

UU SPIRIT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Fargo-Moorhead



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

April 2011 Programs, Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

Sunday services are followed by coffee and conversation.

April 3: Teen RE

Speaking Out

Our exceptionally talented Teen Religious Education class will lead the service and showcase both their talents in public speaking, story telling and their acquired knowledge of UU principles.

Join us for a New Member class after the service. Tim Peterson will present UU Principles in Story and Worship.

April 10: Reza Saberi

The Mystics' Journey

Reza Saberi, now a resident of Fargo, was born and raised in Iran. He received his Bachelor's degree in English from Tabriz University in 1963. The following year he graduated from the Teachers' Training College in Tehran. He taught English in Iran for several years, translated scientific articles for the science magazine, *Daneshmand*, and published a novel in Persian. After moving to the United States in 1973, he received his Master's Degree in English from Seton Hall University in New Jersey. He then attended NYU, CWRU, and NDSU, taking various courses in liberal arts and sciences. His experiences as an educator, translator, author, and world-traveler in both the East and West, his interest in various cultures of humankind, and his constant search for truth through various religions, philosophies and sciences all have been reflected in his books. He has been in love with Persian poetry all his life and this motivated him to work several years on the translations of *The Divan of Hafez*, *A Thousand Years of Persian Ruba'iyat*, and *An Invitation to Persian Poetry*.

April 17: UU Panel

Serving with Grace

Many of us have read and studied this small, but priceless, book about service in the Unitarian Universalist tradition. Members of the study group will reflect on the text's meaning for them and its relevance as we strive to create and maintain a vibrant church community.



April 24

Rev. Nancy Holden

Stage Six

Rev. Holden's message, entitled "Stage Six" is based on the work of James Fowler, who created a model of spiritual development like Ericson's model of physical and mental development. Faith is not a body of knowledge one can learn, but a developmental process that can be charted on a continuum of growth. Conscious control of religious beliefs and choices is limited by the level of spiritual maturity; one may become bogged down or "equilibrated" in an immature stage, but progress toward authentic adult faith will take some people to "stage six," when all barriers are overcome.



April 2011 FMUU Church Calendar

	Date	Time	What
Sun.	4/3/2011		Food Pantry Collection Day
Sun.	4/3/2011	9:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sun.	4/3/2011	12:30 p.m.	New Member class, Principles in Story & Worship
	4/5-4/12		Office Will Be Closed
Sun.	4/10/2011	9 a.m.	FMUU Board Meeting
Mon.	4/11/2011	6:30 p.m.	Social Justice Council Meeting
Wed.	4/13/2011	6 p.m.	Pizza Social
Wed.	4/13/2011	6:30 p.m.	People & Program Committee Meeting
Tue.	4/15/2011		May Newsletter Deadline
Fri.	4/15/2011	6:30 p.m.	Adult RE Common Read
Sun.	4/17/2011	9:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sun.	4/17/2011	12:30 p.m.	Place Committee Meeting
Fri.	4/22/2011	6:30 p.m.	Adult RE Common Read
Sat.	4/30/2011	7:30 p.m.	FMUU Spring Concert - Kris Kitko & Joseph DeMasi
Every Sun.		11 a.m.	Worship Service
Every Sun.		11 a.m.	Children's RE ages 4-7
Every Sun.		Noon	Children's RE ages 8-12
Every Sun.		Noon	Children's RE ages 13 and up

Looking Ahead

Sunday, May 15 after services, we will have our FMUU Annual Meeting. It is essential to have all of our members attend.

Worship

Coordinator

Job Opening

With guidance from the Program Committee and Program Committee Chair, serves as Worship Coordinator for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fargo-Moorhead. Coordinates the music program with the Music Director and Pianist. Using topics and themes developed by the Program Committee, plans, organizes, and implements Sunday Worship services; generates ideas for topics and speakers and presents them to the Program Committee. Responsible for worship administration tasks such as creating the Sunday Order of Service, and coordinating the printing with the Office Manager. Preferred individual has strong verbal and writing skills, self-directed and deadline driven, organized, creative thinker and problem solver, able to work collaboratively with many different stakeholders. Must possess a social justice consciousness, as well as education and event planning skills. College degree preferred but not required depending on other qualifications. Send resume and cover letter to Unitarian Universalist Church of Fargo-Moorhead fmuu@fmuu.org.

Wednesday, April 13
Pizza Social at 6:00 p.m.
People & Program Meeting
At 6:30 p.m.

Plug Into an FMUU Group
We Need Your Power!

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. At 6:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, everyone meets for a pizza social (free will offering and please RSVP). People and Program meet that same night at 6:30 p.m. Childcare is provided.



Contact Jim Fremstad at (218) 287-4950 or jfremstad@midco.net, by Monday, April 11 with your pizza RSVP.

