



THE FIRST Unitarian

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From the Director of Religious Education

Summer time... book time. And one that I read this summer had the title *The Things We Keep*. It was really a story about a divorce and how the children's memory of the things that happened were not the reality of the situation. A good story, but the best thing for me was the title. It got me to thinking about all of the different experiences we have in our lives and then the things we, individually, decide to keep. Why? Why do we keep certain memories and not others?

It all has to do with the emotions, feelings that we experience around events. Good or bad, they seem to stick. The mediocre events don't stay. The mundane, the mid-level, the "neither here nor there" don't stick with us, it seems to me. I thought about this in relation to my own life. And there is one experience that I wanted to share with you.

That experience was around going to church. I was raised Presbyterian in a small town in Michigan and had a swell time until, as I have said many times, the horrible way that the church and the theology supported me at the time of my mother's death when I was 16 sent me heading for the secular hills, not to darken the doorway of a church for over 17 years.

But here I am... back in church. Why? Why did I seek out going back to church? It was, like many, my having children that got me thinking... and feeling. I missed the church, but not the dogma. I found the Unitarian Universalist church's lack of dogma and the support of questioning satisfying intellectually, but that really wasn't the heart of my longing for church.

It was the sense of community that I missed. It was wanting a place for my children to grow up where they had a warm feeling like I had experienced. A place where people would know their names and watch and follow them as they grew up, people who would share with them their support and love and where Cory and I could teach Sunday School like my mother did and be on committees like my Dad and make my children understand our commitment to certain principles and take pride in our activities. They could see us in action up

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*"It was the sense
of community
that I missed."*



Order of Service
announcements are
appreciated by noon on
Wed. of each week. Please
email your submission(s) to:
info@firstunitariansociety.org

Newsletter submissions are
due by the 7th of each month
and should be sent to:
[newsletter@
firstunitariansociety.org](mailto:newsletter@firstunitariansociety.org)



Summer Assembly Previews

Summer Assemblies are at 10:30 a.m. in the Lower Assembly Hall.

◆8/2/09 “Glass: One Man’s Journey”

Speaker: Robinson Scott

Internationally known glass artist Robinson Scott, a former FUS RE member during Robert Lehman’s ministry, will share with us some of his experiences with glass and how it gave meaning to his life as an artist. A video of the glass-blowing process will be shown and several original creations will be on display in the lower assembly hall during the morning only. Audience participation with a Q & A session will follow the presentation. For those too curious to wait, Robinson’s artwork can be found at: <http://www.robinsonscottglass.com/>. Enjoy!

◆8/9/09 “Out of this World”

Speaker: Phil Duran

More than 500 years ago, a group of Europeans stumbled onto what they saw as a “new world,” and life back home was never the same. Today, scientists are edging ever closer to more deeply exploring “new worlds,” both in and beyond our solar system, with potentially life-changing discoveries coming during our lifetimes. What spiritual questions do these possibilities, or even the quest itself, raise for UUs?

◆8/16/09 “Where Psychology, Mythology and Spirituality Meet”

Speaker: Dana Reynolds, Summer Minister

Is it in a playground? Is it on a stage?
It might just be closer to home!

◆8/23/09 “What Have We Done Lately?”

Speaker: Tom Vellenga, Heartland Democracy

President Obama cannot “do it alone,” and the public trust is a fragile commodity. Why are conservatives still in power in many spheres of life? What can we do outside campaigns to build on recent successes? What is our role when progressives make mistakes? Tom Vellenga will make the case for identifying and communicating progressivism, outside elections, and offer strategies for winning over more hearts and minds to progressive principles.

◆8/30/09 “The Cremation Revolution”

Speakers: Anita Martinez, Diane Ford Wood, Linda D. Crouch

To allow ourselves to move toward a more conscious approach to end-of-life issues is incredibly empowering—even revolutionary. Most of us have not lived our lives under a rock. We’ve loved, celebrated, reveled in the gift of life, yet we tend to make decisions about end-of-life issues in our darkest moments. By taking the process of pre-planning into our own hands, we quietly become part of a fully conscious, global revolution that shuns denial-based thinking. This simple, revolutionary act lessens the chance of financial victimization and creates an amazing opportunity for a meaningful end-of-life experience.

◆9/6/09 “All My Relatives”

Speaker: Dana Reynolds, Summer Minister

This will be our Unitarian Universalist way of sharing our solidarity, as “two-legged” animals, with our “four-legged” kin, as Native peoples might say. Yes, you may bring your domesticated pets (not all pets are domesticated), under your control, to this service.

