

St. Cloud UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Fellowship



May 2023

10:30 a.m. Sunday, May 7: Experiencing Hospice: Personal Perspectives – Ozzie Mayer & Sally Pitzen

Two Fellowship members will describe their various experiences with hospice care including at Quiet Oaks and beyond. What's it like to be a caregiver or volunteer when people are terminally ill? Hear how hospice supports families of those who are dying – from the perspective of a family member and a caregiver. Join us for this enlightening program as we also welcome new members to the Fellowship.

10:30 a.m. Sunday, May 14. Celebrating our Mothers and Caregivers

On this Mother's Day we'll celebrate our mothers and other caregivers by looking at the history of Mother's Day and how various cultures honor their mothers. Recognizing the importance of a nurturing, consistent adult caregiver in children's lives, we'll ask you, "Who was an important adult in your young life?"

10:30 a.m. Sunday, May 21: Pain and Religion – Rev. Shelley Dugan

Religion and pain have a complicated relationship. They attract each other, repel each other, create each other, and deny each other. There are many different ways religions understand discomfort, disease, and distress. Join us for this third and final sermon on pain. Together we will examine how the convoluted layers of our beliefs and our struggles become intertwined and what we can do about it.

12:00 noon or earlier Sunday, May 28: 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, or a blanket if you prefer to sit on the ground. The Sauk River and natural parks are nearby so additional optional activities include canoeing, kayaking, hiking, wildlife viewing, etc. Members of the Audubon Society may attend as well. It's great fun and fellowship for all!

Directions from St. Cloud/Waite Park: Travel west on TH 23 for 4 miles past the I-94 intersection. Look for two green signs on the right: Rockville Downtown and Broadway Street. Turn right onto Broadway and proceed 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.

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

MAY PRESENTERS PLAN TO PRESENT IN PERSON.

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

Coffee/tea will be served following the services.

To contribute to SCUUF:

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

*Informal activities are being planned for the summer. See separate attachment.
Weekly Sunday Services will resume on September 10.*

President's Corner

By Pam Peterson

Dear Beloveds,

Where has this Fellowship year gone? It seems we have moved from Covid levels and precautions to our “new normal.” We now have services running quite seamlessly with in-person and Zoom. Many thanks to the wonderful and hard-working tech people (Tom, Jane, Wendy, Carol M., Louise, Richard, and others) who have kept things moving, and thanks to Charlotte on Zoom as well. Without all of us, we couldn't do such wonderful work. We have been recording many of our services and are in the process of organizing them and getting them posted on our website. I'm excited to view some of the speakers I missed.

My crocuses and daffodils are finally ready to bloom. So I've been busy raking leaves off the flowerbeds so more “blooms-in-waiting” can appear. I love this time of year and look forward to the summer ahead.

We continue to have visitors and had community members at both concerts at the Fellowship. I find it very exciting to meet our guests and learn something about them. I think hospitality—welcoming each visitor—should be central to our mission. Each of us need to be an active member of the Membership Committee whether we're on the committee or not.

The Board supports holding Family Events each month. This is a way to get to know each other better and have fun at the same time. I hope that all adults will try to attend some of these events as we welcome families.

As I continue to share with you from *Growing a Beloved Community* by Tom Owen-Towle, the 10th hallmark is NURTURE STEWARDS.

They happen in churches when you're lucky; other places too, though I mostly only know ecclesiastical varieties.

Long haul people upon whose shoulders (and pocketbooks and casseroles and daylight/nighttime hours) a church is built and—more important—maintained after brass is tarnished and cushions need restitching...

For long haul people bless a church with a very special blessing. — Rudy Nemser (p. 73)

Stewardship encompasses you, your Fellowship, others in the world and our planet Earth. Active stewards think both locally and globally and then act to follow through on those beliefs and priorities. An example of this right now is how our Social Justice Committee and congregation have the opportunity to work more actively with The Promise Neighborhood. You are invited by the Social Justice Committee to attend Race Unity Day on June 3, 12:00-4:00. I hope many of you will be able to attend.

The term stewards means “keepers of the hall,” folks who labor to keep their chosen religious community spiritually, financially, and programmatically afloat — even lively and growing. Stewardship means drawing upon our highest intentions and most generous aspirations.” (p.74)

The workhorses of congregational life are the stewards. When asked to list ideals for UU character development, these are many of the responses—love, justice, acceptance, serenity, courage, joy, forgiveness and humility. But to sustain the path towards the Beloved Community, we need generosity and openheartedness.

“Churches must help society focus on compassion as our human imperative rather than on prosperity as our divine right.” (p. 78)

“Generous congregations are generative ones. ... They experience gratification of seeing wrongs battled, prejudices undercut, griefs lightened, communities upheld. They recognize that, in the end, we possess nothing except what we’ve shared or given away.” (p. 79)

I find hope for the future that as UUs we have open minds, loving hearts, and welcoming hands. I cherish our stewards and look forward to working together because we need one another.

Plan to attend our Annual Meeting at the Fellowship or on Zoom.

Friday, May 19

5:30 p.m. Social

6:00 p.m. Catered meal from Bravo Burrito. \$15.00 each.

Reservations needed for the meal. A reservation sheet is available at the Fellowship or sign up with Julie Peters 320-252-2829.