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



Our three RE groups have been going strong this year. February was spent examining religions from around the world including Buddhism, Paganism, Islam, Hinduism, and Quakerism. The groups enjoyed books, yoga, meditation, and some visitors

from the different religions. Judaism is the focus of March – more books, more discussions, and more guests including teens from the synagogue in town! Huge thanks to Chris Hames, Audrey Richmond, and Carolyn Monzingo for leading our RE groups!!!

Genna, our wonderful childcare provider, is working on the base of a very artsy tree downstairs. Keep your eye on this beautiful tree as it grows into a Poet Tree filled with the words of your youth.

We are still in need of volunteer teachers for the middle's group which meets after the service from 12:10-12:45 during April and May, Please contact Katie at kt_christensen@yahoo.com if you're interested in helping!

RE CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS.



FMUU Choir
April 3 and 17

All are welcome to join the choir - prior choral experience is not necessary. Choir meets in the church at 9:30 a.m. every first and third Sunday of the month for rehearsal, and performs that Sunday for the 11:00 a.m. service.

Please join us!



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, April 3.

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

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 mortonrs@cableone.net or the church office at fmuu@fmuu.org.

Sponsors are needed for May.

One Way to Contribute....

By Katie Christensen

When I moved from Maine, a friend gave me the book "The Middle of Nowhere" to read during the trip. She thought I'd find it interesting considering my background as a language teacher and fascination with cultures. She was right. The author, Mary Pipher, speaks of her experiences as an advocate for refugees in Lincoln, Nebraska. After reading about the struggles and obstacles that many immigrants and refugees face, I decided that I could help eliminate some of these obstacles by offering my tutoring skills. I started searching for programs and came across Giving+Learning. It was through this program that I became connected with Noura, a woman from Jordan living in Fargo. She was taking classes at a community college and wanted help with her studies. Owen and I started going to her house most Friday mornings for two semesters. We would often work through her assignments and then discuss any other questions she had about the city – the bus, grocery shopping, doctor appointments, banks, manners, how to greet people, leaving messages on a phone.....

While I was working with her a few weeks ago on a paper about technology, it occurred to me that I was providing her with more than just homework help. I am helping her gain confidence in her academic skills which encourages her to be active in class. By being active in class, her professors get to know her and are then more likely to aid her in moving forward with her studies and job search someday. When we meet, I offer her a safe place to ask questions and make mistakes, I am giving her a chance to strengthen her verbal skills while making her more knowledgeable which means that she'll feel comfortable asking questions and understanding responses at doctor appointments for her infant or herself therefore improving her health and the health of her family. By being an advocate and supporter, she knows that she can run ideas past me thus reducing the chance that she'll be exploited or deceived.

I cannot express how fulfilling and fun it has been to work with Noura. She is a hard worker who laughs at her mistakes and enjoys learning. I know that she is only one person and that I am serving a very small portion of the immigrant/refugee population in Fargo. However, new Americans have the best chance to succeed here if they have an advocate. You can be an advocate by offering something that you already have – a concern for others and the ability to speak English.



Prairie Star District Annual Conference Des Moines, Iowa April 8–10, 2011

The PSD Annual Conference is a weekend of lectures, workshops, worship, networking, and fellowship. The conference begins at 7:00 PM on Friday, but there are pre-conference activities earlier on Friday. The Conference concludes at 10:30 AM Sunday.

Our conference theme comes from a reading in our hymnal, "It Matters What We Believe" (#657) by Sophia Lyon Fahs. It begins, "Some beliefs are like walled gardens. They encourage exclusiveness and the feeling of being especially privileged. Other beliefs are expansive and lead the way into wider and deeper sympathies."

We are our best selves when we achieve understanding and empathy. We are at our worst when we can only proclaim what we are against. How do we challenge ourselves to be our best, while avoiding the trap of being exclusive ourselves?

Come and explore this theme with us. How do we articulate our individual beliefs? How do we help our children form their own moral compass? And how do we, as a church, take a public stand on ethical issues?

Rev. Brian Eslinger will present the Keynote Address: *Telling Our Stories* on Friday, April 8, 2011

We'll explore the unique story that is our Unitarian Universalist narrative and the larger human story that is part of all our lives.

Rev. Kendyl Gibbons will present the Judy Lecture: *Spiritual Maturity as the Goal of Faith Development* on Saturday, April 9, 2011.

Just as we expect ourselves and others to change over time in physical, intellectual, and emotional ways, so we should be anticipating growth in our religious lives. It matters what we believe about the purpose of religion, and the potential for spiritual maturity in each of us.

For more information go to www.psduua.org.