Religious Education

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“My children grew up with all of the positives of church without the negatives.”

close and personal and know us better. It was wanting a community where they felt like they owned the building... church was “mine” in my childhood eyes. I could not get lost there, was safe there, and even knew some hidden passage ways. I wanted for my children all of the warm, good feelings that I had in my church community—minus the dogma. Thank god for Unitarian Universalism. My children grew up with all of the positives of church without the negatives. They gained a community, and Cory and I gained support; we showed our children what was important to us. I still see an image of Ross, wrapped up in the quilt that was given to him from the Crafts Group when he was sick, and weep with appreciation at him being wrapped up warm and safe in a symbol of our community.

Don't you want all of this for your children? It is here waiting for you! Come! Be a regular attendee so that your children gain the familiarity with people and place that make FUS feel safe and “theirs.” Instill in them, just by the simple of act of making Unitarian Universalism a priority, what your values are. Build a liberal theological support system for them... and for you. Make this church and this religion a thing they keep.

*“Don't you want this for your children?
It's here, waiting for you!”*

Jan Devor, Director of Religious Education

**Sunday School Begins
September 20!**

Be sure that your children are registered and on the class lists for this year!



Membership

Get Involved at FUS!



We have many interesting programs going on this fall including adult Religious Education classes, new Discovery Groups, Heritage Suppers and Eat 'N Meets. We are holding a Sign-Up Sunday on September 20 for people to learn about the opportunities here. It will be held in the Lower Assembly Hall and give you a chance to talk to people who are engaged in the various groups. Look for more information in September about it. Meanwhile, see the enclosed sheet that lists all the activities we have here at FUS. Be thinking about how you would like get involved with your community here.

Raise Funds—Host a Soup Lunch!



Please let me know if your committee would like to host a soup lunch this program year. There are many spaces available. We have one soup lunch per month, they require less than 10 volunteers, and are a great way to raise money for your committee.

FUS Staff

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons, ext. 116
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Office Hours: Mon.–Fri. 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.;
Sunday, 9:00 a.m.–Noon

Main phone number: 612-377-6608

August Birthdays
Happy Birthday to the
following people!



Asha Bozicevich
Sharee Buell
Terry Burke
Josiah Chavis
Gretchen Clemence
Ray Deveau
Christie Eller
Mark Gibbons
Arthur Higinbothan
Becca Justiniano
Ilo Leppik
Jeanette Link

Andy Lyman-Buttler
Wanda McCaa
Margaret McCoy,
Kyle Redelsheimer
Viv Rengstorff
Jan Robin
Lyle Rossman
Karen Rowehl
Richard Seurer
Dan Tix
Nicki Victora
Maria Vincze

Teresa West, Membership Coordinator

Get involved at FUS – here’s how!

Building community is what we are about, so here are ways to get active from one time events to on going commitments. For more information about these opportunities, contact Teresa West, Membership Director, or attend Sign Up Sunday on September 20.

Group Learning and Social Events:

- Discovery Groups (see below)
- Heritage Suppers
- Retreat to the Woods
- Women’s Awareness Group
- Community Choir
- FUS Orchestra
- Adult Education Classes
- Eat ’n Meets
- Solstice & Equinox Celebrations
- Ceremony for Healing & Grieving
- Senior Discussion Group
- Circle Suppers
- Soup Lunches
- 30s/40s Social Group
- Alliance
- FUS Choir

Ways to Contribute:

- Sunday morning hospitality
- Staff our booth at Pride
- Help at Habitat for Humanity
- Help with children’s religious education
- Get involved in Social Action
- Provide transportation on Sunday
- Try out a committee (see below)
- Mentor youth in the Social Justice program
- Sponsor flowers, cakes or cookies on Sunday
- Staff the espresso station on Sunday
- Take part in Service Sunday in July
- Staff the Nursery on Sunday mornings
- Help in the Office
- Oversee the Game Room on Sunday
- Work on Service Auction
- Work on the FUS garden

Discovery groups:

On going and seasonal groups of about 12 people each gather to connect and discuss issues of interest to them.

- New member discovery group
- Current events
- Risk-taking and choices
- Great paintings
- Spiritual questions
- Growing up toward spiritual maturity
- Caregiving resources and support
- Finding your passion through crafts
- Learning to let go
- Making a difference in the world
- Moving toward a world without poverty

Committees:

Participating on a committee at FUS gives you a chance to share your knowledge while also allowing you to work with others toward a common goal.

