

UU SPIRIT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Fargo-Moorhead



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VOLUME 6, ISSUE 4

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

November 2010 Programs, Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

Sunday services are followed by coffee and conversation.

Nov. 7: Linda Boyd Coates



Musings About Music With Anthems by the Mighty Congregationalists

"While my personal spiritual path has always been through music, it has been a rewarding experience to share that journey with various choirs throughout my life. I continue to learn how music can enhance the worship experience of a particular service or liturgical season, and I love sharing the joy of music making with enthusiastic singers." The choir of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Moorhead will perform several pieces in contrasting musical styles as part of the service.

Nov. 14: Michael Carbone



The Face of Homelessness in North Dakota

Homelessness is on the rise everywhere in the U.S., including North Dakota whose strong economy is a beacon for those in need of a way to sustain themselves and their families. This week is Homeless Awareness week, a fitting time to delve into the social justice issues and spiritual calling to help the less fortunate. Michael Carbone is the executive director of the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless Persons.

Nov. 21: Bob Worner

Bridge Over the River Why



Bob Worner is a member and leader of the Unitarian Church of Underwood in Minnesota and a former United Methodist minister. In "The Bridge Over the River Why," he will discuss finding an interface between religion and science.

Nov. 28: Listen to the Heartbeats We Share



From *Storycatcher* by Christina Baldwin, "Our life story is our constant companion, the litany that guides our every move and thought. So we need to make our lives a story we can live with, because we live the life our story makes possible."

According to UU minister Reverend Barbara Kellett, we live our lives into the stories we tell. This beautiful sermon was first delivered at a Dakota UU Church on March 30, 2008.



FMUU Orientation Class on Sunday, November 7 at 12:45 p.m.-2:45 p.m.

There will be an orientation class for anyone new to our church. The orientation class is open to all who wish to explore a membership relationship to the FMUU Church and those who desire further information about Unitarian Universalism. **Please see the last page of the newsletter for more details.**



CHURCH CALENDAR

| | | |
|--------------|------------|------------------------|
| EVERY SUN. | @ 10:00 AM | CHILDREN'S RE CLASSES |
| EVERY SUN. | @ 11:00 AM | WORSHIP SERVICE |
| EVERY SUN. | @ NOON | TEEN RE CLASSES |
| SUN. NOV 7 | | FOOD PANTRY DAY |
| SUN. NOV 7 | @ 9:30 AM | CHOIR REHEARSAL |
| SUN. NOV 7 | @ NOON | FALL BACK POTLUCK |
| SUN. NOV 7 | @ 12:30 PM | FMUU ORIENTATION CLASS |
| WED. NOV 10 | @ 6:00 PM | PIZZA SOCIAL |
| WED. NOV 10 | @ 6:30 PM | PEOPLE & PROGRAM MTG |
| SUN. NOV 14 | @ 9:00 AM | BOARD MEETING |
| SUN. NOV 14 | @ 3:00 PM | DRUMMING CIRCLE |
| MON. NOV 15 | | NEWSLETTER DEADLINE |
| WED. NOV 17 | @ 7:00 PM | FMUU MOVIE NIGHT |
| SUN. NOV 21 | @ 9:30 AM | CHOIR REHEARSAL |
| SUN. NOV 21 | @ 12:30 PM | PLACE COMMITTEE MTG |
| THUR. NOV 25 | | OFFICE CLOSED |
| SUN. NOV 28 | @ 9:45 AM | SUNDAY MORNING FORUM |
| SUN. NOV 28 | @ 3:00 PM | DRUMMING CIRCLE |
| MON. NOV 29 | | OFFICE CLOSED |



Drumming Circle

Announcing a Sunday afternoon drumming circle for adults who like to lift their spirits with a beat. The second and fourth Sundays at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary. Some extra instruments are provided but bring drums, rattles, and other rhythm instruments if you have them. Everyone is welcome and no experience necessary.

Sunday Morning Forum November 28 at 9:45 a.m.

This adult education discussion group will meet on the fourth Sunday of each month. Everyone is invited to attend.

Flowers for FMUU and U



The FMUU Church will provide flowers for the sanctuary on the first Sunday of each month and we are inviting members of the congregation to sponsor the flowers if they would like.

