

St. Cloud UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Fellowship



December 2022

**10:30 a.m. Sunday, December 4: Stewardship,
Justice, and Democracy**
Robin Moore—Land Stewardship Project

Robin is LSP's manager of land access and land legacy. She will talk about promoting sustainable agriculture and creating transformational change in our food and farming systems.

10:30 a.m. Sunday, December 11: "Woven in a Single Garment of Destiny": exploring and celebrating hallmarks of our Unitarian Universalist theology
From the UUA

We're all connected, an interdependent whole. "Therefore," says UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray "covenant is our religious response to our fundamental interdependence." We make promises about how to *be* together, and how to be in the world. We also fall short of honoring those promises, inviting us to repair and strengthen the strands of community. The choice to mend broken strands of the web is an act of faithfulness.

10:30 a.m. Sunday, December 18: The Longest Night
Rev. Ashley Horan

As the Winter Solstice approaches, during this season of Hanukkah and Advent, join us for this special service of poetry, songs and reflections about the blessings of darkness, the gifts of waiting, and the joy of light as it returns.

NO SERVICE on Sunday, December 25.
SERVICES RESUME on January 1.

Sunday services are presented in the Fellowship building and on Zoom.

Some presenters will be in person, others on Zoom.

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

Masks are optional in the building.
Coffee/tea will be served following the services.

To contribute to SCUUF:

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

President's Corner

By Pam Peterson

I hope you are enjoying this season of warm hospitality. As I write this, I am busy preparing food dishes to take to my brother's where my children and their families will come. It is a special treat for me to confer with my grandchildren about their requests—salad from the girls and apple pie from the boys. I love the traditions we have established and will continue to establish.

This is how I view building a Beloved Community. Hospitality and caring about one another are at the top of my list. I hope you have taken the opportunity to welcome visitors, connect with the SCUUF community, and be thoughtful about the messages of the Sunday services.

I am so thankful for and impressed by our Program Committee and technology volunteers who are working tirelessly to bring all of us quality services. It looks like we'll be doing both in-person and Zoom platforms for our weekly services for a long time.

I extend to you and yours a happy and meaningful holiday season.

We have now reviewed the first four hallmarks of a healthy congregation from "Growing A Beloved Community" by Tom Owen-Towle, so we are on the fifth, "Encourage Unity Amidst Diversity."

"What is our oneness? We need to celebrate the whole as well as the parts. How can we become One ... in commitment to collaborative, connecting community?" — Diane Olson

E Pluribus Unum is our American motto; yet, there is attack to this premise from some religious extremists. As a healthy religious community, we need to keep the balance of unity amidst diversity. "The goal is to be diverse without becoming divided, to grow unified without succumbing to uniformity." (p. 34) We need to remember those who have come before us in concrete ways. It could be by acknowledging them during Joys and Concerns or at a more formal memorial service. We need to develop over time a common vision which can guide us as we grapple with questions such as, Why are we here? and What should we do together? We need to collect items such as our flaming chalice that serves as a unifying symbol to us.

"The chalice (since its adoption in 1941) by the Unitarian Service Committee) symbolizes the blaze of freedom, the light of truth, the fire of action, and the warmth of community." (p. 35) Worshipping together brings us comfort when we're hurting and challenges us when we're complacent. Coming together in this way is what cements the building blocks at the foundation of our Beloved Community.

"The truth persists that even if we never radically alter the racial demographics represented in our predominately white Unitarian Universalist congregations, we must still actively combat racism." (p. 38) We can be "dedicated minorities" as Martin Luther King Jr. described organizations such as ours. A Beloved Community also has activities for a diverse group of ages. We need to play, learn, and serve together.

I like to think of this idea of unity amidst diversity in this way: We are not a melting pot; rather we are a tossed salad where each individual brings a certain flavor to the salad, and together we can prepare a beautiful and nourishing salad—the Salad of the Beloved Community!

Adult Religious Education meets December 3.

By Ozzie Mayers

Please join the next Adult Religious Education discussion on Saturday, December 3 at 2:00 p.m. We will have an opportunity to speak with Brenda Graves. At our Sunday service on November 20, Brenda made a presentation on Margaret Fuller, an important voice in the transcendental movement and an early champion of women's rights. This ARE discussion will delve more deeply into Fuller's life, her influence, and the transcendental movement. **If you wish to join the ARE discussion on December 3, please send a request to Ozzie Mayers (omayers@csbsju.edu) and he will send you the Zoom link.**

Membership Committee's report regarding Soup Sundays

By Marge Bates

Hope you all had a great Thanksgiving, however you celebrated.

The Membership Committee is announcing that, due to circumstances this year, monthly Soup Sundays will not be held. We would like to have some special Sundays where soup will be provided by volunteers. When those Sundays happen, an announcement will be made and a sign-up sheet will be provided. With attendance the way it has been this year, committees will have fewer numbers and all of the committees are already extended to their limit.

