

UU SPIRIT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Fargo-Moorhead



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VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

Dedicated to sharing the Unitarian Universalist message in the Red River Valley and beyond.

August 2010 FMUU Programs

Sunday services are followed by coffee and conversation.



**Wed., August 4
7:00 p.m.**

FMUU Movie Night

For the Bible Tells Me So

This compassionate, insightful and entertaining documentary brilliantly reconciles homosexuality and biblical scripture and in the process reveals that church-sanctioned anti-gay bias is based solely upon a significant (and often malicious) misinterpretation of the bible. This film focuses on several families, some famous, some not, who have a gay son or daughter and offers healing, clarity and understanding to anyone caught in the crosshairs of scripture and sexual identity.

**Children's Religious Education Classes
begin Sunday, August 22 at 10:00 a.m.**



August 22 at 11:00 a.m.

Sanjay Lal

The Teachings and Life of Gandhi

FMUU member and Gandhian scholar Sanjay Lal will discuss issues of truth and persuasion in the philosophy of the Mahatma Mohandas Gandhi. The main focus is exploring the question of whether one has to share Gandhi's faith in the inherent goodness of humanity in order to accept a philosophy of nonviolence. Lal's talk is based on his paper, *Gandhian Non-violence as not Presupposing Human Goodness*.

Sunday, August 15 at 12:30 p.m.

Interfaith Pride Service in the

Island Park Gazebo



All the colors of the rainbow are honored in song, prayer and story as we celebrate LGBTQA Pride 2010 in an outdoor service with our interfaith allies. Meet at the Island Park Gazebo in Fargo at 12:30 p.m., note the time. Seating is limited, so bring a blanket or lawn chair. In case of inclement weather, the service will be held at the FMUU Church. The Pride Parade will begin from Island Park following the service.



August 29 at 11:00 a.m.

Christina Armendarez *Singing Our Tradition*

One of the board and program goals for 2010-2011 is to better know our hymns and our hymnals. Music Director Christina Armendarez will help us understand the origins of some of our great music and in a singing practice that will develop both skill and appreciation when we are *Singing the Living Tradition*.

Water Communion: Bring water from your summer travels to share in a ritual of rejoining.

CHURCH CALENDAR

WED. AUG 4 @ 7:00 PM	FMUU MOVIE NIGHT
THUR. AUG 5 @ 6:30 PM	WORSHIP LEADER TRAINING
SAT. AUG 7 @ 10:00 AM	WORSHIP LEADER TRAINING
WED. AUG 11 @ 6:30 PM	ALL COMMITTEE MTG
SUN. AUG 15 @ 10:30 AM	BOARD MEETING
SUN. AUG 15 @ 12:30 PM	PRIDE SERVICE ISLAND PARK GAZEBO
SUN. AUG 22 @ 10:00 AM	CHILDREN'S RE CLASSES
SUN. AUG 22 @ 11:00 AM	WELCOME BACK SERVICE

Worship Leader Training

As we prepare for the new church year, I would like to invite anyone interested in the worship aspects of the church to meet with me at the church for training as a worship leader. This is a fun job. It requires comfort with public speaking and expressive reading ability. Trained leaders will help the service flow smoothly.

The training will be offered on two dates:

Thursday, August 5 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 7 from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Anyone wanting to participate as a worship leader (formerly called the host) needs to attend the training even if they have former experience as a Sunday host.

The workshop will include:

- Tips and procedures for worship leadership.
- Running sound and audiovisual systems.
- Troubleshooting and facilitating worship.

Beverages and a light snack will be provided.

Please RSVP to Laurie at emsdatter@gmail.com or (701) 866-1197 if you plan to attend and which session you will be attending.



Google Earth

William Weightman created a model of our FMUU Church and it is now found on Google Earth! Please keep in mind that they insist it be as simple as possible while giving a realistic impression. Google Earth is a free and fun

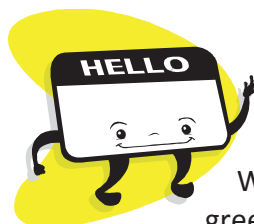


Thank You

The church would like to thank everyone who volunteered to mow the lawn and water the plants this summer.

Joseph Kennedy	Barb Anton
Ally Darling	Keith Sahlin
Ruth Swain	Don Quittschreiber
Gail Wischmann	Elwyn Krogh

Some of you volunteered more than once and we appreciate your hard work.