For a sponsorship of \$30 you can take the wrapped flowers (not the vase) home following the service or donate them to another person or organization. Flowers that are left in the church do stay fresh for one more service.

The bouquets could be a memorial to a deceased loved one or to honor an important person or milestone in your life. The bouquet donor and the person/event being honored will be mentioned in the Sunday bulletin.

We have had some interest from people who would like to share the cost of the flowers. If you would like to sponsor a whole or half of a bouquet, please email Ruth Morton at mortons@cableone.net or the church office at fmuu@fmuu.org.



Inclement Weather Announcement

In the event that children's religious education classes, a church service, or other church event is cancelled due to inclement weather, we will post our closing on the following sites:

Online with the Forum at <http://www.inforum.com/>

WDAY <http://www.wday.com/>

KFGO Radio and online at <http://www.kfgo.com/>

TV stations KVLV-11 and KXJB-4 and online at <http://www.valleynewsalive.tv/>

This decision is based on the general conditions that exist for the majority of the congregation and/or when the National Weather Service has stated no travel is advised. Please always use your own judgment in determining if the weather is suitable for traveling before you make your journey to the church.

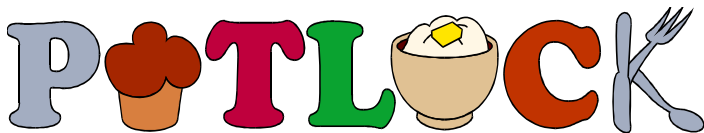


Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to shovel our walks during snowfalls of less than two inches. Snowfalls more than two inches are done by a local service. If you are able to volunteer to shovel for one or two weeks, please contact the office.

Volunteers Needed for Nov. 7

We need volunteers to assist with the potluck on Nov. 7. Help is needed setting up and taking down tables and chairs, etc. Please let Jim Fremstad know by contacting him at 218-287-4950 or emailing him at Jfremstad@midco.net.



It's time to celebrate the changing seasons with our annual Fall Back Potluck on Sunday, November 7, after the worship service.

Bring your fall harvest or your supermarket harvest to share in your favorite fall recipes. And PLEASE don't fail to set your clocks back an hour or you'll miss all the wonderful food!

A few reminders: Bring your salads, fruits, and breads already cut up/prepared and hot foods already cooked as our kitchen is too small to accommodate these activities while the coffee

servers are doing their jobs. A few of these cooked dishes can be kept warm in the oven if already hot. There will be labels available for you to list any allergy-sensitive ingredients and whether vegetarian or meat-based.



Wednesday, November 10

FMUU Pizza Social at 6:00 p.m.



People & Program

Committee Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Our People and Program committees will meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. for pizza (free will offering) and social time. At 6:30 p.m., each group splits off to meet until 7:30 p.m.

Contact the office, (701) 235-0394 or fmuu@fmuu.org, if you would like to join a group. Membership is not a requirement to join a group and childcare is provided by request for these gatherings.

By joining a group, you are assisting the church to become vital and grow. In return, the group will give you a sense of accomplishment and community.

The Place group meets on the third Sunday of each month at 12:30 p.m.

If you need childcare for this meeting, please contact the office by Noon on Monday, November 1.

Please RSVP to the office with your pizza choice by Noon on Tuesday, November 9.



Dorothy Day Food Pantry

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

Please bring your nonperishable food donations to church on Sunday, November 7.

Laurie Baker will take our collection to Dorothy Day this month. Thank you Laurie, for volunteering your time and gas to help with this service!



FMUU Choir

The FMUU Choir needs more voices!

Rehearsals are the first and third Sunday at 9:30 a.m. We also sing on those Sundays. Everyone is welcome.



A Message from Our FMUU President

As many of you know, at the General Assembly of the UUA this past June, a new Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) was accepted: Immigration As a Moral Issue. A CSAI is not a statement but a question, a topic of concern for congregations to confront, reflect on, learn about, respond to, comment on and take action on behalf, each in our own way. As a faith organization, we join with other Unitarian Universalists to commit time and energy to a question of our time. And in doing so we contribute to the discussion both within Unitarian Universalism and in the larger world. We add our voice, a voice of liberal faith, to the cultural dialogue. We become more informed, more involved, more relevant. Given the justice-oriented nature of our UU faith, we can be leaders in the struggle for human rights of all kind, in this instance in the struggle for immigrant and refugee rights, in the movement to see immigration as not only a legal issue but also a moral issue.