We are planning to work with the Program Committee so these special Sundays can coincide with certain programs and occur occasionally throughout the rest of the year. Check the monthly newsletter and Sunday announcements for dates. Please volunteer when you are able to do so.

SCUUF book club news

By Judith Siminoe

The SCUUF book discussion on *Grey's Bees* was November 19. The book presents the life of a Ukrainian beekeeper after Russia took over Crimea in 2014, and prior to the recent attack on Ukraine. Those who were able to attend appreciated it, and if anyone is interested in reading it who doesn't yet have a copy, let me know. I will try to find one for you. After reading this book, we may look into the practice of sleeping on beehives to improve health. 😊

Our next meeting will be near the end of January, tentatively the 28th, and we will try something a little different. I will ask those who want to participate to send me a poem they would like to share with the group by January 13. I will make copies and distribute them to the members who have expressed interest in the book discussions so everyone will have several days to read through them and formulate questions, comments, and observations. Let me know if you have any other questions or suggestions of books we should consider.

December meditation

By Helen Manion

December's meditation will be at the Fellowship on **Saturday, December 10 at 10:30 a.m.** Masks will be optional. The meditation will include Joys and Concerns, a short reading and some poetry about simplicity and slowing down, followed by 20 minutes of silent meditation. There will be time at the end for sharing your thoughts.

Share the Spirit

By Angie Stevens

Once again we are collecting funds for the Share the Spirit program through Catholic Charities. If you wish to contribute, send your check to: Angela Stevens, 19465 Co. Rd. 7, South Haven, MN. 55382. Make your check payable to Catholic Charities and write Share the Spirit in the memo line.

I will be collecting funds up until December 4. Thank you and a Happy Holiday Season

Caring and confidentiality

From the Caring Committee

The Caring Committee began in 1996 when our minister, Rev. Mary Beth O'Halloran, was leaving the congregation. The training she provided to the volunteers at that time stressed the importance of confidentiality. When the committee learns of a member who is experiencing an illness, death of a family member, or other concern, we discuss what might be helpful. We keep all matters confidential unless the individuals want others to know or become involved.

If you have a concern that you want others to know about, you can mention it during Joys and Concerns during a Sunday Service or ask a caring committee member to include it in a newsletter article. If you contact a member of the Caring Committee about a concern and you don't indicate that you want others to know, you can be assured that we will keep it confidential. We appreciate that members are supportive of each other in many ways that we don't even know about. To be a caring congregation takes the involvement of all of us.

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 member of the committee:

Linda Saupe (chairperson), Marge Bates, Hanni Epp, Doug Polley, 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).

Communications Report

By Judy Foster

When we boosted our Facebook post about the Oct. 30 service, "A Day of Remembrance, the celebrations of Día de Los Muertos, All Saints Days and All Souls Day," we reached 822 people and had 61 engagements. I don't know if any of those attended or Zoomed into the service, but we did have increased visibility, as with our MPR ad. We did hear from one person who heard the ad and asked for more information.

We have a media list and can send press releases, so we can promote services/programs as appropriate. Any committees planning events that may be of interest to the public can let us know if they want publicity.

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

8th Principle – Significant changes proposed to Article II of the UUA bylaws

By Judy Foster

BREAKING NEWS: Paula Cole Jones keynotes MUUSJA's annual convening **December 6th** about our "community of communities," 8th Principle, Article II, & building a culture of inclusion. Details & registration at <https://muusja.salsalabs.org/annualmeeting22>

If you have not followed the Article II review process, you may be shocked to learn that the proposal is to do away with the 7 Principles and replace them with a set of “values” with Love at the center. Please see <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Xq9ekz2kTt36tYK018eBlvj9oYGdPVd0/view>

As a congregation we need to discuss this proposal and consider electing delegates to represent us and our opinion at the next General Assembly in June.

See also: <https://www.uua.org/uugovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/blog/8thprinciple>

Proposed Changes to Article II of the UUA Bylaws.

Produced by Lincoln Baxter; email:lab@lincolnbaxter.com

The Article II Study Commission (A2SC) has proposed changes to Article II (A2) of the UUA bylaws. Here are the proposals, compared with the current Article II of the UUA bylaws shown without commentary or opinion. The deletions are shown as strike-outs and additions underlined. This is a standard way of illustrating proposed changes to documents.

Currently, the first section of A2 lists the UU **Principles and Sources**. This has been deleted in its entirety, and replaced with **Values and Covenants** which has been moved to Section 2.

Here are the current **Principles and Sources**:

Section C-2.1. Principles.