Ostara and Easter Similarities of Their Traditions, History, and Customs

The word Ostara refers to the celebration of the spring equinox. The origin of the word comes from Eostre, a Germanic goddess of spring. Eostre (also called Ishtar or Oestre) was the goddess of spring and fertility. In the Germanic countries, this was a time to celebrate planting and the new crop season. Typically, the Celtic peoples did not celebrate Ostara as a holiday, although they were in tune with the changing of the seasons. Modern Wiccans and Pagans celebrate Ostara as a time of renewal and rebirth; a time for fresh ideas and new endeavors.

The Origin of the Easter Bunny

According to European legend, the pagan goddess Eostre took pity on a wounded bird that was no longer able to fly. She transformed the bird into a white hare (an animal near and dear to her heart) and blessed it with the ability to lay eggs in all the colors of the rainbow, (another part of this legend is that since the animal was originally a bird it had kept the ability to lay eggs) but only one day a year. When the hare later angered the goddess Eostre, she banished it to the stars as the constellation Lepus at the foot of Orion the hunter. The hare was only permitted to return to earth on Eostre's feast day each year to distribute its special eggs to the children.

Some of the Pagan / Easter Traditions

Although it coincided with Christian Easter celebrations, and the Jewish Feast of Passover, Ostara had actually been taking place for centuries before Jesus' time. The symbols of Ostara include eggs, blossoming flowers, and newborn animals all of which symbolize newness and rebirth. Because of its ability to reproduce so quickly, the hare in particular became a symbol for Eostre.

The early Christians usually celebrated Jesus' resurrection at around the same time that the pagan religions held their spring festivals. Many of the pagan's traditions and symbols worked their way into the Easter holiday observance. This was generally thought to make Christianity more palatable to the "heathens" in hopes of converting them.

Tradition of Easter Baskets and Easter Eggs

German immigrants brought the tradition of Easter baskets to America in the 1700s. In Germany, children were told to place their Easter bonnets in a secluded place the night before Easter, and if they had been good, the "Oschter Haws" would leave colored eggs and treats inside. Once Americans started to practice this tradition, plastic Easter baskets began to be mass manufactured as a substitute for the colorful bonnet.

Prairie Star District
Honors

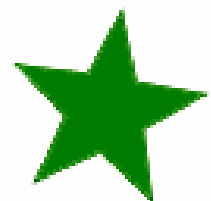
Green Star
Congrega-
tions 2011

for growth in one year

Congratulations! The Unitarian Universalist Church of Fargo-Moorhead will be recognized at the 2011 Prairie Star District Annual Conference for being a Green Star congregation for 2009. A Green Star congregation is recognized for numerical growth in membership in the last year. You are one of several congregations that had either a high percentage of growth in new members or a high absolute number of new members.

At the Annual Conference on April 8–10 in Des Moines, IA, each Green Star congregation will receive a certificate. Members of Green Star congregations who attend the Annual Conference are asked to stop by the District booth to pick up small green stars to stick on to their name badges, so other participants can ask them about their "stellar" congregations.

Thanks for your efforts in hospitality and welcoming newcomers to our faith!



FMUU Church Spring Concert

Saturday, April 30 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets \$15 Available at the door or by calling 701-235-0394.
121 9th Street South, Fargo. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Kris Kitko

She is Rosie-the-Riveter with a guitar and a possessor of musical superpowers. Kris Kitko is a Troubadour for Troubled Times! Just when we think the world is spinning out of control, Kris spins it a new way and makes us all smile.

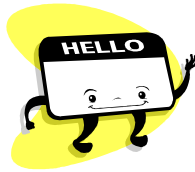


With Joseph DeMasi

An award winning singer, songwriter, recording artist and entertainer who has been delighting audiences throughout the world with his music, humor and talent for more than 25 years.

April Sunday Greeters

April 3 Jim Fremstad
April 10 Nancy Saeger
April 17 Warren Christensen
April 24 Susan Ostby



Please contact Stacy Nicholson at stacyn@gomoorhead.com or (218) 233-2001 if you have any questions or are able to help with this important task.

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. Beginning Sunday, January 9, children ages 4-7 will be meeting during the service at 11:00 a.m. These children will start in the sanctuary at 11:00 a.m. with their parents for the first 15 minutes of the service and then are escorted to their RE classes. Children 8-12 years of age will meet after Sunday services at noon.

The Teens (13-18) will continue to meet in their classroom at noon.

The curriculum covers UU Principles, World Religions, and Social Justice.

NURSERY ROOM

Child care is provided on Sundays at 10:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for children four years of age and under.



April Coffee Servers

April 3 Donna Jones & Mac Butler
April 10 Claudia English & Diane Krogh
April 17 Patty Leonard & Frances Magin
April 24 Sheri McMahon & Carolyn Monzingo

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.

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