

St. Cloud UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Fellowship



January 2024 **PRESENTERS PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN PERSON.**

10:30 a.m. Sunday, January 7: Beyond the Golden Rule – Rev. Shelley Dugan

The Golden rule is the gold standard. It requires that we pay attention to others. It calls us to empathy and imagination. It is direct about community and consequences. It is a solid base for a moral and spiritual life. As people belonging to a faith community, we are exhorted to go beyond the Golden Rule. Today we will explore what that looks like, ways we might do it, and how it could feel. Bring your curiosity, a non-judgmental attitude, and a wide-open heart as we explore living beyond the Golden Rule.

**SUNDAY SERVICES
WILL BE
MULTIPLATFORM.**

**YOU MAY USE ZOOM
OR ATTEND IN
PERSON.**

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

Children’s Program (CRE): Racism.

Continuing the conversation related to the 2nd and 8th Principles, touching on power, bullying, and unfair treatment because of skin color. What can UU kids do? Facilitated by Mary Ness.

10:30 a.m. Sunday, January 14: The Remarkable Rhetoric and Messages of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Board members will lead a discussion about The Poor People’s Campaign and “I Have a Dream” Speeches which changed the United States forever. How are these messages meaningful today? Please bring your connections to these speeches and campaigns to share with the Fellowship.

Children’s Activity: *The “Bright Bulb Kidz Korner” in the Sanctuary is stocked with quiet games, puzzles, word searches and activities for the youngsters to enjoy during the service. You’re all invited to check it out and make suggestions for what else belongs there.*

10:30 a.m. Sunday, January 21: Sex Trafficking & Sexual Exploitation in Minnesota – Cynthia (CeCe) Terlouw-Kvistad

Sexual Exploitation/Trafficking is in our communities and all around us. This presentation will help us understand the dynamics of how it happens, who the victims are, how to identify it and some prevention measures. We will also learn what it takes to bring healing and restoration to victims of sexual exploitation through Terebinth Refuge’s Model of Hope & Healing. The presenter is Founder & Executive Director of Terebinth Refuge.

Children’s Program (CRE): Meditation.

Lucinda Hudson leads as we experiment with different approaches to meditation, both meditative movement and stillness. Ever experience a calm mind? Here are ways to help it to happen.

10:30 a.m. Sunday, January 28: Article II Commission Proposed Revision

Judy Foster and Judith Siminoe will lead us in a review of the proposed revision of our denomination's purpose, values, and covenant. See <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/final-proposed-revision-article-ii>. Join us in discussing these important changes. A final vote on the revision will take place at the all-virtual General Assembly, June 20-23, and we can have delegates vote on behalf of our congregation.

Children's Activity: The Bright Bulb Kidz Korner.

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>

President's Corner

Beloveds,

I welcome you to 2024 at the St. Cloud Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. It is wonderful that we just welcomed new members and have had many visitors. Please consider inviting your friends and neighbors to visit our Fellowship.

I was reflecting on what we UU's believe and came across this in 101 Questions about UU and would like to share this with you:

What do Unitarian Universalists believe?

- Every individual should be encouraged to develop a personal philosophy of life.
- Everyone is capable of reasoning.
- We do not need any other person, official or organization to tell us what to believe.
- We should be able to present religious opinions openly, without fear of censure or reprisal.
- All people should be tolerant of the religious ideas of others.
- Truth is not absolute; it changes over time.
- Everyone should continue to search for the truth.
- Everyone has an equal claim to life, liberty and justice.
- People should govern themselves by democratic processes.
- Ideas should be open to criticism.
- Good works are the natural product of a good faith.

I hope you take advantage of Fellowship activities beyond our Sunday services. Some of these include: (1) Meditation, (2) Book group, (3) Full Moon Drumming and (4) Circle dinners. Each of these gives us an opportunity to get to know others in various settings. You can also reach out and call another UU or make plans to get together. The more we interact, the stronger our bonds become——so let's keep making connections with each other!

I wish you a very Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing *you* at the Fellowship.

Pam

Meditation at the Fellowship on January 6th

Meditation Group—The meditation group will meet on Saturday, January 6, at 10:30 at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. The theme will be gratitude and contentment, and it will be led by Helen Manion.

