

# St. Cloud UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Fellowship

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

## **10:30 a.m. Sunday, March 3: Building Community Through Art – Sarah Drake**

Creating art that shows Black people in a positive light so her biracial daughter can see herself represented in the world around her is what drives Sarah's creative practice. Learn how she uses her lived experiences and the art making process to help people better understand those who appear different from them. Sarah doesn't create just to have something pretty to look at, but also to generate dialogues and build community.

**Children's Activity:** Bright Bulb Kidz Korner. Soup Sunday meal after the service.

**SUNDAY SERVICES  
WILL BE  
MULTIPLATFORM.**

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

Visit [www.uufstcloud.org](http://www.uufstcloud.org) for  
information to join on Zoom.

## **10:30 a.m. Sunday, March 10: Ramadan and the Pillars of Islam – Hassan Yussuf (Daylight Savings Time Begins Today: Spring Forward!)**

On this day when Ramadan begins for our Muslim neighbors, we'll learn about the Five Pillars of Islam, and focus on the critical importance of Ramadan. We'll delve into the reasons behind fasting, the abstentions required, the individuals obligated to fast, those who are exempt, and the essential conditions for fasting. How does this impact individuals and the community?

**Children's Program (CRE): Youth Roundtable** – School year successes, CRE Field Trip, Partnering with Pastor Buddy's Jubilee Church kids, CRE Planning for Spring, etc. Bring your top three wishes to the Roundtable.

## **10:30 a.m. Sunday, March 17: Investing In Our Values – Rev. Shelley Dugan**

Ministers must learn how to discuss three topics without avoidance, stammering, lowering our voice, or using euphemisms: Death, Sex, and Money. Today we throw our constraints to the wind and discuss money: more specifically, money and the church. Join us as we begin our exploration of the relationship between the power of religion and the power of money.

**Children's Activity:** Bright Bulb Kidz Korner. Soup Sunday meal after the service.

## **10:30a.m. Sunday March 24: Communication Impacts Every Part of Your Life**

The term communication refers to the sharing of ideas in common. In other words, it is the transmission and understanding of facts, ideas, opinions, feelings or attitudes. This program will be presented by Judy Foster from our communications committee and Wendy Schoen from our program committee.

**Children's Program (CRE): Introduction to drumming**

on hand drums and djembes with drummers and educators Jane Barth and Erin Hughes. History, protocol and songs for the Mother Drum. Perhaps a performance to look forward to?

## 10:30 a.m. Sunday, March 31: Aligning Our Hearts – Myo-O Habermas Scher

Waking up this morning, before we step our feet on Mother Earth who holds us unstintingly, with what do we align our hearts? How we lead ourselves through our ordinary days, and how we are led by them is no small matter. Spiritual practicing touches this alignment over and over. We touch the world, over and over, bringing blessing, being blessed. Let's investigate this miraculous process together.

**Children's Activity:** Bright Bulb Kidz Korner and Youth Drummers share a song or two.



### President's Corner

*By Pam Peterson*

Beloveds....

Even though March is just beginning, it seems many of these days that we are well into Spring. I can see the dirt and I'd like to plant a few seeds. Just know that I really enjoy each warm and sunny day. I hope you enjoy this month as the seasons change.

I am so impressed with the programs we have each Sunday...whether it's a UU minister, our musicians, a social justice presenter, an author or some other outstanding presenter. I just want to say, "Hats off to an outstanding Program Committee."

Then there are so many committees that work "behind the scenes." The Finance Committee works hard and keeps our finances on track. The membership committee has coffee and tea available each week as well as welcoming visitors and new members. The Buildings and Grounds Committee takes care of many interior building needs as well as our grounds. The Social Justice Committee drives many of the activities we support. Our CRE program is up and running again thanks to Louise and the wonderful volunteers. Our music group and choir bring joy to all of us. The Tech Team is the glue that holds our Zoom program afloat. Of course, I appreciate having such a wonderful and hardworking Board. Then there are individuals who give service in large and small ways. MANY THANKS to everyone at the Fellowship. I would like to share this poem about life with you... May you enjoy and cherish this life of ours:

Clouds are flowing in the river, waves are flying in  
the sky.

