

St. Cloud UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Fellowship



May 2022

10:30 a.m. Sunday, May 1: Bitter Tears, A Video by Dr. Denise Lajimodiere

The Social Justice Committee offers this presentation on the timely subject of Indian Boarding Schools and the detrimental effects on Native people and their culture. Even Unitarians participated. The video introduces us to the American **Indian Boarding School** System by researcher and author, Dr. Denise Lajimodiere. **WARNING:** Video contains descriptions of child abuse and it's not appropriate for children.

MAY 1, 8, & 15 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.
NOTE OUTDOOR VENUES ON MAY 22 & 29.
Please visit www.uufstcloud.org for the Zoom information to join

10:30 a.m. Sunday, May 8: Environmental Justice: Using the "Dynamic Tension" of Our UU Principles as a Theological Guide – Meleah Houseknecht, UU seminarian

All too often we have treated our commitment to individual dignity and collective liberation as separate from our respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part. In her essay "[Ethical Implications of Environmental Justice](#)" Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt admonishes us that, "We should not allow our fear or our rightful sense of immense urgency to legitimize addressing centuries of environmental devastation in isolation from centuries of human oppression and despair." What theological guidance do our principles give us for addressing the dual crises of environmental devastation and human oppression if we hold and interpret them together, rather than in isolation?

10:30 a.m. Sunday, May 15: The Once & Future Church – Rev. Ashley Horan

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>

As we begin to tentatively re-emerge from two years of pandemic and so many national traumas, many congregations are struggling to integrate what we've learned, what we've lost, and what we yearn to become in the next incarnation. Drawing on the thinking of some of our Universalist and Unitarian theologians, we'll think together about what this new world is calling us to be as we find our bearings and move together into the future.

10:30 a.m. Sunday, May 22: Grieving Losses, Celebrating Lives (Location: Lions Park shelter in southwest St Cloud)

The Caring Committee is providing an opportunity for us to grieve losses experienced in the past two years and to celebrate the lives of members and friends who died since 2019 for whom we have not had a memorial service. These include long time members Alan Downes and Mary Howard as well as SCUUF friends Lowell Olson and Jim Hart. You will have a chance to share memories and to speak of other personal losses during this time. See page 2 below for directions and parking information.

12:00 noon or earlier. Sunday, May 29: Potluck Picnic (Location: John & Linda Peck's farm)

We'll eat at noon, but please come a little earlier. Bring something edible to share, as well as your own plates, cups and utensils. Lawn chairs may be helpful. The Sauk River and parks are nearby so additional optional activities include canoeing, kayaking, hiking, wildlife viewing, etc. Members of the Audubon Society may attend as well. See page 2 below for directions to the Pecks.

Informal activities are being planned for the summer. Weekly Sunday Services will resume on September 11.

Two Sundays Outdoors

from the Program Committee

The last two Sundays in May we will meet outdoors, not at our building and not via Zoom! Here's information about the locations, directions, and background of these gatherings to supplement the descriptions above.

May 22. 10:30 am. Lions Park covered shelter in southwest St Cloud.

Directions: The address is 4310 Dublin Drive, but the parking lot is on County 137. Go over the Hwy 15 overpass that's southwest of the Fellowship. (There's no way to access the park from Hwy 15.) The park is on the north side of the road, on the opposite side from Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Coming from the west, go east on Waite Park's 7th Street from the 4-way stop sign at 2nd Avenue. The parking lot is quite small so some may want to park on Dublin Drive or carpool from the Fellowship building.

Background: As the Caring Committee began to talk last winter about offering this program, we knew that we wanted to be together in person to share our collective and individual losses that we experienced over the past couple of years and to celebrate the lives of some who have died. With COVID uncertainties, we decided that the best way to be sure that we could meet in person was to be outdoors, so we scheduled for late May and rented a covered park shelter in case of rain.

May 29. 12:00 noon or earlier. John and Linda Peck's farm in Rockville.

Directions from St. Cloud/Waite Park: Travel west on Hwy 23 for four miles past the I-94 Intersection. Look for two green signs on the right: Rockville Downtown and Broadway Street. Turn right onto Broadway proceeding into Rockville. At the Rockville Gas and Bait station turn right (north) onto Co. Rd. 139. Once over the Sauk River STAY LEFT onto Sauk River Rd. Go past Rockville County Park to 12299 Sauk River Rd. approximately 1 mile west of the bridge.

Background: The Fellowship has a long history of ending the program year with a potluck picnic. Many different locations have been used but the favorite in recent years has been Peck's farm. Due to the pandemic this event did not take place the past two years.

