

St. Cloud UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Fellowship



Summer 2023

Events and Activities

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.

Saturday, July 1 at 10:00 a.m. SCUUF book club discussion – part 2 on Ministry for the Future
Led by Judith Siminoe. Location: Fellowship building.

SCUUF book club will meet to discuss *Ministry for the Future* a second time. Our first discussion primarily focused on economics and monetary policy, so we decided to meet again for more conversation on other aspects. We will meet in the Sanctuary at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 1, and will again aim to engage in a hybrid conversation using Zoom.

Nominations for our next book are also invited.

Monday, July 3 at 7 p.m. Full moon drumming circle
Hosted by Erin Hughes and Jane Barth. Location: Fellowship building.

Join us on this Full Moon night as we drum in community with others throughout the world. Please bring a lawn chair and drum if you have one. There will be some drums and rattles available. Children are very welcome.

Sunday, July 9 at 10:30 a.m. Walking meditation
Hosted by Lucinda Hudson and Helen Manion. Location: Munsinger Gardens.

The meditation group will meet for a walking meditation, and we will gather at the picnic tables, which are a short walk to the left of the gazebo when you are facing the river.

If you have questions, please contact Helen Manion or Lucinda Hudson.

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>

Sunday, July 16 at 11:00 a.m. "Nature, Emerson, and cookies" at Bend in the River Regional Park

Hosted by Brenda Graves and Charlotte Stephens.

Enjoy a sauntering transcendentalist walk along the Mississippi, or remain in the oak grove for a discussion of provided quotes about nature by transcendentalist Ralph Waldo Emerson. Ice tea, water, and cookies will be served. This is not a potluck, but you may wish to bring a sack lunch. If you have a lawn chair that you can easily bring, that would be helpful.

Molly Pintok will host a separate time for families and children where families will read a children's book about Emerson's life and legacy. Then the group can go on a nature walk to incorporate and discuss themes they just read about. PB&Js will be provided, but feel free to bring additional snacks and beverages.

"Bend in the River" is 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.

Directions and parking: 1.4 miles south of Rice on River Road (CR 55) and from Highway 10 west on 105th Street and north onto River Road. Park at the farmstead. Location: 11231 River Road NE, Rice, MN 56367.

Sunday, July 30 at 10:30 a.m. Guided nature walk at SJU Arboretum

Hosted by the Caring committee.

The Abbey Arboretum is a mix of prairie, oak savanna, oak and hardwood forest, conifer forest, lakes, and wetland. Steve Saupe, a retired botany professor from CSB/SJU, will lead the group on this walk and will talk about the history of the area and anything interesting that we come across along the trail. Please note that the trail is "natural" and not paved. You will cross two wetland areas on floating boardwalks, and although the trail is not difficult to walk on, there are a couple of small hills in the woods. This is a family friendly walk and children are welcome to come along.

Directions and Parking: Head west on I-94, exit at St. John's University, and go toward the university. In approximately 0.7 miles you will see a small parking area on the left and a kiosk where we will meet at 10:30 a.m. If the parking area is full, you can park across the road in the grassy field (which is where people park for fall football games), or along county road 159 near the Arboretum entrance.

After the walk, which may last an hour or two, you are invited to join Steve and Linda at their nearby house to have your lunch, or you can head home. If you want to have lunch at the Saupes, please bring a bag lunch and a beverage. We plan to sit on the back patio, so if you have a lawn chair that you can bring, that would be helpful.

Tuesday, August 1 at 6:30 p.m. Lughnasadh celebration (Celtic Harvest Festival)

Hosted by Erin Hughes and Jane Barth. Location: Fellowship building.

Lughnasadh is a Celtic ceremonial festival day honoring and sharing the gifts of harvest that binds the ties of community and friendship. Those attending are asked to bring a poem or story and some fruits of your harvest or photos of them. If you choose, bring a simple snack to share, finger food only, to avoid the use of utensils and dishes. Please bring a lawn chair. Weather permitting, we will be outside. Children are very welcome. For more details, contact Erin Hughes.

Sunday, August 6 at 10:30 a.m. Walking meditation

Hosted by Lucinda Hudson and Helen Manion. Location: Munsinger Gardens.

The meditation group will meet for a walking meditation. We will gather at the picnic tables, which are a short walk to the left of the gazebo when you are facing the river.

Saturday, August 19 at 9:00 a.m. SCUUF Building and Grounds clean up

Join your Fellowship friends for our annual 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.

Sunday, August 20 at 10:30 a.m. Bagels and ethics

Hosted by the Social Justice Committee. Location: Fellowship building.

Come and enjoy bagels, coffee, or tea for a Social Justice presentation on "Our historical and ongoing relationship with Promise Neighborhood." Promise Neighborhood of Central Minnesota was established in 2012 to build bridges to success for children and families. Promise Neighborhood works to engage families in helping them achieve their educational, economic, and community aspirations.

Wednesday, August 30 at 7 p.m. Full moon drumming circle

Hosted by Erin Hughes and Jane Barth. Location: Fellowship Building.

Join us on this second Full Moon night of August as we drum in community with others throughout the world. Please bring a lawn chair and drum if you have one. There will be some drums and rattles available. Children are very welcome.



Our weekly services in the Fellowship building will resume on September 10

Newsletter continues on following page.

President's Corner

By Pam Peterson

Dear Beloveds,

It's time for our Summer Season and a break from the September-May schedule of Sunday services. This gives us a chance to get together in more informal settings. I hope you will take the opportunity to spend more quality time with your family and friends. Hopefully, you will also participate in some of the Fellowship events offered over the Summer. I will look forward to seeing every one of you back together in September.