Life is laughing in a pebble.

Does a pebble never die?

Flowers grow out of garbage, such a miracle to see.

What seems dead and what seems dying makes for  
butterflies to be.

Life is laughing in a pebble, flowers bathe in  
morning dew.

Dust is dancing in my footsteps and I wonder who  
Is who.

Clouds are flowing in the river, clouds are drifting  
In my tea.

On a never-ending journey, what a miracle to be!

-by Eveline Beumkes

#### 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-](https://tinyurl.com/Donate-SCUUF)

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## **Meditation**

The meditation group will meet on Saturday March 2, at 10:30 at the UU Fellowship. Our theme will be the Middle Way. Looking ahead to April, there will be a one-day meditation retreat on April 27th, led by Myo-O Habermas-Scher and Genjo Sam Conway. If you would like to sign up, please contact Helen Manion or Lucinda Hudson. Further details about this retreat will be coming soon.

## **Please join us in celebrating the Spring Equinox**

A time of perfect balance-- with the dawning of Spring, we begin to practically apply what we learned in the dark season. If we were gifted a dream in the dark, now is the time when we dance our dream awake. The dream comes from Spirit; therefore, we have all we require to bring it forth. We sit in the East of the Medicine Wheel, the place of new beginnings.

Tuesday, March 19th at 6:30 P.M. at the Fellowship building.

Facilitated by Erin H. and Jane B.

Love Gift appreciated.

## **Full Moon Drumming**

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

## **SCUUF book discussion group news**

We will meet Saturday March 30 to compare notes and observations on James McBride's *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*. The date for discussion of our next book has not yet been set it will likely be in May. The book is *A Future we can Love: How we can Reverse the Climate Crisis with the power of our hearts and minds* by Susan Bauer-Wu. At this time we are accepting nominations for our next read to be discussed mid-summer so let me (Judith Siminoe) know if you have recommendations.

## **SUPPORTING OUR VALUES**

From your Budget and Finance Committee

Back by popular demand 😊, the annual pledge drive returns after a four year hiatus! On Sunday, March 17, pick up your pledge form to complete regarding your plan of giving for the year that begins July 1, 2024. You can return it immediately or within the next three weeks, by April 7, and your pledged contributions can be made any time before June 30, 2025. Forms not picked up on March 17 will be mailed, and this year you also have the option to make your pledge electronically.

The pledge drive gives each of us an opportunity to show our commitment to the St. Cloud Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. When we say how much we expect to contribute in the next year, we help ensure that our community remains vibrant and full of warmth. The theme this year is **Supporting Our Values**. We hope this theme reminds you of the importance of the Fellowship to you and how the values we promote are consistent with your personal values.

## **Children's Religious Education**

We're making some adjustments to our Children's Religious Education program based on parent feedback. On the second and fourth Sundays of each month from March to May, a Children's Religious Education (CRE) experience, based on UU Principles, will be offered for children and youth ages 5 – 16. Topics for the year have included: This is What Democracy Looks Like, Insects, A Creative Expression of Thankfulness, Bullying, Beekeeping, Meditation, Islam and Racism.

The Bright Bulb Kidz Korner in the Sanctuary will have quiet games and activities for children to enjoy during the other Sundays of the month. A "Time for Children" story time is offered early in the service, and a nursery is available for infants and toddlers.

I'd love to include you and your talents in our CRE program. Please let me know of your interest. Thank you, Louise Goetz

## **Membership Committee Report**

As we get closer to the end of the year, we would like to inform new members and potential members that we will soon be having our Annual Meeting. In order to vote at that meeting, you have to be a member. Anyone can attend, but only members can vote. If anyone out there is considering joining, please let someone on the Membership Committee know. We will get the information to you. You must review the literature, sign the book and be introduced to the membership. We have one person so far that is interested in becoming a member and her introduction will be in May. The Board wanted me to share the following information: "Soup Sundays will resume on the first Sunday of the month, starting in March. The Pledge Drive begins on March 17 with Rev. Shelly Dugan speaking, and a potluck dinner is planned. Everyone is invited to bring something to share."

