of Our Children, U Kids & U Teens. Come and celebrate our kids as they share their stories and talents.

December 24 - Traditional Christmas Eve Service 7 p.m. @ church (see below).

December 27 - Jill Fazio, Director of Kinship Fergus Falls, will talk about various programs concerning at risk youths. In the past, Kinship has been a recipient of UCU Empowerment

Grants. Wally and Kris Warhol serve on their advisory board. Wally also is a mentor of a ten year old boy. John Minge is a mentor to a boy in the Perham Kinship program.

Events for December
Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 5:00 p.m.

Come share the peace and joy of Christmas during a Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 at the Unitarian Church of Underwood. Led by Ellen Eastby, we will listen to Christmas music performed by many of our outstanding musicians, sing hymns of the season, hear Christmas readings, and commune together in the light of candles. All are welcome.

U groups

The U groups are open to additional members at any time – we always have an empty chair waiting to be filled. If interested in a U group, or for more information, questions or concerns, contact: Connie Stigen at dcstigen@gmail.com or phone: 218/731-1445 or Tere Mann at teremann@gmail.com or phone: 218/205-4931.

2015-1016 Schedule

- Battle Lake Afternoon Group – 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2:45 p.m. at the home of Ross and Mary Larson, 531 E Summit St., Battle Lake. Co-facilitators: Bob Worner, Joanne Cress and Kris Warhol. Note: The Battle Lake U Group will not meet in December.
- Fergus Falls/Erhard Evening Group – 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7-9 p.m. at the home of Carole Mitchell, 33928 County Highway 27, Erhard. Co-facilitators: Diane Johnson and Carole Mitchell.
- Fergus Falls Evening Group – 3rd Tuesday of each month, 6 p.m. at the home of Tere Mann, 1319 N Park, Fergus Falls. Co-facilitators: Bonnie Bell Albers and Tere Mann.
- Perham Afternoon Group – the 2nd Thursday of each month 3:30 p.m. at the home of Mary Anderson, 455 5th St. SW, Perham. Co-facilitators: Mary Anderson and Mary Worner.
- Alexandria Evening Group – 2nd Tuesday of each month 7 p.m. at the office building of November 11th @ 7:00 pm at Widseth, Smith & Nolting Office Bldg. Co-facilitators: Lee Becker, Connie Stigen, Tere Mann.

December Topic: “Christmas Reflections” – The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

Discussion Group

The first meeting of the discussion group was held November 17th at Bob Johnson's. A big thank you to those who attended. The topics discussed included: the happenings in France, the rise of popularism and the loss of democracy in this country. The movie discussed was "A Clockwork Orange." Other things were bandied about but you had to be there. Hope to see you

next time. Tentative next round might be December 15 - depends on interest. Please contact John Miersch, 218-531-1445 or Bob Johnson, 218-736-9001. *John Miersch*

Community Thanksgiving Event

The Unitarian Church of Underwood joined with Sverdrup and Tingvold Lutheran Churches in this, the 5th year of celebrating together on the evening before Thanksgiving. This year the event was held at the Community Center. Thanks to those who attended and those who participated. *Dave McRoberts*

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit your ideas and articles for the Newsletter to: maryanderson8380@msn.com. Editing is provided by Stephanie Sanderson and emailing/ mailing is provided by Ellen Eastby and JoAnn Larson. Mickie Edmonds 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.

Cancellation/Postponement Due to Weather

Cancellation/Postponement Due to Weather: for weather related announcements, tune to Lakes Radio Family of Stations – 103.3, 96.5 FM and 1020, 1250 AM or online at www.lakesradio.net under “News.” You can also check the UCU website at www.ucofu.org or the Facebook page.

Handicap Accessible Parking

Please be aware that the curb immediately in front of the church entry has been painted blue to designate handicap accessible parking for those with handicap parking stickers. Please extend every courtesy to assure that persons in need are accommodated.

So Where Do You Fit?

Want to find your place at UCU? Take this fun quiz: <http://www.uuca.org/uuca-o-matic/>. Then listen for opportunities and/or talk to a fellow member at UCU and get connected!

Find Answers Within

“Byron Katie is best known for ‘THE WORK,’ a unique series of self-questioning, leading to deeper awareness. I deeply appreciate her teachings.

