

UU SPIRIT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Fargo-Moorhead



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VOLUME 7, ISSUE 8

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

February 2012 Programs, Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

Sunday services are followed by coffee and conversation.



February 5 Carolyn Monzingo *Valentines Day*

by Joyce Kessel and Reach

This Intergenerational service reviews the history and origins of Valentines Day. Love comes in all shapes and sizes. It comes in the candy kisses found on your chair, in potatoes and in valentines. All of us have stories to tell about how we met those we love. Some are very simple, some complicated, some unexpected and some not. Sometimes it is difficult to let others know who our lover is and sometimes not. Whoever we are and in whatever loving relationship we find ourselves, we wish to share it with others.



February 19 Cindy Gomez *The People's Press Project*

Cindy Gomez, editor of the High Plains Reader and human rights activist, will offer her perceptions on how we may be involved in furthering human rights issues in our community, reminding us of our responsibility to be pro-active in the furtherance of accuracy and diversity in the media. Avoiding the trap of propaganda and innuendo that divert the press from its mandate to present balanced information needs our input through opinion and blog activity.

February 12: Carolyn Monzingo, Katie Christensen & Mark Sinner



Commitment, Dedication and New Member Ingathering

What does it mean to be a member of the FMUU? How can we be attentive to each other's spiritual unfolding? During this service, we celebrate our UU heritage and roots by welcoming into our congregation new members, from infants to adults, into our beloved community.



February 26 Sandy Branstiter *The Recovery Story*

Sandy is an accredited GIFTS Lay Leader for the ELCA Synod in Eastern North Dakota. From Memphis, Tennessee, she moved to North Dakota with husband Ray in 1998. They served in the Hannaford Cooperstown area until 2007 when they moved to Fargo to assume leadership of the Lost and Found Ministry. They have five children and Sandy has a passion for quilting. She acknowledges that spiritual growth is an on-going process and respects the diversity and value of many traditions, while remaining comfortable in her Lutheran faith. Recovery Worship is a service that reaches out to individuals involved in 12 step programs that attempts to add a deeper dimension to their lives.

Dennis Warner

In Concert



Americana

Folk

Acoustic

Singer and songwriter Dennis Warner blends humor, audience participation and serious music into a memorable and fun concert for adults and families.

More info on Dennis Warner is available on the web
www.WarnerSongs

Saturday January 28

7:30 p.m.

Open to the Public—Freewill Offering

Come Early—Seating is Limited

Unitarian Universalist Church 121 9 St. S., Fargo

February 2012 FMUU Church Calendar

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------|----------------|--|
| Wed. | 1/25/2012 | 5:30 p.m. | UU Mentor Night at Jefferson School 1701 4 Ave S Fgo |
| Wed. | 2/1/2012 | 5:30 p.m. | UU Mentor Night at Jefferson School 1701 4 Ave S Fgo |
| Wed. | 2/8/2012 | 6 p.m. | Pizza Social Night-RSVP to Office People, Place & Program Meeting |
| Wed. | 2/8/2012 | 6:30 p.m. | Night |
| Sun. | 2/12/2012 | 9 a.m. | Board Meeting |
| Sun. | 2/12/2012 | during service | Welcome New FMUU Members |
| Sun. | 2/12/2012 | 1:30 p.m. | Drumming Circle |
| Wed. | 2/15/2012 | | March Newsletter Deadline |
| Wed. | 2/15/2012 | 7 p.m. | FMUU Movie Night |
| | 2/16-2/20 | | Office Closed |
| Sat. | 2/18/2012 | 6 p.m. | FMUU Game Night |
| Sun. | 2/19/2012 | 12:30 p.m. | Social Justice Council Meeting |
| Sun. | 2/26/2012 | 1:30 p.m. | UU Drumming Circle |
| Wed. | 2/29/2012 | 5:30 p.m. | UU Mentor Night at Jefferson School 1701 4 Ave S Fgo |
| Every Thur. | | 5:30 p.m. | Tai Chi Class |
| Every Sun. | | 11 a.m. | Worship Service |
| Every Sun. | | 11 a.m. | Children's RE Group |
| Every Sun. | | Noon | Middle's RE Group |
| Every Sun. | | Noon | Teen RE Group |

Attention Singers! The FMUU Church is looking for singers to lead the congregation in song during our Sunday services. This is a great opportunity to share your talent and be a leader in our church community. Practice time with our pianist, Suzanne Strache, will be available before and after services. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact Katie Christensen at kt_christensen@yahoo.com.