May President's Corner

by Lisa Bershok

May is here, and with it comes our last month of Sunday programming for our 2021-2022 service year. I feel like my brain is playing tricks on me because it still feels like winter out there and not spring. It seems like we should still have a few months of services left. With the end of the service year also comes our Annual Meeting, for which we are in the process of planning the agenda. I encourage you to mark May 20th on your calendar from 6-8pm. For more information see the text box to the right. We will be electing our new leadership for 2022-2023 and discussing issues of importance to help our Fellowship continue to move forward. I hope you will join us.

The end of the year has me reflecting on my tenure as President this last year. I actually accepted the President elect position in May 2019, prior to the pandemic. It feels like a lifetime ago already. Much has changed in the world, our lives, and our Fellowship during this time. We have been required to be more adaptable in the face of uncertainty, and even as we have started to offer hybrid services again, it is becoming apparent that this is taxing to a small group of individuals due to the technology needs to offer this type of service. We have added many new faces to our Sunday Services via Zoom, and we are so happy to have you joining us! We hope we will continue to see you at some of our Summer Activities and again in the fall for our regular services. We have also lost participation from folks who have been with the Fellowship a long time for a variety of reasons. We hope if you are reading this newsletter, you will consider joining us again in person at the Fellowship. Our circle of volunteers has shrunk over the last two years, and this will be a point of discussion at our Annual Meeting. While it is more complex to lead Zoom and Hybrid services, the group of individuals available to plan Sunday programming, run the technology, and lead our business decisions has declined making this work harder to action. I hope you will consider ways in which you might be able to volunteer some time to a committee to help with some of these duties so we can continue to offer our wonderful Sunday services and programming.

June will be my last month as President of the St. Cloud Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. I want to thank everyone for their support in this role. It takes a village to run our little Fellowship. Specifically, I would like to thank our Board members, Committee Chairs, and Committee Members for the time you dedicate and donate to run our Fellowship. I should have transitioned into the President role for the 2020-2021 program year, but due to the pandemic's impact on my work and personal roles, Ozzie Mayers graciously stayed on for a second year as President, giving me time to work through my stay-at-home mom/teacher role and increased workload. For that, I am extremely grateful. And lastly, I want to thank the whole Congregation for your support. Thank you for believing in me and letting me lead your Fellowship as a newer member. Thank you for your financial and in-kind support of the Fellowship over the last few years while we weathered the pandemic. Thank you for the kind letters and emails of support when I shared personal difficulties recently. SCUUF is a community of connection and kindness. Thank you for letting me be a part of it.

The SCUUF Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, May 20th, 2022, from 6-8pm via Zoom.

We do not have the technology support to offer a hybrid option to attend the meeting at this time. If you do not have access to Zoom and would like to attend the meeting, please contact Lisa Bershok at lpbershok@gmail.com or 303-518-3886.

We will work to make sure you have options to attend. A separate email will be sent to members prior to the May 20th meeting that will include the agenda, related content, and the Zoom link.

Adult Religious Education

by Ozzie Mayers

The next Adult Religious Education discussion will be held via Zoom on Saturday, May 28th, 2:00-3:30 p.m. The topic is: “Reproductive Health.” To those who wish to examine how the UU Principles relate to this topic, please e-mail Ozzie Mayers (omayers@csbsju.edu), who will provide you with the Zoom invitation. He suggests you read the following article: <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/what-reproductive-justice> in preparation for this discussion.

May Meditation

by Helen Manion

On Saturday, May 14, the meditation group will meet at 10:30 a.m., EITHER in the Array Room at the St. Cloud Public Library, or at Munsinger Gardens, depending on the weather. We will send out an email a few days before that date, finalizing our location.

If meeting at the library, the Array Room is on the main floor and down the hall to your right as you enter the library. We will plan on distancing and wearing masks, with the option of pulling down your mask when speaking. If weather permits and we meet at Munsinger Gardens, we will gather at the picnic table area, which is a short walk to the left of the gazebo, when facing the river.

We’ll have Joys and Concerns, some short readings on the theme of “Not Holding On,” and 20 minutes of walking meditation (if we are at Munsinger).

We will update you about the location! If you have questions, please contact Helen at hmanion@yahoo.com.

SCUUF Book Club

by Judith Siminoe

The next discussion of the SCUUF Book group will be Saturday June 11, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. We plan to meet in the Fellowship Hall with masks and distancing but may consider meeting outdoors if the weather seems attractive for that.

We will discuss *Bewilderment* by Richard Powers and all are welcome although I appreciate it if you read the book before commenting. I have not heard from anyone who wanted to discuss the UUA Common Read for this year, *Defund Fear* by Zach Norris, but it is not too late. Just let me know if you would like me to organize a discussion of this book.