This short U-Tube clip is similar and equally relevant as she delves into the issue of violence and how we might deal with a most current, but not new conundrum. See:

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=h0vjFb_WCd8&feature=youtu.be. Anyone can benefit further from this loving process at <http://thework.com/en/do-work>.” *Carole Mitchell*



*Prairie School House – Mickie Edmonds
(This is the way Mickie's mother got to school)*

“Uncle Rick”

Written by Luke Anderson & shared at Sunday service

Mom said Uncle Rick could fix all things mechanical and make anything of wood. At twenty-one he ran his own threshing rig and drove an Overland touring car. She said he made the sideshow “rassler” give.

I was five when he left for The War. He went to Normandy. I drew pictures of him on a battleship in his Navy whites. “This is my uncle Rick, he’s in The War,” I’d brag. When I was seven, he came home on furlough. He showed me a German helmet. Uncle Rick smiled when I drew pictures of him shooting Panzer tanks.

Too soon, he left for San Diego where he boarded a ship to fight “The Japs” in the Pacific. I drew pictures of his destroyer spewing bullets into enemy ships, while Zeros and Hellcats swooped and screamed overhead. My teacher hung my drawings for all to see.

When I was ten he came home. He didn’t tell about The War. He dug ditches by day and got drunk at night. I was frightened when he came stumbling and didn’t draw pictures of him anymore.

He moved to California, away from the wagging fingers in our home town. I learned he found steady work, got drunk often, chain smoked and was still kind to kids. I received a letter saying he died from emphysema and cirrhosis.

With deep respect, I say, “Uncle Rick, you fought many battles.” *Luke Anderson*
Luke has also shared with us his wood cutting of “Uncle Rick” that hangs at the church at the top of the stairs.

Stewardship

We think of this as the season of giving. But giving is all year round. The annual budget for UCU is now nearly \$35,000 annually. We have 70 households so dividing the budget by the number of those households, it comes to about \$500/year or about \$10/week per household. We know that some families cannot afford that amount and that many members give more. We also have friends who contribute. In our all-volunteer fellowship, we depend on the many who also do in-kind gifting of time, talents, supplies, treats, etc. However, over the last years we've had to dip into savings each year to meet the monthly expenses. We also cover the large ticket items (such as the electric boiler) or emergency fixes out of those savings.

Our goal is to be fiscally responsible, use your gifts wisely and provide a wide variety of speakers and spiritual opportunities. From invested funds, we award the empowerment grants that are so important to our UU Principles. We offer electronic banking, pledge cards and budget updates to remind and assist in our giving. Between us all, each doing our part, we should be able to regularly meet our annual budget out of collections.

Thank you for the gifts you make! *Stewardship Committee: Dave Sanderson, Kris Warhol, Mary Worner*

Safety Committee

Following services on December 6th, Dave Sanderson will provide a demonstration on how to use the Automated External Defibrillator (AED). The AED is located by the sanctuary door for easy access if needed. The Safety Committee continues to work toward implementation of the Safety Plan. *Committee Members: Norm Kolstad, Tere Mann, Dave Sanderson, Susan Groff, Kris & Wally Warhol*

Solar Feasibility Task Force

The Solar Feasibility Task Force has been researching information and finds that the prices for Solar equipment have dropped dramatically in the last 4-5 years, sometimes even 60% lower. The biggest cost of a solar system is the installation/labor cost because of the need to have a certified electrical solar technician.

The Task Force is looking at two aspects of installing Solar – the cause and the cost. They are finding that a number of churches are installing or are looking at the possibility of solar as a social justice/environmental activity or project. No matter what we as a church decide, anything that decreases our impact on the earth is worth looking at, regardless of its 'practical' value. The financial part of it, including payback time, will need to be sorted out. There are grants, consultants, and a myriad of info available. As they learn more, they'll share that information with us. *The Task Force members are: Ron Roller, Chair; Reed Becker, Lee Hamness and Wally Warhol.*

Green Gossip

To obtain UU Green Sanctuary accreditation, one of the steps is to assess what the congregation and individuals are doing in the way of green living. In the past, members of UCU had already made efforts to switch us to the use of china and cloth napkins rather than using paper products. They also moved us to using non-toxic cleaning supplies. The Speakers Committee has brought us environmental and agricultural speakers that have raised our consciousness about environmental issues.

The Green Sanctuary Task Force is looking at other short and long term projects that we can implement to build awareness and integrate into our life styles to make changes to save our planet. Kitchen recycling has been underway for several weeks. We have briefed everyone involved and understand that adjustments will be necessary from time to time.