Minnkota Recycling

Aluminum, paper and plastic taken to Minnkota Recycling, 901 4th Ave. N., Fargo, 3501 S. University Dr., Fargo, or 1321 1st Ave. N., Moorhead, can benefit the church. Just use the church telephone number, 235-0394 or tell them Unitarian Universalist Church, and a check will automatically be sent to the church; you will receive a receipt for your records.

Drumming Circle

Feb. 12 & 26



Join us on the second and fourth Sunday of each month at 1:30 p.m. for a drumming circle. Let the rhythm of the drums lift your spirits. Some extra instruments are provided, but bring drums, rattles, and other rhythm instruments if you have them. No experience necessary, everyone is welcome.

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.



FMUU Movie Night

Wednesday, February 15 at 7 p.m.

The Education of Shelby Knox

Shelby Knox, a wide-eyed precocious activist, is a riveting tale of one girl's mission to bring sex education to schools in her ultra-conservative hometown of Lubbock, Texas. Characters, include an intolerant preacher crusading for abstinence, Shelby's skeptical but loving Republican parents, and Lubbock's tiny-but-vocal gay youth movement, and captures an unusual coming of age story.

In a town filled with religious fervor, sexual ferment, abstinence-only agitators and teenage pregnancy, Shelby struggles with her conflicting values and comes to terms with her own sexuality. In the process, she becomes an endearing and honest guide to the national moral morass. Unafraid to tackle pressing, complex questions, the docudrama is supercharged with religion, politics, sex and the cultural warriors and ordinary people who battle over these hot-button issues. THE EDUCATION OF SHELBY KNOX is a pungent civics lesson on what can and cannot be accomplished by one plucky, idealistic girl.

Although this 76 min. film is Not Rated, parents need to know that this documentary looks critically at abstinence-only education and its religious underpinnings. It talks openly about teen sex, abstinence-only education, and contraception use, and is likely to upset most viewers at some point. Depending on the political bent of the viewers, they will be offended either by the push for comprehensive sex education in the school or the push for abstinence-only education. Shelby hangs out with gay teens.

Positive messages: Shelby and her parents talk openly about issues they disagree with and encourage their daughter to follow her dreams. Teens and adults deal with the hot-button issue of teen sex in a mature way, though they often disagree.

Violence: One teen talks about boys trying to hit him with a baseball bat.

Sex: Talk about abstinence and abstinence pledges, and sex with and without a condom. One sex educator shows how to put a condom on a dildo. Girls are ascribed a point value for how much sexual experience they have and then boys try to go out with the girls with the least experience and "screw" them. Some kissing and hugging, but nothing explicit. Gay teens are shown, sometimes with arms around their shoulder, but no kissing and nothing explicit. A school official is discovered to be having an affair at the office. There is talk about teens that are gay having a life expectancy of 40 years and being sinners, and talk of teens who have sex being "like dogs on a street corner."

Language: Occasional swearing, including "f--k" and "hell."

Drinking, drugs, & smoking: One girl talks about having liquor bottles as "best friends," but no one drinks on-screen.

For more information, go to: <http://www.common sense media.org/movie-reviews/education-shelby-knox> and scroll to the links under "More on The Education of Shelby Knox."