Summer Activities

by Wendy Schoen

During the summer months of June, July and August it has been our Fellowship tradition to take a break from our weekly Sunday services and offer informal opportunities for our members to stay connected with one another. We are always open to new summer activity suggestions. Some of our past events include our annual PBJ picnic at Bend in River Park, Splash Pad Park outings, Meditation meetings, Sing A-longs, kayak/canoe outings, picnics and music at Munsinger Gardens and discussions surrounding social justice issues. If you have an idea for an activity, or maybe an experience you've been dreaming of sharing with other UUs, the program committee would like to hear from you by May 15. A summer schedule will be created and be publicized during the summer.

Email ideas to: wenschoen@gmail.com

Communications Committee Call for Help!

by Judy Foster

First and most important I want to thank Jessica Beierman so much for her work on the website, the newsletter, and the calendar for the past few years. Her work has been superb, and we are so grateful. But now she needs a break from all things SCUUF, so we need some help replacing her. Fortunately, we have Shari Gieseke, who is willing to manage the website, but we need one or two volunteers for the newsletter and online calendar. Jessica will continue with these tasks through the summer and is available to train anyone willing to take over.

Besides Shari, there are just two more members of the Communications Committee, Tom Hergert and myself. As you know, Tom is one of our go-to people for all things tech, and he also chairs Buildings and Grounds (with very little help). I have my hands full chairing the committee, checking emails and voicemails, updating our Facebook Page, posting calendars at our building, archiving materials on our laptop, coordinating with Social Justice, helping to manage documents, and distributing messages as needed (not to mention coordinating the Community Garden and our table at St. Cloud Pride). **So, the bottom line is if we don't have one or two volunteers for the newsletter and calendar, we will no longer be able to provide those services.**

We seriously need some folks to step up and do their part to help out with communications. **How important are the newsletter and online calendar to the Fellowship?**

Support your Fellowship with a pledge and/or donation

from the Budget & Finance Committee

Starting in the early months of the COVID pandemic in 2020, we decided to forego a traditional Pledge Drive. Although the pandemic is easing at this time and we are currently holding hybrid meetings, we have again decided not to hold a traditional Pledge Drive this spring.

We are pleased and relieved that many members and friends have continued to support the Fellowship with donations throughout the pandemic. Now we are asking all members and friends to help sustain the Fellowship with your financial support by continuing previous pledge contributions or by making a new pledge or one-time donation.

You can donate through our website, uufstcloud.org using Paypal or by credit card, or by making your check payable to SCUUF and sending to:

Treasurer, SCUUF
PO Box 805
St. Cloud, MN 56302.

Information on how to donate is also posted during our ZOOM and in-person gatherings at the Fellowship.

To make a pledge for the 2022-2023 fiscal year which starts in July, or to get more information, please email our treasurer Ralph Carr.

Email: treasurer@uufstcloud.org

Membership Committee

by Marge Bates

Last month I reviewed a book about the importance of food to immigrant/refugee populations. This month I am going to share a book of recipes from many diverse backgrounds. A Place At the Table was a community project headed by Jane Oxton and includes our very own Chuck Head as Senior Sales Consultant. The recipes are from all over the world and the contributor is named. It was fun to see how many people I knew that had contributed to this, including Mayor Dave Kleis. It is available at the St Cloud Library. If you know someone from a culture other than your own, ask them about the recipe and see what they say.

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).

Children's Religious Education News

by Melissa Woods

CRE invites you to join in a late spring hike and picnic on Thursday, June 2nd at 5:30 pm out at St. John's University. We will meet at the art center since that's the start of the trailhead. There are picnic tables where we can rest and eat along the trail.

Since we were unable to collect mittens and gloves this winter for the homeless shelter, this time around we ask that you bring something even more necessary and useful - underwear! Hopefully the kids will get a kick out of donating that. 😊

Thank you as always for your continued support and we hope to see the children together again in June!

Anti-Racism Team Report

by Judy Foster

Last month we said we would send out information in April on what we plan to present at the Annual Meeting. Upon reflection we decided to send it as part of an Annual Meeting packet about ten days before the meeting on May 20. Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting. We need a quorum to make decisions and conduct our business. We look forward to your participation.

MUUSJA/8th Principle

by Judy Foster

The statewide Board of Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance continues to meet monthly. We welcome guests! Currently we are working on Board development, reviewing our mission statement, and working on asset mapping, not to mention our continuing outreach to UU congregations and social justice work.

At the last meeting of the 8th Principle Learning Community, the topic was reparations for descendants of slaves and other black people who have been denied property and rights. We now have 160 adoptions of the 8th Principle. Find us on this map:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1wy8PXall5SYDextXPm3BUJLEAhTDv1G7&ll=39.58234647165681%2C-91.67302309943118&z=5>.

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.