

**St. Cloud  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
Fellowship**

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## August 2021

### Summer Programming

During the summer it is our tradition to offer informal opportunities for learning and growing together. The Program Committee thanks those who are hosting and organizing these events. Note varying times and locations in the programming section. **Weekly Sunday Services will resume on September 12.**

#### **10:30 a.m. Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup>: SCUUF Sing-a-Long (outside the SCUUF building)**

Come join your Fellowship music group for an outside sing-a-long! For COVID caution we will ask that household groups sit 6' apart from each other, however masks will not be required outside. Masks would be required for anyone who enters the building to use the bathrooms. If possible, bring your own camp chairs, but if you don't have a camp chair we will provide chairs as needed. Our sing-a-long will be held in front of the building to keep away from bugs and be accessible to as many people as possible. Please come sing with us and revel in being together and making a joyful noise!!

#### **10:30 a.m. Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>: Walking Meditation (Munsinger Gardens)**

There will be a gathering at Munsinger Garden to practice walking meditation. Anyone who would like to come is welcome to join. We will be meeting at the picnic tables in Munsinger Garden. Please note that this is a different meeting location. We're changing the meeting location because the picnic table area is generally less busy than the gazebo area. (If you are facing the river, the picnic table area is a short walk to the left of where the gazebo is.)

Walking meditation is about being fully present with the experience of walking. We will be practicing in a relaxed and light-hearted way. This will also be an opportunity to chat and catch up with each other and enjoy the gardens. We'll have a brief reading at the beginning and a modified version of Joys and Concerns. For the walking meditation part of the gathering, we'll each be walking at our own pace, in whatever way is most comfortable for each of us. If walking is difficult for you, it is totally fine to come and simply sit and rest for part or all of the walking meditation time (about 20 minutes). Children and families are welcome too. You can bring a mask if you'd like (optional), and we will be practicing social distancing for this activity. If you would like further information, please contact Lucinda at [lucindahudson9@gmail.com](mailto:lucindahudson9@gmail.com) or 320-224-5440.

### **12 p.m. (noon) Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>: Annual PB&J Picnic (Bend in the River Regional Park)**

The name is the same but this year BYO PBJ -- or whatever you want for your lunch. Just to be clear, this is not a pot luck, and PBJ will not be provided. There will be chilled tea and packaged surprises. BYOB if you don't want tea. The park's historic homestead area has picnic tables shaded by old oak trees, or you may want to bring your own lawn chair as well as insect repellent. Bocce ball will be available and there may be a nature hike for children and adults. The park is south of Rice on the east side of the Mississippi River. It's the former home of Ann and Stewart Graves who were part of the original group who started our UU Fellowship; current member Brenda Graves was the last resident before the property became a park. Hosted by Julie K Peters 320-252-2819.

### **9 a.m. Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>: UUF Building and Grounds clean up (Fellowship building)**

Note that the date has changed from previous announcements. Get this one on your calendar and join your Fellowship friends for our annual end-of-summer clean-up and chore-up day. There will be a variety of tasks -- something for everyone. Bring your own beverage and snack, or enjoy one of the packaged energy treats that will be provided. If you want to use your own tools, gloves, or supplies, bring them also. Contact Tom Hergert if you have questions (320-493-2515 or [tom.hergert@gmail.com](mailto:tom.hergert@gmail.com))

### **3 p.m. Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup>: Garden Get-Together at Peterson's in Milaca**

Skip & Pam Peterson will host a Garden Party at their home on Thursday, August 26th, at 3:00 p.m.

320 Central Avenue North, Milaca

Please call our landline at 320-982-2360 and leave a message if you are able to attend. If this date or time does not work for you, let us know and we will try to set up an alternative date.

### **10:30 a.m. Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>: Bagels and Ethics Panel Presentation (Fellowship Hall/SCUUF building)**

Join the Social Justice Committee for this summer's Bagels and Ethics informative panel presentation on the 8<sup>th</sup> principle and how it relates to anti-racism and other oppressions in our community.