Currently 191 million people worldwide are living outside their country of origin, are in transit, in refugee camps, in detention centers, or living and working in places without full legal status and without access to social services or protection of civil rights. Most of this migration is due to war, natural disaster or poverty. More women are migrating than in the past. Here in the United States 12 million people live and work without these basic rights and without a path to citizenship.

The UUA suggested topics for study include: What underlying factors contribute to global migration? And where are we complicit or accountable in these factors? What are our positions on the enforcement of national boundaries? Who are the immigrants in our communities? What is the economic impact of immigration? Using UU principles and values, what would be a just and humane immigration policy?

As a faith of justice, we must confront not only the Arizona/Mexico border issues, but also issues of immigration injustice closer to home, here in the Red River Valley, in our own schools and industry and community.

The UUA's Common Read Project asks all congregations to read together and discuss *The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona/Mexico Borderlands* by Margaret Regan. We are currently planning our own Common Read Group. Let Julie Allen or Claudette Peterson know if you can be a part of it.

We have one and possibly two upcoming Sunday programs that will educate us on local immigration issues and challenges. Members of FMUU are getting involved with a local organization looking at immigration issue lobbying needs in the ND legislature this winter. We could also offer intercultural awareness programming; we can conduct workshops on immigration that include the facts and the human stories; we can take an active role in community organizing that effects our local immigrant populations; we could coordinate experiential travel to be a part of the call for immigration justice.

We find in our faith a way to be in the world with impact and community. Let us be curious, let's learn and reflect and take action together. Immigration is a moral issue and we have the opportunity to be a part of how this country faces the complexity and struggle. Let us add our voice of justice and compassion to this critical conversation.

*Thank you,
Mark Sinner*

For more information on this and other CSAI activity, go to www.uua.org.



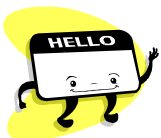
FMUU Common Read

Immigration as a Moral Issue

As we have mentioned, the study topic selected at UU General Assembly in June was immigration. The Unitarian Universalist Association is inviting UUs to participate in a Group Read of the following book. *The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona-Mexico Borderlands* by Margaret Regan (Beacon Press, 2010) presents a series of intimate stories from immigrants, activists, human rights workers, and border patrol people. Through their stories, the book explores the ethical, moral, and spiritual challenges presented by the complex immigration issues on the border, evoking our human response, rather than a political or policy debate. Regan calls us to the religious act of bearing witness to brutality and despair along with extraordinary courage and commitment.

Reading is a solitary act, but the stories Regan tells are not easily held alone. Discussion groups provide a place for conversation and discernment as to how we will respond and act. Talking together enhances each reader's encounter with the book and can give diverse people a shared experience on which to build meaningful conversation and action.

The book is available in hardcover and paperback. The paperback is on backorder through the UUA Bookstore, but I was able to order mine from Amazon for approximately \$10. I have a discussion guide that we could use to have one to four sessions to discuss the book. If you are interested, please contact Claudette Peterson at 701.532.0335 or Peterson.claudette@gmail.com.



November Greeters

Nov. 7 Theo Kirkley

Nov. 14 Gail Wischmann

Nov. 21 Donna Jones

Nov. 28 Audrey Richmond

If you would like to volunteer to greet our visitors on Sunday morning, please contact the office or Stacy Nicholson at stacyn@gomoorhead.com.



Our FMUU Children Need Your Help!

The Children's Religious Education Program will be making some changes in January. Children in preschool-7 years of age will be meeting during the service at 11:00 a.m. Children 8-12 years of age will meet at the same time as the teen group (13+) after Sunday services.

With this change comes a great need for volunteer teachers at 11:00 a.m. Teaching RE is a great way to learn about your own faith while creating a strong faith foundation for our children. Volunteer teachers will teach a 4-week class during the service. All materials will be provided. Please contact me at kt_christensen@yahoo.com or 235-5278 to volunteer.

The Children and Teen Programs are both exploring aspects of UU identity. Do you wonder what our faith symbol is and what it represents or how it became our symbol? Ask a child or teen at FMUU and you'll get the answer!

Thank you,
Katie Christensen
Children's Religious Education Coordinator

FMUU Movie of the Month

The Face of Homelessness

Wednesday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m.



