

St. Cloud UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Fellowship



April 2024 **PRESENTERS PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN PERSON.**

10:30 a.m. Sunday, April 7: Indian Recovery Act (IRA), A Minnesota Bill for Reparative Justice – John Kellen

John will give us a brief history of the Indigenous Peoples of Minnesota, details of the Indian Recovery Act (Case Study), and suggested actions we can take to support this bill and Indigenous Rights in Minnesota. John has worked with a wide variety of cultures around the world and now he's learning to be an ally of native people. Soup and bread will be provided by the Social Justice Committee. No desserts are being offered unless other members want to provide them.

Children's Program (CRE): FIELD TRIP! to experience and learn from the faith traditions at Jubilee Worship Center in St. Cloud, welcomed by the youth at Pastor Buddy King's dynamic faith home. We'll meet at the Fellowship at 9:30 to caravan together. Dunkin Donuts anyone?

**SUNDAY SERVICES
WILL BE
MULTIPLATFORM.**

**YOU MAY USE ZOOM
OR ATTEND IN
PERSON.**

Visit www.uufstcloud.org for
information to join on Zoom.

10:30 a.m. Sunday, April 14: India revisited, USA re-assessing, India recalling – Malcolm Nazareth (rescheduled from November)

Terrible outcomes of climate change and the recent rise of fascism and bigotry have caused the Nazareths to vacillate between returning to India which seems to have recently embraced Brahminical Hindu Nationalism, on one hand, and, on the other, remaining in their adoptive USA which seems to have recently been bewitched by White Christian Nationalism. Not an easy discernment to make, they see it now as a life-or-death decision. For the past twenty years, Malcolm and Mariani have promoted opportunities for interfaith/intercultural dialogue and their leaving would be a big loss for our community.

Children's Activity: Bright Bulb Kidz Korner.

10:30 a.m. Sunday, April 21: The Lessons of Water and Wu Wei in a Time of Climate Crisis – Meleah Houseknecht, UU seminarian

Water is a potent symbol in nearly all the most ancient philosophical and religious traditions, and philosophical Taoism gives us a particularly rich teaching on water as both a metaphor and a model for effective action in and on the world. Water as a *way of being* is closely associated with the important Taoist concept of "wu wei."

What can the softness, adaptability, and humility of water teach us about power and finding our way back into right relationship with each other and the non-human world?

Children's Program (CRE): Arbor Day Festivities. How do we set up a tree for success in a new home on our Fellowship's property? And, let's read a story and play a game together. Please bring a non-fighting game from home to teach the gang. Querkle and Scotland Yard will be available (super fun!)

10:30 a.m. Sunday, April 28: “A Listening Practice” – Karen Erickson

In an increasingly noisy, violent and polarized world, listening is often taxing and challenging, but it is essential for people and communities to co-exist and thrive. Listening can be transformative and life-affirming, to the listener as well as to the one who feels the gift of being heard. How can we increase our capacity to listen longer, in healthy ways that honor both speaker and listener, even or especially when we don't agree or understand? What practices of listening can we develop to help us meet the needs of our day?

Children's Activity: Bright Bulb Kidz Korner.

12:30 – 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 28: CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION

This Congregational Meeting is an opportunity to discuss members' interest in considering a part-time minister. A light lunch will be provided after the service before the hybrid meeting begins.

To contribute to SCUUF:

Send a check to SCUUF
PO Box 805,
St. Cloud, MN 56302, or
Make a contribution by debit/credit
card or PayPal by clicking on this
link: [https://tinyurl.com/Donate-
SCUUF](https://tinyurl.com/Donate-SCUUF)

President's Corner

By Pam Peterson

Beloveds...