You'll be hearing about other environmentally friendly projects as we go along. You are welcome to give us your thoughts or join the team! *Green Sanctuary Task Force Members: Mary Anderson, Judy Carpenter, Lee Hamness, Sadie Marty, Maggie Meehan, Judy and Stephen Patrick, Alisha Piekarski, Deb Wallwork, Kris Warhol.*

"The Politics of Climate Change"

By Anthony Giddens

Recommended by Dr. Pat West

Review by Maggie Meehan

"The Politics of Climate Change" by Anthony Giddens, (Polity, 2011, recommended to UCU members by Dr. Pat West in the early fall of 2015) is a book for people who understand that global warming is a real issue, and will be more so for coming generations. But it is not a "sky is falling" book, rather a how-to book with a broad range of data, presented in clear charts, and a global scope of reports on risks and progress.

The core of the book, and its challenge, is Giddens' paradox:

"since dangers posed by global warming aren't tangible, immediate or visible in the course of day-to-day life, many will sit on their hands and do nothing of a concrete nature about them. Yet waiting until such dangers become visible and acute--in the shape of catastrophes that are irrefutably the result of climate change--before being stirred to serious action will be too late." (p.2).

Giddens is the former director of the London School of Economics and discloses that he is not, himself, a scientist. However he is clear on the scientific process and the need for peer review of published works if they are to have credibility within their field, or be of value to the general public. Sceptics, Deniers, Greens and Radicals are all given their due but he concludes, "I believe the overriding principle is that we should stay close to the science "... "Since they are not climate scientists, the majority of sceptics do not publish in peer-reviewed journals."..."The views of the radicals should count for more than the sceptics, since they themselves are practicing scientists." (p. 31). The Green movement comes in for an entire chapter and close attention is paid to its Precautionary Principle. Giddens concludes that it needs to be a

"percentage principle "of balance.

Giddens is a social scientist and has dipped deep into the doings of the human community on every continent, reporting on events, good and bad, in 70 countries and the partnerships of big corporations and nation-states and/or Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs). Capitalism per se is not called out, but the fossil fuel industry is. Civil society, individual human comings and goings and the development of mass media are recognized as significant players. International organizations, especially the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that grew out of the Montreal Protocol initiated by the UN in 1987 and the series of global conferences on climate change are traced, from Rio to Copenhagen. (The latest to convene in Paris in November 2015)

Throughout the book readable case histories of catastrophes and cooperation are reported. Also technological innovations from the neighborhood level to the regional. A large amount of reporting reflects change in Europe, especially the UK, but also the actions of major countries on every continent.

But encouragement is found in chapters on "Technology and Taxes" and "The Politics of Adaptation." Where financing is concerned a major discussion of insurance mechanisms is enlightening. The reports of agreements, however weak, and progress among nations are also encouraging.

There is no end of climate change news to watch and understand. Despite the looming danger-- the paradox-- some of it is good and for me Giddens' book is a good framework. *Maggie Meehan.*

Note: Maggie has purchased a copy of the book and will loan it out in two week periods, starting in January. She recommended it to the Fergus Falls Public Library and to Lundeen's but she got her copy through Biffley's in Fergus. See Maggie for sign up for her book or check it out/purchase it for yourself.

Moorhead Churches United for the Homeless Has Pressing Needs Where We Can Help Items for the Holidays

Churches United for the Homeless is the largest shelter in northwestern Minnesota and is the only shelter within 225 miles that is able to accommodate single men, single women, and both one and two parent families. They offer a safe haven to those most in need, a chance to reflect on the direction they wish for their lives, and the opportunity to utilize the community's many resources in achieving their goals.

Their Mission is to provide shelter and support in a spiritual setting. They accomplish this goal by offering spiritual ministry and emotional affirmation to people who are homeless, furnishing a temporary shelter, and referring residents to appropriate services such as job service, social

services, mental health services, and programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous. They offer a day time community center, emergency shelter and transitional shelter.

Right now Churches United is in pressing need of items listed below. Please bring your donations to church by December 20th so we can be one of the churches helping out now during the holidays. This may become one of our ongoing projects. If questions, contact Kay Honeman @ 218/739-3026 or honeman@prtcl.com or Tere Mann @ 218/205-4931 or teremann@gmail.com.