## **Planning Ahead for Summer**

by Wendy Schoen, Co-chair of the program committee

As spring arrives, we're already planning for summer. Do you or a committee you are on want to host a summer activity? We're looking for informal opportunities for members to stay connected with one another on any day of the week. Please contact Wendy Schoen from the program committee now with your ideas or offers to host a summer event. The committee will then compile all the events and create a schedule for the May newsletter. Our deadline to be included in the May newsletter is April 15, so March is when we want to hear from you.

## **Communications Committee Report**

Charlie Orlando has agreed to update our Directory along with our Membership and Newsletter Lists. Anyone who does not want to be included on her spreadsheet for this purpose should let Charlie know. You can also be listed on the spreadsheet but ask that your name and/or contact information remain private. See Charlie's contact information on the Leadership List at the end of the Newsletter. We sent out press releases on the programs by Doug Wood, Jim Read and Sarah Drake. In addition, we are working on setting up an Instagram account and linking it to our Facebook account so that our FB posts will also appear on Instagram.

## **Spring 2024 Directory Coming Soon - Are You In?**

By Judy Foster

The Communications Committee is preparing an updated Fellowship Directory to be used by members and friends wanting to contact others within the Fellowship. We need your help for the directory to be as accurate and complete as possible.

If you are listed in the 2023 Directory, I sent you an email message on Friday, Feb. 23, asking for you to provide updated information.

If you didn't receive that email message, we need to hear from you to add your information if you want to be included in the new directory. The directory listing for each household includes NAMES of adults, ADDRESS, PHONE (Home and Cell), EMAIL ADDRESS, and FIRST NAME of children in high school or younger who attend Fellowship programs or activities. You can omit some details if you don't want them included.

If you have new information or if you want to opt out, contact me by March 6. See my contact information on the Leadership list at the end of the Newsletter. Later in March, the new directory will be sent by email to those who are listed in it, and it will serve as the calling list in the event that we need to call everyone regarding a cancelled Sunday service or other change in schedule.

## **Article II and General Assembly**

By Judy Foster

See the final Article II proposal along with proposed amendments here: <https://discuss.uua.org/c/ga24/2024-a2-amendments/28>. You can also view and make comments. The Article II Revision with amendments will be up for a final vote at the national all virtual UUA General Assembly June 20 -23. We need two delegates to represent us and vote for us on this important issue. Let Pam Peterson know if you are willing to serve as a delegate.

## **MUUSJA Report**

By Judy Foster

The MN UU Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA) is a member of the Coalition of UU State Action Networks (<https://cuusan.org/>) that seek to organize for justice. This is my last year on the MUUSJA Board, and it would be great if someone else would volunteer to represent us in that role. Meanwhile, we are currently struggling with a budget deficit and the need to fill vacancies on the Board. Thus, our main focus is fundraising and recruiting more Board members. If you can help with a donation, please see <https://www.muusja.org/>. If you are willing to serve on the Board or can recommend someone, please let me know.

## **UU Summer Camps**

In the mail we received a large postcard about Camp Unistar which is on Star Island in Cass Lake in northern Minnesota. The camp has been enjoyed by SCUUF families and individuals in past years as it offers weeklong programs with a different theme each week during the summer. Check details at [www.campunistar.org](http://www.campunistar.org) or see the postcard on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary. Information about other UU camps will be posted when received.

**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 their contact information on the Leadership page of the emailed newsletter.
- Talk to them in person before or after a Sunday Service.
- Use the SCUUF Directory to find their 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 and phone number and the name of the individual you want to reach. We will arrange for that person to contact 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](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 in-person and Zoom meetings.

**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**

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