- Archives
- Building and Grounds
- Finance
- Music
- Stewardship
- Sunday Forums
- Art in the Gallery
- Caring Circles
- Library
- Religious Education
- Summer Assemblies
- Bookstore
- Emergency Preparedness
- Membership
- Social Action
- Sunday Assemblies

Contact Teresa West, Membership Director, at membership@firstunitariansociety.org, or 612-377-6608 x 104.

Announcements

Eat 'N Meet Fall Series

The fall series of eight Eat 'N Meet Wednesday dinners and programs will begin on September 30 and extend through November 18.

- ☺ The programs are free and open to all.
- ☺ A vegetarian option is served at each dinner.
- ☺ Childcare is provided free on site.
- ☺ The programs are free and open to all.

The suggested donation for each dinner has been, and will remain:

- ☺ \$7 for adults,
- ☺ \$5 for children, with a maximum of \$15 per family.
- ☺ However, if cost is prohibitive for you, please be our guest.

In an effort to plan dinners more effectively and to provide more convenience for those who attend, in addition to a substantial savings, the committee will offer pre-paid "subscription." Pre-paid subscriptions for the entire series of eight dinners will be:

- ☺ \$50 for adults
- ☺ \$35 for children
- ☺ \$100 for families.

Note: If you find you cannot attend one of the dinners, you may give your dinner voucher to someone else.

Look for more information in September at the "Ask Me" table, where you will be able to purchase your subscription.



Pearson Memorial Awards

The FUS Foundation is pleased to announce that we are accepting grant applications for the Pearson Memorial Awards. These grants are awarded annually in honor of Kurt Pearson to worthy groups within FUS or the community that are dedicated to social concerns and causes.

Applications can be found on the FUS website at <http://www.firstunitariansociety.org/foundation/kurt-pearson.htm> or upon request. Deadline for applications is September 30, 2009, and the awards will be announced on October 18. Please direct any questions or applications to Allan Callander at allancallander@live.com.



Ingathering Sunday— September 13

Children (kindergarten and up) and youth will be in service, during which, Kindergartners, 6/7 graders, and the high school youth group will be recognized.

Announcements



The HARVEST MOON HURRAH is for YOU!

FREE!
Saturday,
September 26
6:30–9:00 p.m.

It's fun for everyone: adults, children and youth in the congregation—and it is especially fun for families!

- 6:30 **SOCIALIZING BEGINS!**
- 6:30 **NEW THIS YEAR FOR KIDS:**
A HALLOWEEN COSTUME EXCHANGE!
Rules for the exchange are:
 1. Bring one, take one
 2. Please bring only clean costumes!What a fun, easy, economical (free!) and environmentally sound way to get a new costume!
- 7:00–9:00 p.m. **LIVE MUSIC AND DANCING,** with Dave Leussler teaching and calling the steps! This will be simple and fun folk, line, and group dancing for everyone. (free!)
- **YUMMY DESSERTS AND DELICIOUS DRINKS** (free!)
- Participate in a **SOCIAL SERVICE PROJECT** (free!)
A great opportunity to watch the dancers and listen to live music while making a difference for people in need.

The annual Harvest Moon Hurrah is supported by a grant from the Opportunity Challenge Grant and is sponsored by Religious Education and the Alliance!

Women's Awareness Group

The August meeting of the Women's Awareness Group will be held on Monday, August 9 at the home of Marian Behrend. The cohost is Adele Hansen. FUS women are invited to join us at 6:30 p.m. for a potluck supper, followed by a lively discussion based on the book *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan, led by Adele. Women do not have to read the book, but we encourage them to do so. Please call Marian or Adele to RSVP and for directions.

Heart to Heart:

A Couples' Enrichment Weekend

Heart to Heart is a program led by three Unitarian Universalist couples and is designed to enrich communication and intimacy in your relationship. This year's 15th annual fall retreat will be held November 6–8. All committed couples are welcome—same-sex and opposite-sex, married and unmarried. Participants do not share with the group, but write and talk privately with their partners. Space is limited, so please register early. For more information, visit the Heart to Heart website:
<http://heart.mn.cx>



The First Unitarian is published once a month. The deadline for submission of items is the 7th of the previous month. Items submitted may be edited for style, content, and to fit the space available. Submissions may be left in Morgan's mailbox in the FUS office, or made by mail, fax (612-377-2151) or email (preferred) to newsletter@firstunitariansociety.org.



This newsletter is printed on post-consumer recycled paper with soy-based inks.



The First Unitarian Society

OF MINNEAPOLIS

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For an up-to-date listing of events at FUS, check the calendar online at the FUS website.

1. Go to www.firstunitariansociety.org
2. Click on "Calendar" on the left menu bar.

If you do not have access to the web, contact the FUS Office at 612-377-6608 for event information.