Current Needs:

Children and Infants –

- Winter gear – warm hats, gloves, snow pants, jackets, long underwear and boots
- Size 4-5 diapers, wipes, formula, flip flops, new underwear and strollers

Adults

- Winter gear- warm hats, gloves, snow pants, jackets, long underwear and boots
- Flip flops, shower shoes, new underwear, men's deodorant razors, tampons, family size shampoo and conditioner, toothbrushes

Medical:

- Cough drops, tissue paper, chap stick/lip balm, anti-fungal cream/spray for Athlete's Foot, denture glue/paste, Q-tips, hand warmers, children's Tylenol

Kitchen/Community Shelf Foods:

- Coffee, silverware, bowls, plastic cups

Move-In Day (these are items that help residents when they are moving into new homes):

- Laundry soap, toilet paper, paper towels, dish soap, hand soap, kitchen and bathroom cleaner sponges, waste baskets and bags disinfecting wipes and shower curtains

Items always helpful:

Children and Infants

- Baby bottles and sippy cups, play dough, blocks, big Legos, markers, booster car seats (must be newer than 6 years)

Adults

- Puzzles, backpacks, bus passes, coffee cups with lids, date books

Kitchen/Community Shelf Foods:

- Pancake mix, rice, whole-grain crackers, canned goods (especially fruit), spaghetti sauce, apple sauce, baked beans, mayonnaise, salad dressings, sugar, spices, syrup, vegetable oils and coffee

Kitchen Supplies

- Oven timers heavy duty scissors, can openers, new cutting boards, new kitchen knives, silverware, soup bowls, plastic drinking cups, salt and pepper shakers

Household Supplies

- Twin mattresses (new/gently used), alarm clocks

For more information on each, see: <http://www.churches-united.org/>

News from our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)

UUA News Alert

UUA President Peter Morales offers the following pastoral message on the Movement for Black Lives:

I am inspired and moved as I see Unitarian Universalists across the country stand on the side of love as they stand alongside grassroots activists in the Black Lives Matter movement. I see example after example of congregations and individuals courageously facing threats and vandalism. To those who have acted with courage, thank you. You remind us of who we are and what we stand for. This struggle is ultimately about respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every human being.

Black Lives Matter is a cry of outrage in the face of the specter of the repeated killings of black people. And it is more than this. It is a cry of protest against the continued marginalization of millions of African Americans. The killings, horrific as they are, are the tip of the iceberg. The killings are the most visible and extreme examples of a society that allows racism to destroy the lives and aspirations of tens of millions. Beneath the anger are anguish and tragedy.

The protests and the banners and the window signs are the latest actions in our long tradition of struggling against racism in America. We have stood with African American leaders in the Moral Mondays movement. We were there in Selma fifty years ago and again this spring. The best of our forebears stood against slavery.

While the Black Lives Matter movement is part of a long tradition, it also presents new challenges. This is a decentralized grassroots movement with no single leader and no institutional foundation. There is no Martin Luther King, Jr., issuing a call to Selma.

Today we are called to be present, to listen deeply, to follow, to bear witness, to practice humility. Today's Selma is everywhere.

This won't be easy for us. We are used to working with organizations with clearer leadership and advocating for specific public policy changes. We are called to respond rather than plan, to follow rather than lead.

Along the way, I would have us keep several critical points in mind.

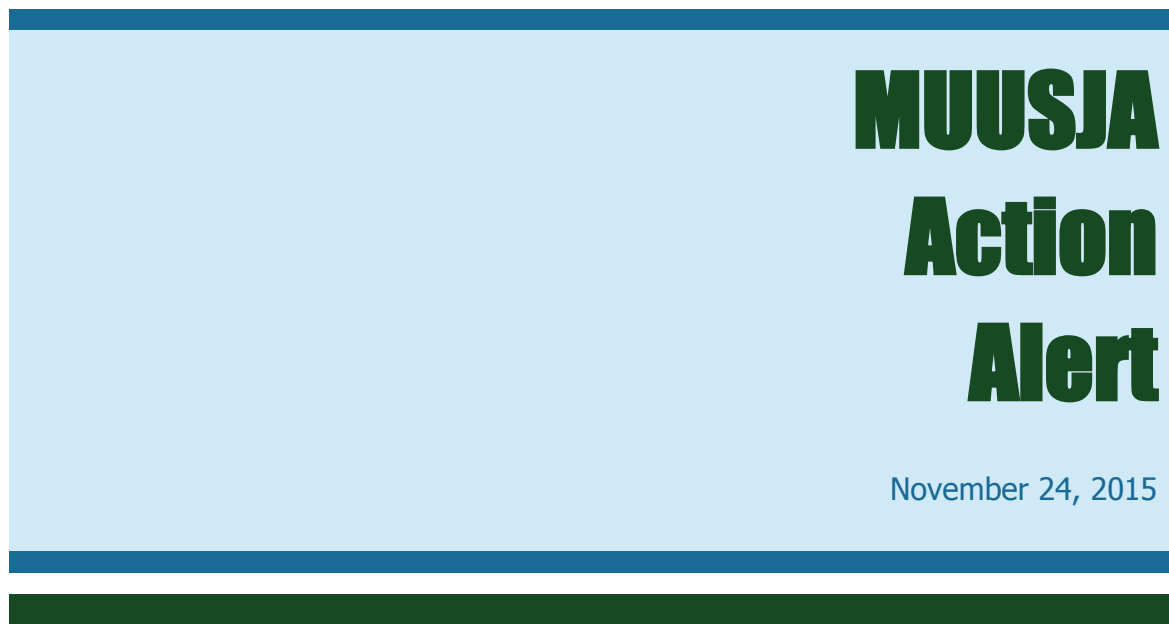
First, Black Lives Matter is not about saying black lives matter and that the lives of others--Latinos, LGBTQ people, Native Americans, Muslims, Asians--do not matter. To support the cry for justice and respect that Black Lives Matter represents does not diminish the need to work for climate justice, economic justice, or any other kind of justice. There is, after all, only one kind of justice. Justice is ultimately about recognizing the worth of every single person.