I know that I love it when the chalice is lit at each service. There are different interpretations of the flaming chalice, including the light of reason, the warmth of community and the flame hope. We light this chalice as a symbol of our community and the spark in each of us. The chalice is a visual representation of our modern and dynamic faith. We extinguish the chalice using these words, “We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.” Unitarian Universalism is about the holiness of community and the sacredness of our connections to all living things. We see this in how we are transformed when we gather in our sanctuary and online on Sunday mornings to honor our shared values and hear stories, messages and music together. We experience it when we go out in the world to witness for justice and respect. We know it to be true when we reach out to one another in times of illness and loss.

I don't know about you, but getting outside is the essential part of each day for me. Being among natural surroundings is an opportunity to connect with sources of life that are so much bigger than myself. The changing of the seasons and the arrival of Spring are powerful reminders of the forces and cycles that sustain me, in every breath I take. The wind in my face, the call of wild birds, and the warmth of the sunlight on my skin are all humbling experiences which invite me into deeper relationship with the realities of life. They are immediate and sensory forms of revelation that cannot be ignored. It is such a fulfilling opportunity for all of us as we work together and have shared experiences as we develop our commUUnity.

I would like to share this reading (580) entitled “The Task of the Religious Community”...

The central task of the religious community is to unveil the bonds that bind each to all. There is a connectedness, a relationship discovered amid the particulars of our own lives and the lives of others. Once felt, it inspires us to act for justice.

It is the church that assures us that we are not struggling for justice on our own, but as members of a larger community. The religious community is essential, for alone our vision is too narrow to see all that must be seen, and our strength too limited to do all that must be done. Together, our vision widens and our strength is renewed. —by Mark Morrison-Reed

Full Moon Drumming

Please join us at the Fellowship building on **Tuesday, April 23rd at 6:30 P.M.** on this Full Moon night as we drum in community with others throughout the world. If the weather is mild and we can be outside, please bring a lawn chair. Bring a drum or rattle if you have one. There will be some drums and rattles to share. A love gift is appreciated. Facilitated by Erin H. and Jane B.

Meditation Retreat

“Everyday Life is Practicing” will be the theme of the meditation retreat on April 27 with Myo-O Habermas - Scher and Genjo Sam Conway. This retreat will be from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, and you are invited to commit yourself fully by attending for the entire time. We ask that you bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee will be available. If you wish, you may also bring a water bottle, notebook and pen, blanket, and pillow. During the retreat you may use a chair or cushion, and sit or lie down. You may want to dress in layers, to make sure you are comfortable throughout the day. For most of the day, participants will observe silence.

The cost of the retreat will be a free will donation. If you have any questions, or wish to register, please contact Lucinda or Helen

SCUUF book discussion group news

The next book for discussion by the SCUUF book discussion group is “A Future We Can Love: How we can reverse the Climate Crisis with the Power of our Hearts and Minds.” It is by Susan Bauer-Wu, President of the Mind Life Institute. The content is inspired by the conversation between The Dalai Lama and Greta Thunberg and is organized in the steps to make an ethical difference—knowledge, capacity, will and action. The next date has not been set but it will likely be in late May. Please contact Judith Siminoe if you have a preference. We will choose the next book and plan to meet again in July or so.

New Childrens Books

The Social Justice Committee purchased four children's books featuring indigenous people. They are available for checkout from the UUF library. CRE might also be interested in using them.

Children’s Religious Education (CRE)

Let’s help plant a couple trees this Spring! How can we arrange the circumstances to encourage success for them? Since we had hundreds of pounds of trees removed from our Fellowship’s property last summer (Siberian Elm trees that were threatening our building), we’re looking to replant 3-4 this Spring with the help of Jane Barth and Sue Weaver and others. Of course, we’re focusing on native trees including those that are drought resistant, and service berry trees seem to be the most likely replacements. We’ll help make preparations on April 21st during CRE, maybe even with shovels. Two tree memorials are still available at \$50/tree should you like to dedicate one of them to a loved one.