Please consider how you can support our fledgling Children's Religious Education Program....It would be great if you could commit to leading a lesson a Sunday or two throughout the year. If you are willing, please contact me. Thanks much. Pam

This newsletter closes my musings from GROWING A BELOVED COMMUNITY: Twelve Hallmarks of a Healthy Congregation, by Tom Owen-Towle.

The 11th Hallmark is "Keep Journeying." John Lewis sees The Beloved Community at peace with itself, with a sense of coming together to serve the common good. "The journey toward the Beloved Community is a journey of a lifetime." (p. 81) A church that is healthy tries to balance personal growth, spiritual growth, and social justice in an aligned manner. We need each other and "believe that all of us are blessed in this evolving covenant of membership." (p. 83) We need to grow and evolve. "Our Unitarian Universalist congregations constantly nudge their membership to think of themselves not as human beings but as human becomings." (p. 84)

The 12th and final hallmark is "Know That You Are Not Alone." Commit yourself to growing and developing the Beloved Community—right here and now, right where you're planted.

I would like to close with this quote from Olympia Brown (the first woman to be graduated by the theological school and St. Lawrence University; the first woman in our country to achieve ministerial standing recognized by Universalists in 1863):

Dear Friends, stand by this faith. Work for it and sacrifice for it. There is nothing in all the world so important as to be loyal to this faith which has placed before you the loftiest ideals, which has comforted you in sorrow, strengthened you for noble duty, and made the world beautiful for you. . . . One God, one law, one element, and one far-off divine event to which the whole creation moves.

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Nominations Committee News

By Louise Goetz

Greetings All! Please know that we have some needs in our Fellowship's committees for this year. I would like to invite you to consider supporting some of the work of our committees. Specifically, the Children's Religious Education (CRE), Budget & Finance, and Membership committees have needs for members and chairs. We would love additional support in any of our committees as your schedule permits. If you have a willingness to help with our CRE planning this summer, please let me know! We're getting ready for an engaging CRE year at our Fellowship. Thanks for considering these opportunities. If you can help, please contact me or the chair of a committee you wish to join.

Are you missing something? A few items were left at the Peck Farm picnic gathering.

A red lawn chair, pink water bottle, and a blue Igloo were left at the Peck Farm after the picnic. Please call John or Linda Peck to claim.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

From your Budget and Finance Committee

On behalf of the Board, we thank all who made a recent pledge of financial support for the new fiscal year which begins in July. We also thank all who continue to make periodic donations. Because of your pledges and donations, our Fellowship remains in a good financial position. The proposed budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year was presented at the May 19 Annual Meeting and is on the agenda for the June Board meeting.

Pledges help us plan for the future, providing assurance that we can continue to offer programs, activities, and community support as well as maintain our building and grounds. If you didn't make a recent financial pledge or contribution, we invite you to do so now. Please send an email to treasurer@uufstcloud.org or send postal mail to SCUUF Treasurer, PO Box 805, St. Cloud, MN 56302.

During the summer you can make donations and payments on your pledge in any of the following ways:

1. Send a check payable to SCUUF to SCUUF Treasurer, PO Box 805, St. Cloud MN 56302;
2. Make recurring payments to SCUUF from your bank account, arranged at your bank;
3. Use our website, uufstcloud.org to pay by PayPal or credit card.

Thanks for your ongoing support and commitment.

General Assembly Report

By Judy Foster

The Unitarian Universalist Association's annual General Assembly began June 21 in Pittsburgh. Louise Goetz and I served as SCUUF delegates, attending the business sessions and voting virtually. We had our hands full with over 80 amendments to vote on for the proposed Article II revision. In the September Newsletter, we will report on the results of both the Article II vote and the election of our new president. If you receive UUA emails, you will no doubt be fully informed well before September. Keep in mind that the Article II revision vote this year is to forward the proposal, as amended, to next year's GA, when it will require a two-thirds vote for final approval.

MUUSJA Report

By Judy Foster

The Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance is undergoing a transition. Karen Wills has resigned as Executive Director, and the Board has hired Katharine Klein, who has been one of MUUSJA's staff members, to replace Karen. Katharine (Katie) is well-prepared for this position, having worked closely with Karen for a number of years. They will work together on this transition with Karen's resignation becoming official on Aug. 1, at which time Katie's contract will begin. Karen and Katie will join the Executive Board for a MUUSJA Retreat on Aug. 5 when planning will begin with new leadership. Let me know if you want to see Katie's impressive resume.

Communications Committee Report

By Judy Foster

Thanks to Marcia Neely for editing this Newsletter and to Shari Gieseke for serving as our Webmaster. Thanks to Tom Hergert for serving on the Communications Committee and providing Tech support.

Special thanks to Joel Bershok for his years of editing our **Directory of Members and Friends**. Because of his increased work duties, Joel has found it necessary to resign as Directory editor. **We need a new volunteer to perform this service twice a year, once in the Fall and once in the Spring.** Joel would provide the spreadsheet and any necessary training. The editor sets the deadline for receiving all additions, deletions, and revisions. The deadline is publicized in the newsletter about a month ahead of time, and it is the responsibility of each member or friend to send Joel any changes. Once a draft Directory is created, the Communications and Membership chairs, with the help of Charlotte Stephens, review and proofread the document before it is sent out to all those who are listed. **If we are unable to find a volunteer to serve as editor, we will no longer be able to provide this service.** Please contact Judy Foster if you can help out. It might also be possible to have co-editors, working together, or one for the Fall Directory and one for the Spring.

Thank you!

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 committee member:

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.

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.