Second, we must realize that the same spiritual failing that feeds anti-black racism is the same spiritual disease that marginalizes any group or person. We must connect the dots. The horrid impulse behind the killings of African Americans is the same impulse that allows migrants to languish in for-profit detention centers, that does violence to LGBTQ people, that murders Muslims and Jews.

Finally, and this is most important, we must not allow the call to support Black Lives Matter to create animosity among ourselves. Yes, we will disagree about tactics and, heaven help us, about how we should word our resolutions. Let's talk respectfully to one another. Let's listen deeply. Let's focus on our highest aspirations and our affection for one another. Let's hold one another tightly and hold our opinions loosely.

I have been inspired by what I have seen our people do. Let us continue to inspire one another. When we let love guide us, we will do the right thing.

This message is also available on UUA.org.



A Message from the Executive Director

Last Sunday morning, November 14, Minneapolis police officers arrested #[JamarClark](#), a young Black man from North Minneapolis. While there are many versions of what happened during the few minutes after his arrest, we have heard over and over again during the past

week that Clark was unarmed, handcuffed, and on the ground when police officers shot him in the head. He died a few days later at the Hennepin County Medical Center.

Since last Sunday, we have witnessed a powerful swelling of action and resistance that has become known as the #Justice4Jamar #4thPrecinctShutdown. Protesters, following the leadership of groups like [Black Lives Matter - Minneapolis](#), the [Minneapolis NAACP](#), and the [Black Liberation Project](#), have been camped out on the lawn of the 4th Precinct. Hundreds and hundreds of people have gathered for peaceful demonstrations, protests, marches, and community healing rituals. Community members have shown up in a steady stream, bringing donations of food and warm clothing and firewood to the protesters and offering one another moments of solidarity, tenderness, and shared struggle. While the media reports about “agitators,” those of us on the ground have witnessed a beautiful blossoming of community support, accountability, and building power.

The protesters’ demands are simple: #ReleaseTheTapes (video footage from bystanders who witnessed Clark’s killing) and address the larger system that allows law enforcement to systematically target and kill Black and Brown people with impunity. Instead, though, peaceful protesters this week have encountered police decked out in full riot gear, pointing guns and shooting marker rounds at the crowd, and pepper spraying protesters indiscriminately. We have also seen media coverage blatantly skewing and misreporting what those of us who have consistently been on the ground have been witnessing.

And then, [last night](#), a group of white supremacist terrorists—young white men decked in masks and Kevlar bulletproof vests who had been making threats against the protesters all week—opened fire on members of the protesting community who were asking them to leave. Five people were shot and injured, and reports and police scanner information indicate that law enforcement delayed responding to the incident and allowing emergency medical services to bring aid to the injured. Police also pepper sprayed the crowd shortly after the shooting. My friends, this uprising has become much bigger than Jamar Clark alone—just as other uprisings around the country have been about more than [Trayvon Martin](#), [Mike Brown](#), [Tamir Rice](#), [Freddie Gray](#), and too many others.

This is about the moral imperative to dismantle the system of white supremacy that we have each inherited and in which we have all been steeped.