Sunday Greeters are Needed

We are looking for volunteers to greet people as they arrive on Sundays. Greeters no longer have to water the plants. All is required of you is to greet people and encourage visitors to make a nametag and sign the guest book. In addition, count the number of people who attend the service and record the number on the attendance sheet. Please contact the office or Stacy Nicholson at stacyn@gomoorhead.com or (218) 233-2001, if you are willing to be put on a rotation for this duty or how often you are willing to volunteer.

Harvard Square Library

<http://www.harvardsquarelibrary.org/>

Harvard Square Library was created by Herbert Vetter and presents issues that religious liberals stand for—and against—to audiences around the globe. For his pioneering work in the communications field, he was honored in 1983, by the award of the Doctor of Divinity degree by the Meadville Lombard Theological School, which is affiliated with the University of Chicago. The Harvard Square Library website began in 2000 as a retirement activity of Herb Vetter. This site offers great UU reading material.



Message from Our President

By Mark Sinner

This summer has already provided profound experiences that will potentially enrich and inform our upcoming church year and beyond. In late June, six members and staff attended the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association. We listened, debated, laughed, drummed, danced and sang. We came home with ideas, books, questions, dreams and an appreciation for our connections to UUs nationwide. We heard 4000 voices singing *Blue Boat Home* with Peter Mayer and stood in a sea of yellow *Standing on the Side of Love* tee-shirts supporting marriage equality with other UUs. We are part of a culture-shaping, paradigm shifting time and it feels good to be reminded of the gravity and relevance of the bold expression of our religious values.

I was inspired by the shared wisdom, scholarship, and practice of compassion and love in all interactions and proceedings. Our UUA President Peter Morales spoke forcefully about the level of disconnection that Americans live with today. One-third of Americans live alone, top answer to how many neighbors you know is zero, number of confidants to share personal issues dramatically reduced in last 20 years to one. Visitors come to our congregation looking for meaningful connections. We honored breakthrough congregations that featured collaborative community projects and lent their voice to the vital conversations of our day.

Study issues go through a three-five year process to become a UUA Statement of Conscience (SOC). This year we approved Creating Peace as our new SOC. Ethical Eating, the study of food choice and our food delivery system is working its way to a final vote. This year Immigration as a Moral Issue was selected as the new study issue. The process of these issue statements included intense emotional debate, revisions, rethinking and ultimately an up or down vote. Amazingly to me, compassionate communication was consistently practiced and modeled. The end result was usually a refined statement that honored everyone's input.

With all of this in mind I am full of hope and commitment that FMUU, as a small Midwestern lay-led congregation, can face its challenges and find ways to grow, and most importantly, equip its members to live their values boldly.

(For more information on GA, see www.uua.org)

All Committee Meeting Wed., August 11th at 6:30 p.m.

The Place and People committee will be working together on organizing and cleaning the church inside and out. If you have a good music CD that we can listen to while we work, please bring it.

There will be no dinner for this meeting, but if anyone wants to do a snack/dessert potluck that would be great.

If you are looking for a simple way to be involved in the church with minimal commitment, this is a great opportunity.

We are also in need of someone to organize the church library.

The Program committee will be meeting at the same time in the sanctuary.



Dorothy Day Food Pantry

The FMUU Church collects non-perishable food on the first Sunday of each month for the Dorothy Day Food Pantry.

If you are able and willing to collect our donations and bring them to the pantry, please contact the office at fmuu@fmuu.org or call (701) 235-0394.



FMUU Choir

The choir will be practicing and singing on the first and third Sunday of the month at 9:30 a.m.

EVERYONE is welcome to join!

Caring and Sharing Corner



FMUU member, Jane Butler, passed away on July 28, 2010 after a long illness. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her husband Mac and son Nicholas. The following is a poem Jane wrote when she was 16.

*Each day was once set softly, to last
from beginning to end, with bells ringing unbrassed
tunes to the ever-listening winds.*

*So it is supposed to be, in this, a world of wheat
meadows, fields enough to run long in, to be there
with every soft thought.*

*If you're passing through a treed, uncurried, one
store, God-kept town, follow a soft thought down to
a morning meadow's youngest child.*

If you would like to submit an article for caring and sharing, please email it to the office (fmuu@fmuu.org) by the Aug. 15.

The church will send cards for important life events (birth, death, illness/hospitalizations and weddings) of our UU members & friends. Please help us in identifying those who are experiencing life changing events in their lives or may need a message of cheer and hope by contacting the church at fmuu@fmuu.org or (701) 235-0394.



Pride in the Park

The FMUU Church will have a booth setup for FM Pride in the Park on **Saturday, August 14** in Davy Park at 210 8th Street North Moorhead.

We need volunteers who would be willing to sit at the booth, distribute brochures, and sell UU items.