PB&J’s anyone? Would the youngsters like to put on a PB&J Picnic at Bend in the River Regional Park, on the Mississippi River this summer and play bocce ball, frisbee or go on a guided tour of this unique park? A founding family of our Fellowship made this land available to the public, the Graves. If interested, when would be a good date for this? (Summers are busy but we might be able to find a good date for this.) Let me know your thoughts on this possibility. We’d also like to work on scheduling a kayak trip down the Sauk River from Cold Spring’s Froggy Park to Rockville’s Eagle Park. We have a couple knowledgeable kayakers who would be our guides. Please let me know of your interest and timeframes that work for your family.

And we’re hoping to schedule a Sneak Preview Tour of the new Great River Children’s Museum in late summer or early fall. Details in the May newsletter.

Louise Goetz

Supporting Our Values

From your Budget and Finance Committee

In the midst of our annual pledge drive, we invite everyone to think about what the Fellowship means to you. What things about the Fellowship do you value, and how does the Fellowship promote and uphold your values? If you've not already made your pledge of financial support for the coming year, please do so now. Use the pledge form distributed on Sunday, March 17, or by mail after that date, or the one at the bottom of this page, and return it by April 7. We hope the following information will be helpful.

I give regularly. Why is a pledge important? Your pledge is an indication of what you expect to give and provides the critical information needed to accurately prepare our budget for the new fiscal year which starts in July. We need to know how much money we will have to help us accomplish our goals for next year.

What's the money used for? Income sustains our religious community. It's used to support programming for adults and children, maintain our building, fund social justice activities, and pay our fair share to the denomination at the national and regional levels.

When do I pay my pledge? The new fiscal year starts July 1. You may make payments before then or anytime during the fiscal year, which ends June 30, 2025. You can pay your pledge all at once or make payments throughout the year.

What if my financial situation changes after I make a pledge? Pledges are not legally binding. We ask that you make a pledge that is realistic based on your current and foreseeable circumstances.

Are there other ways to give? Many members and friends give of their time and talents throughout the year; these gifts are invaluable and much appreciated. Besides annual financial gifts, we welcome legacy gifts such as bequests, appreciated stock, life insurance, and other planned gifts. Contact the treasurer if you are considering this type of gift, or if you want more information about these other ways of sustaining the Fellowship into the future.



Name: _____

In support of the Fellowship, I pledge to give the amount shown below for the fiscal year 2024.

Pledge for July 2024 through June 2025: Annual \$ _____ OR Monthly \$ _____

Payment options: Monthly Check Enclosed PayPal Other _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

To complete pledge form online, scan QR code or go to

<https://forms.gle/rRbDgZGM9AvvAsMc9>



Save The Date: April 28TH 12:30 – 2:30 PM For A Congregational Conversation

The Fellowship has some members interested in considering a part-time minister. We'd like to discuss this option in a Congregational Conversation on Sunday, April 28th. A light lunch will be provided briefly after the service before we begin. Please list questions or thoughts on the poster in Fellowship Hall or by emailing them to our Board Secretary, Susan Dunbar by April 17th at: suzelaine10@hotmail.com and putting "MINISTER IDEAS" in the email subject line. We will be keeping the Sunday meeting Zoom link open for this meeting so those who would like to are able to use the same link as our Sunday meetings listed on the website. We value your participation! Pam Peterson and Louise Goetz

Plan to attend our Annual Meeting at the Fellowship or on Zoom, Friday, May 17

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Friday, May 17

5:30 p.m. Social

6:00 p.m. Catered meal. A reservation sheet will be available.

7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting

Nominating Committee Update

We have a need for a Program Committee Co-Chair. Carol Muscielewicz has agreed to be one Co-Chair, and this committee and Carol need a second. Please speak to Carol or Louise if you have an interest in Co-Chairing the Program Committee. Otherwise, other than looking for more committee members, the committees have their Chair positions covered. Thanks to committee members Hanni Epp, Carol Hamilton, and Linda and John Peck for their dynamic work on the Nominating Committee!

We're so grateful for Jane Barth, Ozzie Mayers, Ralph Carr and Susan Dunbar for remaining on the Board again this coming year! And, for Judith Siminoe for agreeing to be President Elect!

