

St. Cloud UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Fellowship



April 2022

10:30 a.m. Sunday, April 3: Fe y Justicia! – Ma Elena Gutierrez, Director of Fe y Justicia

As Central Minnesota's immigrant population grows, Fe y Justicia, through their office in Waite Park, has prioritized offering health clinics, supporting legislation on issues concerning immigrants and educating our immigrant community members on immigration issues and workers' rights.

APRIL SUNDAY SERVICES WILL BE HYBRID. PRESENTERS WILL PARTICIPATE VIA ZOOM. YOU MAY USE ZOOM OR ATTEND IN PERSON, WEARING A MASK AND MAINTAINING DISTANCE BETWEEN HOUSEHOLDS. Please visit www.uufstcloud.org for the Zoom information to join

10:30 a.m. Sunday, April 10: White Saviorism: Knowing Your Role in Anti-Racism, Equity, and Inclusion – Natalie Ringsmuth, unitecloud.org

As White folks, we often do not seek to understand our role in anti-racism, equity and inclusion, even in our own community spaces and workplaces. This presentation will introduce us to the Eight White Identities and explore our role in the ongoing work of racial and social justice in our communities. Join us to say no to white saviorism and commit to working toward being an ally and accomplice.

10:30 a.m. Sunday, April 17: Sing Forth the Seeds – The Wooden Shoe Ramblers

This music group will present a set of songs celebrating the earth, stewardship, and resistance to extractive industry. Featured songs will explore the costs of mining and oil extraction, resistance to pipelines, industrial disasters, climate change, and caring for the earth. The members of the Wooden Shoe Ramblers include veterans of water protector and land defense struggles, and environmental justice campaigns. Band member Emmett Doyle grew up in our Fellowship and has a degree in Environmental Studies from Saint John's University.

10:00 or 10:30 a.m. Sunday, April 24: The Nuts and Bolts of Climate Change – Kay Slama

We join the UU Church of Willmar for this Earth Day Program (joys, concerns, announcements, and discussion at 10:00; Service at 10:30). Using the En-ROADS Climate Change Solutions Simulator, Kay will show how climate change works, including the effects of actions we can take. Gain insights on how climate's driving forces—and the policies which dictate their behavior—affect a variety of climate impacts, from temperature change to sea level rise. Explore the dynamics in global energy supply, land use, transportation, carbon removal, and more.

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>

April President's Corner

by Lisa Bershok

April Brings Hybrid Services

Wow, it's officially been two years since the start of the pandemic, and we are just now being able to return for in-person Sunday services. In some ways it feels like it was just yesterday, and other times it feels like it has been 20 years since I've seen people in person. Our Board approved re-opening guidelines state that if the COVID case rate for Stearns County is under 30 per 10,000 people, we can offer hybrid services. The entire month of March has seen case rates in the 20's and just this Friday the case rate dropped to 8 per 10,000 people.

Hybrid services will allow for those that choose to reconvene in person and those that choose to continue to Zoom in to services from home. This will require us to all give each other support and allow for adaptability as we try new technology and service formats.

This newsletter article will outline for you the ReOpening Guidelines that our ReOpening Committee created and was Board approved in May 2021. The following will provide information about how hybrid services will work.

So, what is a hybrid Sunday Service? This means we can accommodate folks who would like to attend services in person, as well as having a Zoom alternative for those who would prefer to continue participating from home. Some of our presenters will attend in person and some will continue to present via Zoom. We will hold our services in hybrid form regardless of where our presenters are. This means we may have services you decide to attend in person, and the presenter will be broadcast to us over the large TVs. The Program Committee will be adding the location of the presenter to their information in the newsletter and on the website as we know this may impact your decision of how you want to attend services. As changes occur in infection rates, we do want to be mindful that a presenter may change the location in which they will present from after this information is published in the newsletter and online. Adaptability and understanding will need to drive how we support each other, our Fellowship, and our community presenters and ministers. If you choose to come to the Fellowship in person, some rules have been put in place to make sure we have a safe environment for everyone.

1. Masks are required for everyone (ages 2 and up) at all times when in the Fellowship building.
2. You will be asked to "log in" with your name and contact information in case a member who attended in-person services is diagnosed as positive for Covid. MDH contact tracing requires this information.
3. We encourage you to social distance by household. If needed, we may use both the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall to seat people for the service.
4. There will be no food or drinks available or allowed (except for medical reasons) in the Fellowship building. This means after service snacks, drinks, and Soup Sunday cannot be offered at this time. But, you are encouraged to stay after the service to visit and connect.
5. The collection plate will not be passed. There will be a labeled box available for the offering (or you can choose to mail it or use our PayPal pay option).
6. Our musicians are excited to still bring us music. Singing can occur as long as all congregants are masked. We will not be utilizing hymnals, and if needed lyrics will be displayed on the TV.
8. Nursery will be open, but not staffed by nursery attendants. Parents will need to stay with their children in the nursery room.
9. If you are sick, have had a recent exposure, or are COVID positive, we ask that you stay home and attend via Zoom.