Sacred Talking Circle

We are offering a gathering at the Fellowship for folks to sit Circle together on **Saturday, January 13th at 2:00 P.M.**

The intent of Sacred Talking Circle is to support Wholeness in ourselves, in one another, and in the Earth. The format is a traditional Talking Circle of adults invited to honor All Our Relations and to share from the Heart.

Facilitated by Erin Hughes and Jane Barth

MLK Community Celebration

In support of our commitment to Anti-Racism, the Social Justice Committee encourages members to join us in participating in the Martin Luther King Community Celebration Jan. 13-17. We especially suggest the Breakfast on Jan. 15. Registration is required.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=10168279948025461&set=gm.2030943107263318&id=1296742507350052>.

Full Moon Drumming

Please join us at the Fellowship building on **Thursday, January 25th at 6:30 P.M.** on this Full Moon night as we drum in community with others throughout the world. Bring a drum if you have one. There will be some drums and rattles to share. A love offering is appreciated. Facilitated by Erin Hughes and Jane Barth

SCUUF book club to meet in February

Start reading for our February 10th book discussion in the sanctuary, (let me know if you need a zoom link). We will meet at 10 am and will talk about:

This Contested Land: The Storied Past and Uncertain Future of America's National Monuments by McKenzie Long.

The next book will be The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride... read by the end of March, date not yet set.

Communications Report

By Judy Foster

Wonder where the monthly newsletters that are printed and available for visitors come from?

Many thanks to Hanni Epp!

We still need someone to update our Directory on an annual or biannual basis. Joel Bershok will provide training and spreadsheet. Let me know if you can help.

Committee Chairs Take Note: We have a media list, and I can publicize your events and programs. Just send me a description.

Remember: "If communication is not your top priority, then all your other priorities are at risk." -

-Bob Aronson

MUUSJA Report

By Judy Foster

Terri Burner of Unity Church-Unitarian has joined the Executive Board of the MN UU Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA). We now have representation from Duluth UU, First Universalist in Minneapolis, Rochester UU, St. Cloud UU, Unity in St. Paul and Underwood UU. Since this is my last year on the Board, we could use another representative from St. Cloud. Let me know if you are interested.

The MUUSJA Annual Meeting included a review of all that the organization has done to support social justice: reproductive and health rights, protection of democracy, refugee support, and LGBTQ+ rights, to name a few. Your sustaining or one-time donations support this work, as does our annual congregational donation.

Two of us on the MUUSJA Board attended a UU Social Justice webinar on "Recognizing/Resisting Fascism." We both agreed that one of the main take-aways was that UUs need to step up and exhibit "civic bravery" in addressing the rise of fascism. You can view the webinar at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qh8Bk6UfIJA>.

I also attended the MUUSJA presentation on Reproductive Justice. The presenter was Grace Reardon of Unrestrict MN. She reported that there may be some upcoming St. Cloud media coverage of crisis pregnancy centers. I was shocked to hear of some of the deceptive practices that go on in these centers.

Article II Report

By Judy Foster

Please join us on Jan. 28 to review the final proposed revision of Article II, which will be voted on at the June General Assembly: <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/final-proposed-revision-article-ii>.

Please consider serving as a delegate representing our congregation at this all-virtual Unitarian Universalist Association annual meeting.

Several amendments are also being proposed. They will be included in the final proposal if they get 15 congregations to support them: Article II Amendments Needing Congregational Support to Move Forward - General Assembly 2024 / Article II Amendments - Unitarian Universalist Association Forums (uua.org). If you have an opinion on one or more of these amendments, please let the Board know.

To respond to an article in this newsletter and/or get further information, here are some ways to connect with the person who submitted an article:

- Find contact information on the Leadership page of the emailed newsletter.
- Talk to the article-submitter in person before or after a Sunday Service.
- Use the SCUUF Directory to find the person's contact information.
- If you don't have an emailed Newsletter or Directory, call SCUUF at 320-252-0020 and leave a message that includes your name, phone number, and the name of the individual you want to reach. We will arrange for that person to contact you.

Calendar Reminders

AVOID ZOOM CONFLICTS: We encourage you to use the Zoom license 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.

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.

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, 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).

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.

St. Cloud Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

3226 Maine Prairie Rd.

P.O. Box 805

St. Cloud, MN 56302

320-252-0020 www.uufstcloud.org