

St. Cloud UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Fellowship



SEPTEMBER 2022

Sunday morning hybrid services will resume in the Fellowship building and via ZOOM on September 11 at 10:30 a.m. Masks are required in the building.

Social time following services will be without refreshments until covid concerns diminish.

10:30 a.m. Sunday, September 11: Blending Waters

The Program Committee is hosting our annual Water Ceremony as we welcome members and friends to the first Sunday of our new season of Sunday services. Members are invited to bring water from a place that has special meaning to them. Combining the water as we gather together is symbolic of our shared faith coming from many sources and of our connection to each other.

10:30 a.m. Sunday, September 18: Bringing Regret to the Table – Rev. Shelley Dugan

Some boldly state they have no regrets. That's too bad! Instead of denying regrets, our regrets have benefits. If examined, they have gifts. Join us as we welcome our regrets to the table. Perhaps after getting to know them, we won't find them so regrettable.

10:30 a.m. Sunday, September 25: Of All the People, By All the People, For All the People – Rev. Ashley Horan

With democracy under attack in the United States and around the globe, the possibilities for freedom and liberation can seem dim. What in our UU history and theology can give us hope and direction in these times?

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 want to WELCOME every one of you returning to the Fellowship, and I also look forward to welcoming anyone visiting or new to our congregation. It feels very exciting to be able to re-connect with each other. For example, it was really enjoyable doing yardwork and cleaning as we prepared for re-convening. It's been quite a while since we've been together, and I hope you are anticipating our re-opening as much as I am.

Board members have tried to call everyone in our directory listing to ask about their preferences for reconvening on Sundays. After doing this, we are better prepared for each Sunday and find out approximately how many expect to come "in person" and how many will be coming "via Zoom."

Our tech team facilitated by Tom Hergert and Jane Ellison have found volunteers to assist each Sunday. We should be able to provide a hybrid service every Sunday where participation can be both "in person" and "via Zoom." Many thanks to our tech volunteers. If you would like to assist with technology, please contact Tom or Jane.

The following are guidelines for individuals coming to services in the Fellowship building:

1. Wear a mask in the building.
2. Sit with your family group spaced from others.
3. There will be no food or drink served.
4. You are welcome to visit with others after the service by going to the Fellowship Hall, going outside or remaining in the Sanctuary.
5. People joining on Zoom will have breakout rooms.

In the last newsletter, I introduced the book *GROWING A BELOVED COMMUNITY* and commented on the first hallmark. The second hallmark of a Beloved Community is "Welcome All Souls." This refers to offering "an open door to all souls, then to lovingly attend to those who choose to join our household. Those who have not attended before are kindly welcomed and sensitively treated once inside." (p. 9)

Some years ago I attended a UU workshop titled "Radical Hospitality." I like the ring of that. If each of us go out of our way to share a smile, ask about that person, follow up with that person the next time they attend, and try to find a common interest, we will be on our way to forming a Beloved Community. I want to see our Fellowship having a "hospitable rhythm of a vital community." (p. 9) "The Beloved Community, in its fullness, welcomes the whole of Creation. All sets of souls." (p. 14)

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Pam

Join Us for Pride in the Park on September 17

by Judy Foster

We are in need of some folks to show up at Lake George by 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 17, to help set up our booth for Pride in the Park. Please contact me (jfoster58@charter.net) if you can help. It typically takes four people to set up the tent, and, as of now, there is just me. We have other openings to staff our booth between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

This is an important time to show our support for LGBTQ people. You may have read about what has been happening in the Becker school district: <https://www.sctimes.com/story/news/2022/08/08/becker-school-district-policy-bans-teaching-divisive-concepts/65395823007/>. This is in our backyard, and we need to stand up for our UU Principles, show up for St. Cloud Pride on September 17, and show up to staff our booth.

Please let me know when you can help out!

Program Committee News

from the Program Committee

Welcome back to a new season of Sunday Programs. When Covid began 2 ½ years ago we had to change the way we offer programs. The use of Zoom provided an opportunity for presenters and congregation members to join us from a distance. Most recently, in April and May, we tried “hybrid” programs that allowed for attending in person at our building or continuing to Zoom in from home. This fall we plan to continue that format in a somewhat improved version. However, that will require more members to be involved in helping with the technology and all members to be patient and flexible. Contact Tom Hergert if you want to learn about helping with technology. We also welcome others to join our program committee by contacting Wendy Schoen.

During the summer we learned that the Unitarian Universalist Association is moving away from using the word “hybrid” and has begun using “multi-platform” to describe a combination of in-person and online options. They explained: “Multi-platform” does not necessarily mean at the same time or in the same way. Many imagine this including online and in-person participants sharing worship at the same time. But it could be quite different with different options at different times to meet a variety of needs. Our caution is that it is unlikely any congregation will stumble upon the perfect long-term solution. Instead, each congregation will be learning together, experimenting together as we learn to live into the current reality, our local conditions change, and we move through the inner landscapes of more in-person engagement. The difficulty in planning is threefold: we haven’t done this before, we do not know the future course of the pandemic, and no one can be sure what they will want or feel comfortable doing in the future.”

Our program committee is working hard to offer a variety of programs on Sunday mornings. Some presenters will be with us in person and some will present via Zoom. While we focus on Sunday morning programs, we’re grateful that other committees including Adult Religious Education, Caring, and Social Justice plan to provide other opportunities for members to be together “Seeking Truth, Building Community, and Promoting Justice.”

SCUUF Book Club News

by Judith Siminoe

The next gathering of the UU Book Group will be Saturday, October 1st at 10 a.m. at the Fellowship Building. We will plan to meet outdoors bringing our own camp chairs, but have reserved the Fellowship Hall in case of wind or rain. We will discuss *Search* by Michelle Huneven and anyone who has books they would like to pass along is invited to bring them to share. Contact me if you have questions. We will be choosing our next book after this gathering and plan to meet once more before the end of the calendar year.

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).

Caring Committee News

from the Caring Committee

Joys and Sorrows

Helen Manion's husband, Andreas Kiryakakis, passed away on July 6. Andreas taught at St. John's University and College of St. Benedict for more than 30 years. There will be an Open House/Celebration of Life for him at St. John's University on Sunday, October 2nd, from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. It will be held in the Great Hall located next to the church. This will be an informal gathering, and anyone is welcome to drop by for any period of time.

Throughout the summer we heard that members have had surgeries, have had Covid and other ailments, and have been traveling in the United States and abroad. As far as we know, people are recovering or receiving the treatment they need, and all have returned safely from travel.

We look forward to seeing you this fall, either in person or on Zoom!

UU the Vote!

by Judy Foster

Many thanks to Marge Bates, Louise Goetz, Carol Hamilton, Mary Ness, Charlotte Stephens, and Angie Stevens (part of our UU the Vote team) for writing postcards to voters in Florida ahead of the Florida Primary on Aug. 23.

We collaborated with the UU Church of Willmar on this project. The goal was to get out the vote in the primary, which is often overlooked or dismissed even by regular voters in the general election. We reminded these voters that the primary allows us to choose which candidates will be on the ballot in the general election.

According to the Star Tribune, there was a downturn in turnout for most races in the Minnesota Primary on August 9. Hopefully SCUUF members were not among the non-voters.

The General Election is November 8. Find a sample ballot and all the information you need here: <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/>

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 by clicking 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 new SCUUF 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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