## **Weekly Sunday Services resume September 12 at 10:30 a.m.**

### **UU Church of Willmar Summer Zoom Services**

SCUUF members may want to join UU Church of Willmar via Zoom for informal discussion which will be available most Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Shortly before each Sunday there may be more specific information on their Facebook page which can be accessed using this link: [our Facebook events page](#).

Use the following link to Join Willmar's Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/91647871084?pwd=eVBGaENsRIRZT2VUL2J4N0JCVTNRQT09>

If you join by dialing your phone: Dial 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 916 4787 1084# Passcode: 920017#

*Your August TOUCHSTONES Journal was sent as an attachment with this newsletter distribution*

## **August President's Corner**

*by Lisa Bershok*

We've had a number of summer activities occurring, and a busy August planned with SCUUF activities occurring almost every weekend. A BIG thank you to everyone who has helped to plan, or hosted, any of these activities. It's been nice to see folks in person and reconnect. As we look forward to planning for our upcoming program year, the program committee, the technology committee, and the reopening committee are working on planning to allow for a hybrid option to be offered to start our services in September. This would allow individuals who feel comfortable attending in person to do so, and still have virtual options available for those who would like to participate from home. The September newsletter will include more information to help you make decisions for you and your family about how you would like to participate.

I would like to also provide an update about the long-term rental with the organization, Place of Nur we are considering. We are still information seeking with this organization. As an adult daycare organization, they have many steps they have to work through with the state to obtain a license. The original timeframe they had hoped to open by (September) is not feasible for them. Charlotte Stephens, as our rental liaison, continues to meet with them to seek answers to our questions about process and protocol. Our Buildings and Grounds chair is also seeking additional information about building code requirements. I will continue to keep the congregation updated. We appreciate the feedback and questions a few of you had in reaching out to Charlotte after the July newsletter was published. Again, if you have any comments, feedback, or questions about our Fellowship building being used for a long-term rental during the week to host an adult daycare, please contact Charlotte Stephens.

I look forward to seeing many of you again at future activities and when our program year starts.

## **Fall Hybrid Services**

*by Tom Hergert*

Our Fellowship has had a complex and interesting adventure this last year in continuing our community at a distance using Zoom and other tools. We appreciate everyone's patience and participation. Because of the successes of our Zoom activities, especially in including members of our community who are not local to St. Cloud, we plan probably to continue using technology for outreach. In that vein, we're asking for Fellowship members and friends to step up to be part of the hybrid service production group. There is no experience necessary and no technical expertise is required. The exact system and schedule aren't set yet, but we do expect to need a crew of 3 or 4 for every service. Please contact me at [tom.hergert@gmail.com](mailto:tom.hergert@gmail.com) or 320-493-2515 (text okay) to volunteer or for more information.

## **Joys and Concerns**

*from the Caring Committee*

On Saturday, June 26, a memorial gathering to celebrate the life of Elaine Schrenk took place outside the Fellowship building in the area behind the UU community garden. Elaine was a dedicated member of the Fellowship for the last five years of her life which ended in August 2020. Lucinda Hudson from the Meditation Group and Charlotte Stephens from the Caring Committee led the planning for the gathering in consultation with other Fellowship members and Elaine's sister, Carol. The gathering was attended by about 15 Fellowship members along with more than 20 other friends and family. Since her family and friends who attended are not UUs, we were happy to receive the following note from her sister: "Our heartfelt thanks to all the organizers and readers of Elaine's memorial service. You all did a wonderful job and I can't recall attending a more meaningful and personal service. We received so many lovely compliments about the service from family and friends. It also was special to see Elaine's painting nicely framed and presented at the memorial. I couldn't help but feel Elaine in our midst, so pleased to have the UUF community, friends, and family there to acknowledge her life." The family designated the Fellowship to receive memorial gifts as well as a gift from Elaine's estate, and an accompanying note said, "Thank you for so warmly welcoming Elaine into your spiritual community."