The following time slots are open:

Noon – 2:00 p.m.

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m. – close at 5:00 p.m.

Please reply to the office at fmuu@fmuu.org or (701) 371-4481, if you are willing to volunteer.

If you have any questions about the event, please contact Mark Sinner at msinner@gmail.com or (218) 233-0337.

How is Worship like a Road?

By Laurie Baker

Those of us who have traveled on country roads in the springtime know about ruts: how they are hard to get out of, how they can grab you and pull you in even when you are doing your utmost to stay out of them. How sometimes we choose them consciously: perhaps because they are safe or maybe because the ruts ARE the path we want.

Attending General Assembly bumped me out of some mental ruts about worship, liturgy and service planning. What a wonderful shakeup!

Those of you who attend Sunday Services regularly know that last year we tried on a variety of songs to open and close services; that we are working to revive the choir though we need more voices. (Yes, we need YOUR voice.) But at GA I heard new things about song leading, hymn selection, and contextualizing the musical experience that I will share with the music staff and with you.

The Program Committee is in deep dialogue about all aspects of worship. In consultation with them, I will experiment with the order of service and the service elements themselves. These experiments are to give you a taste of the options and to give the Program Committee time to consider what we collectively want the FMUU Sunday worship experience to be at this time. So if the first part of the church year seems as if we are bouncing in and out of our old ruts, the rest of the year will be a road we have chosen. We hope this will be an experience of searching and deepening meaning for all.

As program planning rolls forward, remember that your suggestions and referrals are vital to having a diverse and vibrant year. You can email me, Laurie Baker, at emsdatter@gmail.com.

New Home

The Grand Forks Unitarian Universalist Fellowship has moved to their new building at 217A South 4th Street. They invite you to stop by if you are ever in the area.



www.fmuu.org

Have you been to our website recently? We are excited about our update and hope you find it easy to use.



Chalice Lighters

We are looking for children to volunteer to light our chalice during Sunday services. Younger children can be assisted with the lighting and reading by their parents or the service leader. Contact Laurie Baker at emsdatter@gmail.com or (701) 866-1197 if your child would be interested in this activity.

WELCOMING CONGREGATION

We are a Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congregation that seeks to be a spiritual home for people of free faith regardless of race, color, gender, affectional or sexual orientation, age, national origin, socio-economic status, physical or mental ability.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fargo-Moorhead is to provide to its members, and to the community, an environment of religious tolerance, a loving fellowship of diversity, an open forum for the exchange of social, political, and moral ideas and values, and a religious home for spiritual growth without fear of reprisal.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education classes are held for children of all ages Pre-School through High School. Children's classes are held every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. The curriculum covers UU Principles, World Religions, and Social Justice.

NURSERY ROOM

Child care is provided on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for children four years of age and under. We do not have child care for children over the age of four during our services at 11:00 a.m. Older children will be expected to attend the service.



August & September Coffee Servers

- August 22 Ronni Arensberg & Phil Mouch
- August 29 Bill Thomas & Amy Bauroth
- Sept. 5 Carol Kapaun & Mark Chekola
- Sept. 12 Warren Christensen & Deb Crawford
- Sept. 19 Ruth Danielson & Joseph DeMasi
- Sept. 26 Sarah King & Jim Fremstad

Contact Thom Richmond at (701) 235-3904 or richmond@cord.edu if you have any questions.

We would like to thank our congregation members who serve coffee each Sunday. All of our church members are placed automatically on the coffee server list and serve twice a year. We are grateful that our congregation is willing to help with this task.

CHURCH BOARD MEMBERS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| President, Mark Sinner | (218) 233-0337 |
| President-Elect, Tim Peterson | (701) 532-0335 |
| Treasurer, Elwyn Krogh | (701) 235-6632 |
| Secretary, Brian Arett | (218) 236-1386 |
| At-Large, Janice Johnson | (701) 237-4206 |
| At-Large, Sanjay Lal | (218) 227-5662 |
| At-Large, Stacy Nicholson | (218) 233-2001 |
| At-Large, Thom Richmond | (701) 235-3904 |
| At-Large, Jon Solinger | (218) 233-8001 |

CHURCH EMPLOYEES

- Katie Christensen, Coordinator of
Children's Religious Ed.
Phone: (701) 235-5278
E-mail: kt_christensen@yahoo.com
- Laurie Baker, Program Coordinator
Cell: (701) 866-1197 E-mail: emsdatter@gmail.com
- Julie Allen, Office Manager
Office: (701)235-0394 E-mail: fmuu@fmuu.org
Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
If urgent call cell: (701) 371-4481