This is about the moral imperative for us to be agents of universal salvation to each and every person on this planet, bound up together as workers in the grand enterprise of collective liberation.

To put it another way:

Whether or not we agree with the tactics of the protesters, we are called to say #BlackLivesMatter.

Whether or not we support the police and the current criminal justice system, we are called to say #BlackLivesMatter.

Whether or not we know all the details of any particular incident, we are called to say #BlackLivesMatter.

Whether or not we believe the victims of police violence were “innocent” or not, we are called to say #BlackLivesMatter.

This week, I have had the privilege of standing shoulder to shoulder with many of my UU neighbors and kin, as well as hundreds from other groups and communities. I am proud of the witness we have provided thus far, and I am inspired by the ways our people continue to show up and show out as we attempt to practice a spiritual discipline of followership. We are in this work together, for the long haul, because none of us is free until all of us are free.

So, my friends, how will you show up? Can you join us down at the 4th Precinct at the events that are happening there over the next few days? Will you post reports from the people on the front lines—not just officials and the media? Will you [donate](#) money to the Black Lives Matter - Minneapolis general fund, and commit to having conversations about racial justice with your family over the Thanksgiving table this weekend?

We need ALL of us in this work. That means you, too.

Thank you to all of you who are already deep in it. Courage to those of you who are just finding your place and your voice. May we all be blessings to each other on the journey.

In faith and solidarity,

Ashley Horan, M.Div.
MUUSJA Executive Director
muusja1@gmail.com
[@ashley_horan](http://facebook.com/ashley.a.p.horan)

Note: Ashley will be our guest speaker on December 13.

UUA Bookstore

Your Search for Truth and Meaning Begins Here



Although an inevitable part of all human life, it can be difficult to come to terms with death. At this time of year when many enact rituals honoring life and death, here are some compassionate resources for processing and exploring the mystery, meaning, and consequences of death.

***Who Will Remember Me?* by
Barbara Hamilton-Holway**

***Beyond Absence* collected
by Edward Searl**

***Nothing Gold Can Stay* by
Mark Belletini**
In twenty-two simple yet
profound reflections,

After the death of her mother, the author captured her own journey through loss and renewal. Meditative in tone, the book considers the challenges and rewards of caring for an elderly loved one.

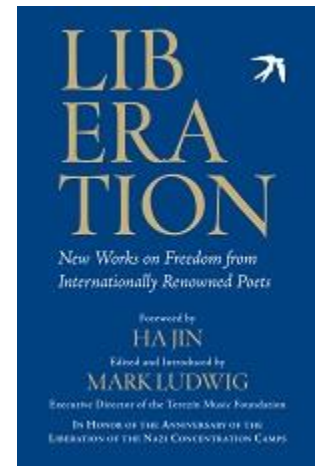
Drawn from poets, philosophers, theologians and clergy, this inspiring collection will assist ministers, lay leaders, and anyone seeking to explore the mystery and grief of death.

seasoned minister Mark Belletini explores the many and varied forms of grief.

November UUReads: *Liberation*

Beacon Press wants to help you connect with other UUs through books. Each month, they feature a #UUReads title about a topic that is meaningful to UUs. These books will prompt great discussions in your book club, congregation, or with your family and friends. Check out this month's #UUReads selection and get a special discount through the [UUA Bookstore](#).

In *Liberation*, some of the world's top contemporary poets—including Rita Dove, Robert Pinsky, Jay Parini, Yusef Komunyakaa, Agi Mishol, Tsering Woeser, Han Dong, Ernesto Santana, and Richard Blanco—explore the question, “What does it mean to be free?” The poems, written in honor of the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps, address topics such as Ferguson, Trayvon Martin, the oppression of women in the Middle East, and the evils of the Holocaust, as well as themes concerning of nationality, love, nature, illness, memory, and desire. *Liberation* is now available for 15% off when you order from the UUA Bookstore using code **LNov15**. To follow and participate in this important conversation, make sure to keep an eye on the discussion on Beacon Press [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) using #UUReads.



Applications due February 15, 2016 for UNITARIAN CHURCH OF UNDERWOOD EMPOWERMENT GRANTS

The Unitarian Church of Underwood is pleased to once again offer funding for distribution of the 2016-17 ‘Empowerment Grants’. These grants are made to encourage church members to develop projects that will have a positive effect on our communities at large. These projects may be related to any number of social or environmental issues, including poverty, education, ecology, alternative energy, & nutrition. The projects may be of varying time and cost, but all will be initiated and managed by the requesting applicant(s). This is an excellent opportunity for church members to make an impact on an issue they feel strongly about in the community around them.