In July, Alan Phillips, a SCUUF member who moved to Minneapolis a few years ago, notified us that his companion of seven years, Eugenia McGrath, passed away at Abbott-Northwestern hospital on July 6. She was 84. Alan also said he plans to move back to St Cloud, perhaps later this 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).

### **Coming Together Again**

*by the Program Committee*

We've learned a lot since the spring of 2020 when our board ended in-person programming at our Fellowship building due to the COVID pandemic. This change forced our committee to become more creative in bringing UU programming to our members. We applaud our tech team for stepping up to offer bi-weekly services through zoom, allowing members to participate while remaining at home. This change also included developing a partnership with neighboring Willmar, which allowed us to share programming between the two congregations. "Coffee Talks" were implemented as a means for members to connect on Sundays when there were no services planned.

We look forward to resuming our Sunday Services on September 12th with guest minister Reverend Ashley Horan. We are planning for our Sunday services to be of a hybrid nature, thanks to the work of our Technology Team: Tom Hergert, Lisa Bershok and Jim Hixson. We hope that our Fellowship building can be open for those wanting to attend services in person. In addition we plan to offer all Sunday Services via live zoom for those wishing to attend from home or elsewhere. Program presenters may choose to come to our Fellowship building or to do it remotely. If you would like to learn more about facilitating zoom, our tech team is searching for more folks to help out on Sundays. If interested contact Tom [tom.hergert@gmail.com](mailto:tom.hergert@gmail.com) or 320-493-2515.

This year the St. Cloud Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Three Sunday services will be devoted to the celebration. Make sure to mark your calendar for these celebratory dates of October 10<sup>th</sup>, November 7<sup>th</sup> and December 5<sup>th</sup>. We strongly encourage members to attend either in person or via zoom on these service dates. Participants will have an opportunity to learn or revisit our Fellowship History and to appreciate our beloved long standing community.

The program committee invites any member interested in program planning to join our committee. As always we welcome suggestions for programs, help with readings or in planning individual programs. Contact Pam Peterson [pamelda4@gmail.com](mailto:pamelda4@gmail.com) or Wendy Schoen [wenschoen@gmail.com](mailto:wenschoen@gmail.com) if you would like to help out.

A reminder that our annual clean-up day sponsored by the Buildings and Grounds Committee has a date change from August 28<sup>th</sup> to August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00am.

## **MUUSJA Update**

*from Judy Foster*

For the first time in history the Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance Board of Directors has more representation from greater Minnesota than from the Metro! In addition to St. Cloud, we have Board members from Duluth, Rochester, and Willmar, and all three of our new Board leaders are from greater MN. I am one of those leaders and I am also the MUUSJA representative to the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle Learning Community, which meets once a month.

At the first meeting I attended I learned that SCUUF is among 117 congregations listed as having affirmed the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle. As I understand it, any congregation can call for national approval. That would have to be done this fall for consideration at the 2022 General Assembly. Otherwise, it will come before the national body in 2023. I'm still not clear on how the final language will be determined, but it will happen at the national level. Meanwhile, we are being urged to keep our focus on the intention of the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle, not the current specific language.

At our most recent MUUSJA Board meeting, we were introduced to the Intercultural Development Inventory, which measures both individual and organizational intercultural competence, moving from a monocultural to an intercultural mindset. This might be something the SCUUF Board could investigate. If the MUUSJA Board and staff decide to take the inventory, I will be able to provide more information.

Meanwhile, in MUUSJA's work

- There has been significant engagement around Line 3 work, leveraging relationships with the indigenous people, northern UU congregations and MUUSJA.
- The antiracism work and dismantling of George Floyd Square has been time consuming and emotional. Stronger connections from churches are needed.
- Immigration work has been centered primarily through the work from 1<sup>st</sup> Universalist. MUUSJA Director Karen Wills would like to add a 10-hour position for a Southern Regional Organizer who could lead the efforts in immigration and exploitation issues.

Let me know if you have any questions.

## **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](http://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](mailto: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.*