Homeless and Hungry

The Social Justice Council has formed a Homeless and Hungry Task Force to address these issues in the local FM area. We will cultivate a community garden plot and share the harvest with a food bank. We will coordinate with Central Cities Ministries to address homelessness. Susan Ostby learned that the Central Cities Ministries will provide training for shelter volunteers at First United Methodist Church, 906 1st Avenue South Fargo on Saturday, January 28, 1-4pm; Thursday, February 9, 6-9pm; or Saturday, February 25, 1-4pm. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Laurie Baker, FMUU member, is an instructor at all these events.

The Social Justice Council has moved its meetings to 12:30 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month. Everyone is invited to share in the enthusiasm on February 19.





Tai Chi for Health

Thursdays 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The FMUU Church will be offering a Tai Chi class led by Andrew Tyson. This class is for all ages and levels of fitness. We will have a weekly session for one hour that will involve the slow, gentle movements of Qi Gong, Tai Chi and Yoga. Participants will learn forms and partner exercises designed to engage the body, cultivate the spirit, improve balance, posture, overall health, and to decrease stress. The ultimate goal is to harmonize oneself with the world around us and the myriad activities of life. You can come to one or all of the classes at anytime. This is an open class with no set start or end date, just bring a mat to lie on. This class is free and open to the public.

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

The Guest at your Table celebration has drawn to a close for another year. It is, however, always open season on sending contributions to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee to help with its work in our own country and abroad. Envelopes are available on the table in the area outside the sanctuary. Be sure to include the name of our church--UU Church of Fargo Moorhead.

I have sent in \$823.26 contributed by approximately 25 family units from our church to UUSC headquarters. In addition, a few people have sent in their own contributions. I thank all those who have participated and urge those who took boxes without returning them; please send the contents directly to the UUSC.

The amount collected this year is higher than the total collected for a number of years and we can be proud of the generosity of our somewhat small congregation.

Audrey Richmond,
Local UUSC Representative




FMUU Game Night
Saturday, Feb. 18 at 6 p.m.

On the **third Saturday** of each month at 6 p.m. we will be having a Family Game Night at the FMUU Church. Bring your favorite games or join in on the games here: Settlers of Catan, Puerto Rico, Blokus, Carcassonne, Set, Sleuth, and more. For the younger crowd, we will have Candy Land, Memory, Don't Let the Pigeon Ride the Bus, and Roller Coaster. Bring your family and friends to this fun monthly event!



Wednesday, February 8

Pizza Social at 6 p.m.

Committee Meetings at 6:30 p.m.

Plug Into an FMUU Group—We Need Your Power!

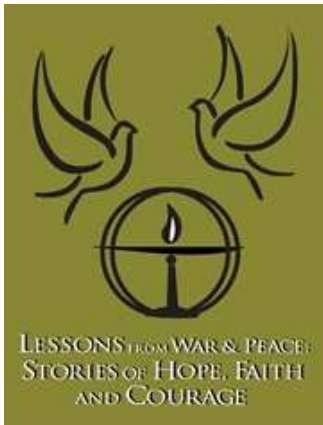
By joining a group, you are assisting the church to become vital and grow. In return, the group will give you a sense of accomplishment and community.

At 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, everyone meets for a pizza social (free will offering and please RSVP). People, Place and Program meet that same night at 6:30 p.m. Childcare is provided for these meetings. Visitors are always welcome to join us for our pizza social and stay to see what our committees are planning.

We request that you inform the office that you will be attending the Pizza Social, so we can order enough food for everyone. Please contact the office at (701) 235-0394 or fmuu@fmuu.org with your RSVP by Feb. 6.

FMUU Forum Email List

The Forum email list is for those who would like to hear about other events that are not church related. The church sometimes receives information from church members and the community to pass on to the congregation. It is our policy to only send email out to the congregation that is FMUU Church and committee related. The only exception would be if it were another UU Church, PSD or UUA information. We have created the Forum email list for those of you who would like to have this information sent to them in an email. If you would like to be added to this list, please email the church and request to be added to the Forum email list.