~~We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote~~

- ~~1.—The inherent worth and dignity of every person;~~
- ~~2.—Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;~~
- ~~3.—Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;~~
- ~~4.—A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;~~
- ~~5.—The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;~~
- ~~6.—The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;~~
- ~~7.—Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.~~

~~The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:~~

- ~~1.—Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;~~
- ~~2.—Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love;~~
- ~~3.—Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;~~
- ~~4.—Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;~~

- 5. ~~Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;~~
- 6. ~~Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.~~

~~Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.~~

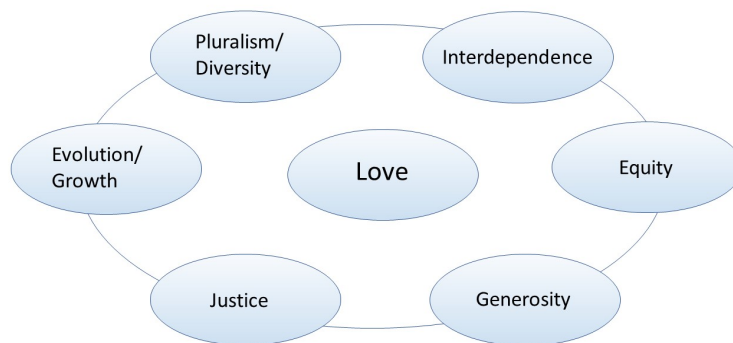
Here are the proposed Values and Covenant:

Section C-2.2. Values and Covenant.

Love is the enduring force that holds us together.

As Unitarian Universalists in religious community, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our association, to support and assist each other in engaging our ministries. We draw from our heritages of freedom and reason, hope and courage, building on the foundation of love.

Love inspires and powers the passion with which we embody our values. Inseparable from one another, these shared values are:



Justice. We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all people thrive.
We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of oppression within individuals and our institutions. We are accountable to each other for this work.

Generosity. We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.
We covenant to freely share our faith, presence, and resources. Compassionate generosity connects us one to another in relationships of mutuality.

Evolution. We adapt to the changing world.
We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Evolution is fundamental to life and to our Unitarian Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

Pluralism. We celebrate that we are all sacred beings diverse in culture, theology, and experience.
We covenant to learn from one another and openly explore the depth and breadth of our many wisdoms. We embrace our differences and commonalities with love, curiosity, and respect.

Equity. We declare that every person has the right to flourish with dignity and worthiness.
We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain a fully inclusive and accessible community of communities.

Interdependence. We honor the sacred interdependent web of all existence. With humility we understand our place in the web.

We covenant to care for and respect the earth and all beings by fostering relationships of mutuality. We work to repair the bonds we have broken.

There is a new section 2.3 which is intended to replace the original sources:

Section 2.3 Inspirations.

As Unitarian Universalists, we draw upon, and are inspired by, the full depth and breadth of sacred understandings, as experienced by humanity. Grateful for the religious lineages we inherit and the pluralism which enriches our faith, we are called to ever deepen and expand our wisdom.

The current **Purposes** Section, has been moved from Section 2 to Section 1, and is changed as follows:

| Section C-2.2~~1~~. Purposes.

The Unitarian Universalist Association shall devote its resources to and exercise its ~~corporate,~~ organizational powers for religious, educational and humanitarian purposes. ~~The primary purposes of the Association is to serve the needs of its member congregations, organize new congregations, extend and strengthen Unitarian Universalist institutions and implement its principles are to equip congregations for vital ministry, to support and train leaders both lay and professional, to heal historic inequities, and to advance our Unitarian Universalist values in the world. We will transform the world by our liberating love.~~

Section 3, **Non-discrimination** has been renamed **Inclusion**, and changed as follows:

| Section C-2.4. ~~Inclusion~~³. Non-discrimination.

Systems of power, privilege, and oppression have traditionally created barriers for persons and groups with particular identities, ages, abilities, and histories. We pledge to replace such barriers with ever-widening circles of solidarity and mutual respect. We strive to be an association of congregations that truly welcome all persons who share our values. ~~We~~ and commit to structuring congregational and associational life in ways that empower and enhance everyone's participation.

And Section 4, **Freedom of Belief** has been changed as follows:

| Section C-2.5~~4~~. Freedom of ~~belief~~Belief.

Nothing herein shall be deemed to infringe upon the individual freedom of belief which is inherent in the Unitarian Universalist ~~Universalist and Unitarian~~ heritages or to conflict with any statement of purpose, covenant, or bond of union used by any congregation unless such is used as a creedal test. In expressing our beliefs, we do so in the spirit of love, in ways that further Beloved Community.

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. Please send an e-mail to calendar@uufstcloud.org if you have any questions.

Tom Hergert has agreed to be the contact for the Zoom license and will provide a tutorial for anyone needing to learn how to host a Zoom meeting. His contact information can be found in the UUF Directory.

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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