7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting

SCUUF book club will discuss *Ministry for the Future* on June 3

Submitted by Judith Siminoe

The book club will meet Saturday, June 3 at 10:00 at the Fellowship and will discuss a hopeful eco-catastrophe book: ***The Ministry for the Future*** is a novel by American science fiction writer Kim Stanley Robinson. With its emphasis on scientific accuracy and non-fiction descriptions of history and social science, the novel is classified as hard science fiction. It is also a part of the growing body of climate fiction. This book is both highly informative and entertaining. **Since the book is long, about 500 pages, start reading soon.**

Goodreads describes the book as follows: Told entirely through fictional eye-witness accounts, *The Ministry For The Future* is a masterpiece of the imagination, the story of how climate change will affect us all over the decades to come. Its setting is not a desolate, post-apocalyptic world, but a future that is almost upon us - and in which we might just overcome the extraordinary challenges we face. It is a novel both immediate and impactful, desperate and hopeful in equal measure, and it is one of the most powerful and original books on climate change ever written.

Two committees need your help and support

From the nominating committee, submitted by Louise Goetz

Our **Membership Committee** and **Budget & Finance Committee** need the support of new members beginning this summer. Please let me or a committee member know if you enjoy keeping your eye on “the bottom line” or would enjoy promoting Fellowship hospitality and making it happen. You decide your level of commitment. Contact Louise Goetz for more information. Thank you for considering these opportunities to support your Fellowship. Our other committees would welcome the interest of new members as well.

May and summer meditations

By Lucinda Hudson

On Saturday, **May 27**, the meditation group will meet at **10:30 a.m. at Munsinger Gardens**. Our group will gather at the picnic table area, a short walk left from the gazebo when facing the river. We will have Joys and Concerns, some short readings and poems on the theme of Spring, and 20 minutes of walking meditation.

Looking ahead, we have scheduled dates for walking meditation during the summer. Since we don't have Sunday services during the summer, the June, July, and August meditation gatherings will take place on Sundays at Munsinger Gardens. Here are the dates:

June 11 at 10:30 a.m.

July 9 at 10:30 a.m.

August 6 at 10:30 a.m.

If you have questions, please contact Helen Manion (hmanion@yahoo.com) or Lucinda Hudson (lucindahudson9@gmail.com).

Social Justice update

By Angela Stevens

Did you know that SCUUF has been designated a Climate Change Congregation by Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light? What, you may ask, is Interfaith Power and Light? It is not the Power company that supplies your energy. It is a National and State network of diverse faith communities coming together in response to climate change. <https://www.mnipl.org/> Google it!

Our responsibility as members is to have two postcard writing events a year in support of climate legislation issues. Currently we are working on a postcard writing session on May 21 regarding the Farm Bill. The Farm Bill is a multi-billion dollar bill that is passed every 5 years and expires this September. The current bill has been heavily influenced by Agribusiness and powerful food corporations with negative effects on small farmers, country of origin information on packaging, environmental pollution, and more. We will have the details on May 21 and request your help contacting your national leaders and the Minnesota Legislature. Details are also available at: [//familyfarmers.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/FarmBill101.pdf](http://familyfarmers.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/FarmBill101.pdf).

SCUUF Social Justice Committee invites you to:
RACE UNITY DAY at Promise Neighborhood.
Saturday, June 3 12-4 p.m. 1114 9th Avenue SE, St. Cloud.
Food is provided.
There will be a Henna Artist, Craft Booth, Justice Bus,
Fire Truck, and Community Booths, including a SCUUF booth.
Children and families are especially welcome. See you there.

Opportunities to publicize your programs and events

By Judy Foster, Communications Committee Chair

Your SCUUF Communications Committee is available to publicize programs and events that other committees sponsor. Please let us know if there is something you want us to promote to the general public. We can do press/media releases, social media posts, public service announcements, and community calendar postings for free. Depending on budget limitations, we can do paid advertising. Please allow plenty of time (at least two weeks) to request our services. Contact Judy Foster.

The Communications Committee would also welcome new members to the Communications Committee!

“If communications are not your top priority, all other priorities are at risk.”—Paul Omodt

Red Cross training for AED/CPR

By Julie Peters

We still have 3 openings for the **MAY 6** 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. training.

As facilitator and a participant of this training event, I want to thank ALL of the members of SCUUF. It's your support and your contribution dollars that make this training available at NO COST to members & their families. Your sponsorship of this amazing, potentially life-saving training reflects our values and our goals as Unitarian Universalists.

I volunteer on Tuesdays for the CATHOLIC CHARITIES senior food shelf shopping time. Most of the people who do their shopping are between the ages of 60-80.

On April 25, when a woman was 'checking out' she collapsed to the floor. Three of us workers were able to come to her aid while an ambulance was called. We were all able to perform first aid. What incredible teamwork we had! She had suffered a stroke. I have no doubt those of us able to assist her immediately aided in her opportunity to get to the hospital for further emergency assistance.

If you can, please take this opportunity to get training to help someone in need.

Please call me, Julie Peters, with any questions you may have. 320-249-2303.

Thanks again everyone!

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).

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. Contact Tom at tom.hergert@gmail.com

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.

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