Starting in 2007, we have given over \$64,000 to a wide variety of charitable organizations. Recent recipients include Habitat for Humanity, Underwood School 3-4 year old programs, the Nonviolent Peaceforce, Schools for Shan Refugees, the Fergus Falls Food Shelf, and the Kinship program. The new deadline for grants is February 15, 2016.

Criteria for 'Empowerment Grant' requests:

- 1) Must be proposed by Unitarian Church of Underwood (UCU) members
- 2) Must be compatible with the UCU mission/vision statement. (The Unitarian Church of Underwood is a welcoming community of diverse people who gather to reflect, to find refuge, spiritual renewal and intellectual growth, to improve our understanding of the world, to build bridges towards peace and understanding, and to improve lives and opportunities across our communities.)
- 3) Must address one of the seven Unitarian Universalist principles.
- 4) Must be non-discriminatory.
- 5) Projects will not provide direct services to individuals or families - the project may help area charities and non-profits that provide direct services.
- 6) Requests may be for total funding or may be for matching funds.

Note: Matching fund requests will be given priority. The rationale for this criterion is to double the impact of UCU initiatives and also to encourage members to get involved with issues and work at raising funds.

Example: The chili dinner raises \$1,000 for the senior nutrition program. This \$1,000 could be matched by an additional \$1,000, thus giving the nutrition program \$2,000.

- 7) The project being funded must be under the direction of an approved, not for profit (501c-3) organization.
- 8) Projects/groups that have not received previous funding will be given a higher priority for funding.
- 9) All grant recipients must agree to/sign an 'Empowerment Grant' contract. This includes progress reports and final report as per contract.

The next funding cycle will be for twelve months. The deadline for the next funding period is February 15th, 2016. If you are interesting in pursuing an 'Empowerment Grant' you need to fill out the application at the end of the Newsletter or pick up one at church. The application must include a timeline for your project and a specific budget for the cost of the project. Please make six copies of your application for review. It would also be a good idea to talk to a member of the 'grant committee', that will be accepting applications.

The committee will review all applications and recommend or not recommend project requests to the church board of directors. The review criteria are also included at the end of the Newsletter.

Grant Committee members are: Deb Ferguson, Steve Nagle, Ron Roller, Stephanie Sanderson and Connie Stigen. Please contact Ron Roller at 218-495-3235 or at: rollerolson@gmail.com for further information and/or assistance.

The application form is at the end of this Newsletter or you can pick one up at church.

**Unitarian Church of Underwood
Board Minutes for September 16, 2015**

Board members present: John Miersch, Diane Johnson, Lee Becker, Alisha Piekarski, Dave Sanderson, Kris Walhol, Stan Carignan, Norman Kolstad. Absent: David Wass, Mary Anderson. Also present: Joanne Larson, Ron Roller.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by President, John Miersch.

Lee Becker shared a meditation/reading.

AGENDA: Approved (Sanderson/Becker).

MINUTES OF 8-19-15: There was an amendment to the Board Minutes of 8-19-2015 under Safety. Approved (Warhol/Sanderson).

REPORTS:

- Administrative Consultant – Joanne Larson: Jim Scott program, New Members 10-4-15, UU Groups, R.E., Kids Bake Sale.
- Program – Lee Becker: UU Groups
- Outreach – Kris Warhol: Parade
- Facilities – John Miersch: Furnace and Electrical, Leak in oil line in furnace room (Bjorn), new doorknob on back bathroom.
- Treasurer – Ron Roller: Balance Sheet, 8-31-2015; 8-15-15 P and L; P and L performance; P and L comparison.
- Speakers: Stan Carignan
- Membership: Stan Carignan – Progressive dinner 10-4-15.
- Plan to Grow Task Force – Stan Carignan – postponed.
- Safety: Norm Kolstad – Video inventory for insurance, church sponsor activities, need insurance rider.
- Stewardship: Dave Sanderson – Authorization for Direct Payment. Motion – Coin offering for church youth - Approved (Carignan/Becker).
- Foundation: Dave Sanderson

OLD BUSINESS: Oil line getting fixed; Solar panel – late Oct. meeting, cost going down (Roller); Child Care – 10-4-15 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion Group – John Miersch will follow up; U Group projects, suggestions Susan Groff.