The proposed slate of Board Officers for the 2024-2025 year will be voted on at the May 17th Annual Meeting, and they are:

President	Louise Goetz
President Elect	Judith Siminoe
Treasurer	Ralph Carr
Secretary	Susan Dunbar
At Large Members	Jane Barth
	Ozzie Mayers
	Sally Pitzen

Membership Report

Thank you for all who helped on our special food Sundays, especially those who helped clean up. Please read the Newsletter to find out when the next special Sunday is.

Summer Events

by Wendy Schoen, Program Committee

The program committee hopes that you have been enjoying the variety of Sunday programs offered this year. We welcome program suggestions, as well as members and friends to be involved in bringing programs to our Fellowship. Our weekly Sunday services will take a break over the summer months until we start up again on September 8th.

Over the summer months, we have traditionally turned to informal gatherings as a means for our members to stay connected with one another. If you or a committee you serve on would like to host a summer event, please contact Wendy Schoen from the program committee. The program committee will then compile all the events and create a schedule to be posted in our May newsletter. The deadline for summer activities to be included in the May newsletter is April 15th.

Communications Committee Report

By Judy Foster

The new Spring Directory was sent by email on March 26 to those who are listed in it.

Reminder to committees: Let us know if you have events, activities, or programs that you want to be open to the public and we will provide publicity. Be sure to give us more than two week's notice and a full description.

Remember: "If communication is not your top priority, then all your other priorities are at risk."

-Bob Aronson

MUUSJA Report

By Judy Foster

See what MUUSJA works on: <https://www.muusja.org/issues-of-focus/>

Support their work here. <https://www.muusja.org/donate/>

Sid Parham 1943 – 2024

From the Caring Committee

Former Fellowship member, Sid Parham, died on March 4. Sid moved to St Cloud in 1979 with his wife, Judy Foster, and they became members of our Fellowship. Their two daughters, Sarah and Maggie, grew up in our Fellowship and Sid served the Fellowship as president in 1983-84. He and Judy introduced us to their friend, Bill Holm, who became a favorite presenter at our Sunday Services over many years. In the community, Sid was an English professor at St Cloud State University and was involved in local theatre until moving away in 2000. His obituary can be seen at: <https://www.ranfranzandvinefh.com/obituaries/sidney-parham>

To respond to an article in this newsletter and/or get further information, here are some ways to connect with the person who submitted an article:

- Find their contact information on the Leadership page of the emailed newsletter.
- Talk to them in person before or after a Sunday Service.
- Use the SCUUF Directory to find their contact information.
- If you don't have an emailed Newsletter or Directory, call SCUUF at 320-252-0020 and leave a message that includes your name and phone number and the name of the individual you want to reach. We will arrange for that person to contact you.

The Caring Committee

The Caring Committee has been formed for the times in each of our lives when we need help from another person. The members of the Caring Committee are available to help members and friends of the St. Cloud UU Fellowship in a variety of ways.

Feel free to contact any committee member:

Linda Saupe (chairperson), Marge Bates, Hanni Epp, Chris Smith,
Charlotte Stephens, and Ron Syme.

For anyone with emergency needs, a wide range of services is available from agencies and organizations in the community. These can be accessed by calling 211 (or 800-543-7709).

Calendar Reminders

AVOID ZOOM CONFLICTS: We encourage you to use the Zoom licenses for video conferencing, but please follow the standard reservation process to ensure the Zoom "meeting room" (license) is available at the time you would like to make use of it and to allow others to see planned meetings on the calendar. Please check the online calendar on our website for scheduled in-person and Zoom meetings at www.uufstcloud.org/calendar. A meeting event/room reservation button to submit a form for reservation requests can be found below the calendar on the website. This same button can be used to schedule in-person and Zoom meetings.

WELCOMING CONGREGATION: We are a welcoming congregation that seeks to be a spiritual home for people of free faith. We value the full range of human diversity, including race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, affectional/sexual orientation, age, national origin, socioeconomic status, and ability.

St. Cloud Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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