This 26-minute documentary was produced locally by the FM Coalition for Homeless Persons. It was directed and filmed by Hanna Polak, an academy award nominated director. This powerful

film features the faces and voices of homeless men, women and children from Fargo-Moorhead. Discussion will follow. This showing coincides with Homeless Awareness Week and the release of the 2009 survey of the homeless in Fargo and Moorhead by the Wilder Research group.

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE



Kick-off November 21

Once again, it is the time of year to invite an extra guest to your Thanksgiving table in the form of a box with pictures of people the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) has been assisting around the world. We will celebrate Guest at Your Table from Nov. 21 until the end of 2010. As in the past, we read stories of these people pictured on the boxes while seated at meals around the table and place coins or bills in the box, which will eventually be sent to UUSC in Cambridge, MA. to help with the various projects.

The UUSC is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year, after originally being established to help those whose human rights were violated by the Nazis during the Second World War. Since then it has been expanded to include many others who need social justice elsewhere in the world as well as in the United States. The Committee serves by supporting local partners who are working for justice within the countries.

In 2009-2010, the FMUU Church was named a Vision of Justice Banner Society because 50% of our members were listed as UUSC members as well. This is a higher level than we have achieved in the past and the new banner is being displayed. As members, we honor "the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part," the 7th UU principle. Our contributions help insure that UUSC will continue to provide an outlet for UU faith in action. Envelopes are available for the purpose of sending in the membership amount if one does not wish to keep a guest box.

The Service Committee is a member of the national UU Association just as we are, but it receives no financial support from the UUA. It depends upon its members. Please consider lending your support.



Audrey Richmond,
UUSC Congregational
Representative



Transgender Day of Remembrance Saturday November 20 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

We are coming together in Fargo-Moorhead in the Unitarian Universalist Church to remember those whose voices were silenced, whose lives were cut short. Let the transgender community know that while everyone else may have forgotten, you will not allow our dead to remain a secret. Stand on the Side of Love and remind others that every life matters.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. We live in times more sensitive than ever to hatred based violence. Yet even now, the deaths of those based on anti-transgender hatred or prejudice are largely ignored. Over the last decade, more than one person per month has died due to transgender-based hate or prejudice, regardless of any other factors in their lives.

Through the vigil, we express love and respect for our people in the face of national indifference and hatred. Day of Remembrance reminds non-transgendered people that we are their sons, daughters, parents, friends and lovers. Day of Remembrance gives our allies a chance to step forward with us and stand in vigil, memorializing those of us who have died by anti-transgender violence.

Everyone is welcome to attend, please join us.



Church Library Organizer Needed

Do you love books? Do you love going to the library? Then you are the person we need. Our church library needs someone to maintain and organize it. This task requires minimal time commitment. You can work on it anytime the church is not in use or after Sunday coffee hour. Please contact the office if you would be willing to volunteer your time and skills at fmuu@fmuu.org or (701) 235-0394.



November Coffee Servers

- Nov. 7 Patty Leonard & Frances Magin
 Nov. 14 Sheri McMahon & Carolyn Monzingo
 Nov. 21 Mark Morrison & Bob Olson
 Nov. 28 Ruth & Sid Morton

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.

If you are not a church member, but would like to volunteer serving, contact Thom Richmond at (701) 235-3904 or the church office fmuu@fmuu.org.

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. Classes for children (ages 4-12) will meet on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and the teens (ages 13-18) will meet after Sunday services at Noon. The curriculum covers UU Principles, World Religions, and Social Justice.

NURSERY ROOM

Child care is provided on Sundays at 10:00 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.

FMUU Orientation Class

Sunday, November 7

12:45 p.m.-2:45 p.m.

There will be a one-day FMUU orientation class for anyone new to our church. Topics will include our UU Heritage, UU Principles, and a video on Unitarian Universalism. You will have an opportunity to share your spiritual journey and to reflect on the journeys of others in the congregation. Opportunities for further involvement and engagement with the church will also be explored. There will be an Ingathering for those desiring membership on November 21 during the service. The orientation class is open to all who wish to explore a membership relationship to the FMUU Church and those who desire further information about Unitarian Universalism. Childcare will be provided for this class. Please RSVP to the office at fmuu@fmuu.org or (701) 235-0394, if you wish to attend this orientation class.

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 Education
 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