Next Meeting – Sunday, 10-18-15, Quarterly Board Meeting, Potluck.

Meeting Adjourned – 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Johnson, Secretary

Unitarian Church of Underwood Board Minutes for October 18, 2015

Board members present: David Sanderson, Mary Anderson, Stan Carignan, David Wass, Lee Becker, Kris Warhol, and Norman Kolstad. Absent: Diane Johnson, Alisha Piekarski, and John Miersch. Also present: Administrative Consultant JoAnn Larson.

The meeting was called to order at the church by Board Vice-President, Mary Anderson at 12:17 p.m. Mary Anderson shared a reading/meditation.

The agenda was approved (Warhol/Sanderson).

Approval of the minutes of the September 16, 2015 meeting was tabled.

Reports:

-Treasurer: David Wass - receipts are below budget by \$1500 for the first half of the fiscal year.

To accommodate his time: Bob Worner addressed the board. He requested a loan for Habitat for Humanity and suggested changes to the Sunday services, including a "Children's Moment." A worship committee may need to be established.

-Administrative Consultant: JoAnn Larson - suggested additional information be included in the new member packets.

-Program Committee: Lee Becker - children's R.E. to have adult volunteers, Alexandria U-Group formed.

-Outreach Committee: Kris Warhol and Stan Carignan - Thanksgiving event November 25.

-Facilities Committee: Kris Warhol - numerous suggested projects to be considered.

-Speakers Committee: Stan Carignan - speakers scheduled through December.

-Membership Committee: Mary Anderson - 9 new members, directory addendum, women's retreat, projects for men.

-Safety Committee: Norman Kolstad - church inventory completed, AED/CPR training scheduled.

-Stewardship Committee: David Sanderson - will report collections to congregation, bank auto-pay option.

-Foundation Advisory Committee: David Sanderson - will meet with professional financial planner for ideas to promote participation.

-Plan to Grow task force: Mary Anderson and Stan Carignan - expanding task force membership, looking for feedback.

-Solar Feasibility task force: to meet with University expert.

-Green Sanctuary task force: Mary Anderson - assessing progress toward, and benefits of, accreditation.

Old Business: Sunday child care hours will be extended to 10:15 am to 12:00 pm and caregiver pay increased to \$40 per Sunday (Becker/Sanderson).

The chair noted that the decision to donate the \$173.00 net proceeds of the Jim Scott concert to the Shan refugees was voted on electronically September 22, 2015 with 7 members voting in favor.

New Business: No decision was made regarding the Habitat request.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 6:30 pm.
The meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Norman Kolstad, acting secretary.

(Empowerment Grant Application Form and selection criteria below).

Unitarian Church of Underwood (UCU)
Grant Committee
Application for Empowerment Grant
(please add more information on additional sheet(s) if needed)

The application deadline for the current grant cycle is February 15th, 2016

Name: **E-Mail:**

Address:

Name of Project:

Description/Purpose of Project:

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How does project relate to mission/principles of the UCU?

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Project Timeline:

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How will funds be used? Please attach a sample budget:

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Does project/funding request involve matching funds?

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Progress Report:.....

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.....

Follow-up Report (on completion of project):

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.....

Submit with six (6) copies.

Please contact Ron Roller at rollerolson@gmail.com or 1-218-495-3235 for additional information.

Selection Criteria

Unitarian Church of Underwood (UCU) Grant Period _____

Empowerment Grant Ranking Scorecard

A. Is the project proposed by a UCU member? *If no, the grant does not meet criteria for consideration.*

B. Does the project address one or more of the 7 Unitarian principles? *If no, the grant does not meet criteria for consideration.*

If yes, assign points between 1-3. 3=high correlation to UU principles, 2= medium correlation to principles, 1= low correlation to UU principles

C. Will project be managed by UCU member?

If yes, assign points between 0-2. 2=100% managed by UCU member with high level of member involvement, 1=managed by other entity but has some UCU participation, 0= no UCU member involvement.

D. Is the project non-discriminatory and inclusive? *If no, the grant does not meet criteria for consideration.*

If yes, assign points between 1-2. 2=highly inclusive and non-discriminatory, 1=somewhat inclusive and non-discriminatory

E. Will project funds be matched?

If yes, assign 1 pt. If no, assign 0 pt.

F. Does the project provide direct services to individuals or families?

<u>Grant Application Names:</u>	<u>Total score</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Approved</u>
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1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Note: The highest point score can be 8, the lowest point score can be 2.