Program Notes

from the Program Committee

Our Sunday Programs in April feature presentations on social justice and environmental concerns that are of vital importance to our lives and future: immigration, racial equity, environmental justice, and climate change. They were scheduled with the expectation that the presentations would take place via Zoom. As we transition to offering hybrid services as described in Lisa's article, the program committee decided to proceed as planned, with the April presenters coming to us via Zoom. YOU may participate in person or via Zoom, as described in Lisa's article.

Looking ahead to May, we will have a guest seminarian and a guest minister. In addition, the Caring Committee is planning the May 22 program which will take place in a park. It will provide an opportunity for celebrating lives of members and friends who died in recent years and grieving losses in our personal lives during the pandemic. See more details in the May newsletter.

Looking ahead to summer, the Program Committee will coordinate a schedule of summer activities rather than arrange weekly Sunday Programs. See separate article seeking your ideas.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

from your Budget and Finance Committee

Thank you so much for all of your support during these past two years while the pandemic created hardships and grief and limited our ability to be together in person. So many of you have been generous with your time, talents, and financial support during this difficult time. Because of that support, our Fellowship remains in a good financial position. We appreciate your ongoing support and commitment.

April Meditation

by Helen Manion

On Saturday, April 2, the meditation group will meet at the St. Cloud Public Library at 10:30 in the Array Meeting Room. This room is on the main floor and down the hall to your right, as you enter the lobby of the library. The room is large enough for our group to practice social distancing. Please wear a mask (but okay to pull your mask down when speaking). Gail Falk will be guiding the meditation. In light of the war in Ukraine, the theme will be finding your center in times of chaos.

If you would like further information, please contact Helen at hmanion@yahoo.com or 928-499-4784.

The SCUUF Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, May 20th, 2022, from 6-8pm. Location to be determined based on COVID case rates. Our hope is to hold it in-person if the case rate is low enough to do so. If not, like last year we will hold it virtually. If held in person, we will not be able to serve dinner at 5pm due to our current reopening guidelines. Mark the date on your calendars. A separate email will be sent to members prior to April 20th that will include agenda, related content, and confirmation on location of the meeting.

The SCUUF April Board meeting is being moved to Sunday, April 10th at 9am due to our regularly scheduled meeting occurring on Easter. We continue to meet virtually. If you are interested in attending, please contact Lisa Bershok for the meeting invite. If you have any Board agenda items, please forward to Lisa Bershok by April 6th.

Summer Activities

by Wendy Schoen

The St. Cloud Unitarian Universalist Fellowship has had a long tradition of offering informal summer activities and events that allows our members both young and old to stay connected with one another. The Program Committee would like to hear from members on their summer activities and program ideas. Would you like to host an event or help in the planning of an event? The committee will coordinate a schedule of activities during the summer months when we won't have a Sunday morning program every week. We will continue following COVID guidelines to ensure the safety of those participating in Fellowship events.

The program committee would also like to invite any member interested in program planning to join our committee. As always we welcome suggestions for programs along with help in leading services, readings or in planning individual programs and UU celebrations.

If you have a summer program idea or would like to help out in any way, please contact Wendy Schoen at wenschoen@gmail.com or call 320-310-2674.

Membership Committee

by Marge Bates

This month I would like to introduce a book that I found entertaining as well as insightful. *What We Hunger For* is a collection of writings from 14 refugee and immigrant writers, living in Minnesota who write about "their complicated, poignant, funny, difficult, joyful, and ongoing relationships to food, cooking and eating. Stirred into their essays are the hardships they face and continue to face regarding "home cooking" and the trials and tribulations of coming to the US. Some authors have included their favorite recipes (good luck in finding the ingredients in St. Cloud). It is a different perspective and one that is truly charming and disturbing. It is available from the Great River Regional Library or Stearns History Museum. It is the April selection for the SHM book club.

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).

Anti-Racism Team Report

by Judy Foster

Many thanks to those who took time to attend our Listening Session on March 13. The feedback we received was quite useful. We will send out separate information in April on what we plan to present at the Annual Meeting on May 20 regarding proposed changes to our Constitution, including needed updates and improvements related to white supremacy.

The process of reviewing our Constitution is arduous and will continue for some time. We will continue to offer opportunities for your participation.

Opportunity to support Promise Neighborhood

by Lucinda Hudson

As many of you know, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is a longtime supporter of Promise Neighborhood. On April 30th, Barnes and Noble will be collaborating with Promise Neighborhood on a Bookfair. On this date, if you purchase anything in Barnes and Noble and let the cashier know that you would like to support Promise Neighborhood, then Promise Neighborhood will receive a percentage of the sale. Any support for the Bookfair is much appreciated, and this event will help Promise Neighborhood in its great work with children and families in our community. If you would like further information, you can contact Lucinda at lucindahudson9@gmail.com.

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 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 any Zoom meetings. Please reach out to Jessica Beierman at calendar@uufstcloud.org if you have any questions.

Tom Hergert and Jim Hixson have agreed to be the contacts for the Zoom License and will provide a tutorial for anyone needing to learn how to host a Zoom Meeting. Their contact information can be found in the new UUF Directory.