**PSD Annual
Conference 2012
Lessons from War
and Peace:
Stories of Hope,
Faith, and Courage
April 13-15, 2012**

Bloomington, Minnesota

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel (952) 835-7800

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

Lessons from War & Peace: War is like the elephant in the room that nobody wants to talk about. As Unitarian Universalists, we can agree that we all want peace and we all need to support our troops and their families, but we may feel very differently about war itself. Is war ever justified? What can we learn from those who have experienced it? Can we wage peace instead?

As our country is engaged in war on the other side of the globe, every one of us is affected by the enormous emotional and financial burden of sending our young people into battle. Many of us have served our military, or have family members proudly serving now. On the other hand, perhaps we have just been horrified by the articles in the paper about the rising suicide rate among veterans. Let us consider the seven UU principles and how they can guide us to peace.

We invite you to join us for a deeper exploration of the costs of war, how to heal from it, and how we, as people of faith, can become instruments of peace in our everyday lives.

In addition to examining this profoundly moving theme, you can benefit from workshops designed to strengthen your congregations, deepen your social justice work, and enrich you on a personal level. Come and experience some of the PSD's top talent, culminating with the joy of shared worship and musical celebration on Sunday morning.

Imbolc Ritual

Hosted by Lake Agassiz

Community Pagans

**Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012 at 6-9 p.m.
FMUU Church Community Room**

Come celebrate the reawakening Goddess and the God as he regains his strength as we see the days begin to grow longer after the Winter Solstice and our already unusually warm temperatures becoming warmer. This date was planned for February 4, the astrological date between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox.

The First of February belongs to Brigid (Brighid, Brigit, Bride,) the Celtic goddess who in later times became revered as a Christian saint. Originally, her festival on February 1 was known as Imbolc or Oimelc, two names which refer to the lactation of the ewes, the flow of milk that heralds the return of the life-giving forces of spring. Later, the Catholic Church replaced this festival with Candlemas Day on February 2, which is dedicated to the Virgin Mary and features candlelight processions. The powerful figure of Brigid the Light-Bringer over-lights both pagan and Christian celebrations.

There will be a feast following the group ritual. The Lake Agassiz Community Pagans invite you to join them in this ritual and bring something to share for the feast.



Flowers for Everyone

The FMUU Church will provide flowers for the sanctuary on the first Sunday of each month. We are asking our members and

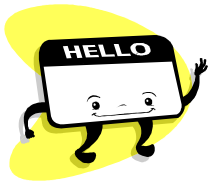
friends to sponsor the flowers for \$30, if they would like.

You may dedicate your sponsored bouquet as 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.

If you would like to sponsor a bouquet, please email Ruth Morton at mortonrr@gmail.com.

February Sunday Greeters



Feb. 5 Dee Johnson
Feb. 12 Audrey Richmond
Feb. 19 Mike Headrick
Feb. 26 Rebecca Woods

If you are not able to greet on the Sunday you have been scheduled on, please find someone to switch dates with you. This should be done at least one week in advance.

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



NURSERY ROOM

Child care is provided on Sundays at 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. for children four years of age and under.



February Coffee Servers

Feb. 5 Bill Thomas & Skip Wood
Feb. 12 Nancy & Ron Saeger
Feb. 19 Haley Burdett & Mac Butler
Feb. 26 Claudia English & Hilde van Gijssel

If you are not able to serve on the Sunday you have been scheduled, please find someone to switch dates with you. This should be done at least one week in advance.



If you choose to bring snacks, please consider a healthy choice.

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, Stacy Nicholson | (218) 233-2001 |
| At-Large, Thom Richmond | (701) 235-3904 |
| At-Large, Jon Solinger | (218) 233-8001 |
| At-Large, Joy Zeidan | (701) 640-8380 |

CHURCH EMPLOYEES

Katie Christensen, Coordinator of
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Interim Worship Coordinator
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E-mail: kt_christensen@yahoo.com

Julie Allen, Office Manager
Office: (701)235-0394 E-mail: fmuu@fmuu.org
If urgent call cell: (701) 371-4481