

the Flame and the Chalice

August 2011

Upcoming Sunday Services

August—What is Worship?

A Living Altar (August 7)

One meaning of worship is to “give shape to things of worth.” This morning, we will silently build an altar together, each contributing something, allowing the alchemy of what each of us brings create a symbol of our morning together.

Spiritual Preparation: Reflect on what brings you to a state of calm, peace, insight. Is there an object – perhaps from nature, or something personal – that embodies your sense of the holy? A symbol that reflects an ideal to which you would give shape? For some, this could be a shell, echoing the endless sounds of the sea. Perhaps a hard piece of rock from which a flower has sprung. A keepsake, a relic which you hold dear. If possible, bring it to the service on August 7 and it will be incorporated into our “Living Altar.”

Worth-ship (August 14)

Worship can be a challenging topic for Unitarian Universalists with our varied theologies and diverse experiences with more traditional religion. What exactly do we do when we come together on Sunday morning? Does the act of worship mean believing in a higher power? Join Rev. Lisa Friedman in pondering what it means to gather before all that is worthy in this world.

No worship service at UUFM (August 21)

The calling of a minister is a significant event in the life of a congregation. This morning, our sister congregation, Nora Unitarian of Hanska, will enter into relationship with their chosen minister, Lisa Doegh. We wish to support them in this journey, and so we will meet in our parking lot at 9:15 to caravan to Hanska for the installation service.

Difficult Questions (August 28)

Many come to Unitarian Universalism attracted by its “freedom.” We are free to believe whatever we want. But does shedding past beliefs relieve us from the search for our own individual truths? Is being a UU as easy as it sounds?

UUFM: The Story Continues

In 1988 the Fellowship called a UU student from United Theological Seminary as part-time pastor, and during her ministry membership grew to fifty.

1990 – The Fellowship collaborated with the Hanska UU congregation and established a quarter-time shared ministry. Membership grew to fifty-five, with thirty on the RE rolls.

1996-97 – A full-time intern joined the minister for the academic year. Members became more active, attending more to one another and increasing their involvement with the community and the denomination. A highlight was co-hosting, with Hanska, the Fall 1996 Prairie Star District Conference – the “best District Conference ever,” some say.

We are welcoming people of diverse beliefs who honor spiritual inquiry and the dignity of all.

Services are held every Sunday at 10:30am.

Children join the first part of the service and then continue their Religious Education downstairs. Childcare is available before and during the services.

Coffee and fellowship follow the service in the Fellowship Hall.

[937 Charles Avenue](#)
[Mankato MN 56001](#)

44.1536° N
94.0317° W

The UUFM is served by:

Minister

Rev. Lisa Friedman
507-469-4027
lfriedman@uuma.org

Director of Religious Education

Kristi Schuck
507-382-4951
kristi@twofishstudios.com

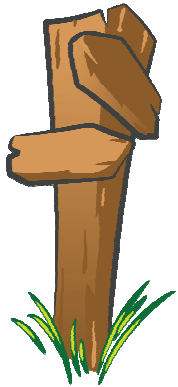
Music Director

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Office Administrator/ Newsletter Editor

Joe Anderson
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From the incoming president...



Dear Members and Friends of UUFM,

I am honored to be serving as your board president for the upcoming year. This is my 32nd year as a member at UUFM, my treasured spiritual home. I'd like to extend special thanks to Laura Bealey for her excellent leadership through challenging times and for the dedicated service of outgoing board members Jim Rovney and Jeremiah Myer.

I have mixed feeling about our year ahead, sadness in our saying goodbye to Rev. Lisa as she completes her eighth successful year with us in December and excitement about the potential opportunities that lie within this transition process. During the next five months as we prepare to say good bye to Rev. Lisa, we'll benefit from her help in exploring the larger ministry of UUFM and what our short and long term goals might be. As a congregation, we will spend the year looking at where we want to go with ministry, exploring our options at the same time that we hone our lay leadership and lay ministry skills.

Through the conversations we will begin at the board and committee chair retreat on Saturday, August 27, we will start a healthy self assessment and evaluation. We will consider how to work together more effectively to continue the exciting growth and service of this fellowship. We will also form of a task force/search team to lead us in our ministry search, a process that will most likely take a year.

During this process, we will have access to professional ministry and consulting services with the help of the Prairie Star District and Nancy Heege, Executive Director. Nancy will visit us in October to interview members and Rev. Lisa on the needs of the fellowship and our vision for the future.

So, get ready for a busy and exciting year ahead. We will need everybody's insight and input to chart our course!

Enjoy these last weeks of summer,

Jane Schostag

President of UUFM Board of Directors

*You cannot step
twice into the
same river,
for other waters
are continually
flowing on.*

Heraclitus
(c. 535 BCE-c. 475 BCE)



Committee News

8th Annual Burning Whistlepig Festival*

Celebrate the close of summer at the home of Dave and Carrie Rice, 115 Allan Court, Mankato, on Saturday, August 27, 5:00-8:00pm. Bring a salad, side or dessert to share and enjoy the food, fellowship and sparkling spectacle. *No actual woodchucks will be harmed.

2nd Collection—Salvation Army Sunday Noon Meal Program

Four Sundays a year, members of UUFM organize and serve the noon meal at the Salvation Army Mankato Service Center. Along with twenty or so other churches in the area, we ensure the low income and homeless men, women and children of Mankato have access to a wholesome lunch on the weekends. We typically serve about 125 people each Sunday. The 2nd Collection is a project of the UU Social Action Committee. Contact Diane Dobitz 507-388-7657 or Becky Rossow 507-388-1660 for more information.

Book Discussion Group

Read ahead! The UUFM Book Discussion group will review *Health Care Will Not Reform Itself* by George Halvorsen on September 15, and *Anna Freeman's Fabulous Traveling Funeral* by Kris Radish on November 10.

According to the publisher of *Health Care Will Not Reform Itself*, Kaiser Permanente CEO George Halvorson provides significant evidence that the "tragically inconsistent care that currently defines the state of U.S. health services is irresponsible, irrational, but more importantly, fixable. With detail that might shock you, he shows why the nonsystem we now use is failing. Then, applying the same sensible

leadership that makes Kaiser the most progressive health care organization in the world, he answers President Obama's mandate for reform with a profound incentive-based, system-supported, goal-focused, care-improvement plan.

"Halvorson draws from respected studies, including his own, and the examples of successful systems across the world to show that while good health care is expensive, it is nowhere near as costly as bad health care."

All royalties from the sale of this book go to Oakland Community Voices: Healthcare for the Underserved.

Upcoming Worship Themes

Developing Faith (September) We believe that our beliefs do not stand still, but grow and develop throughout our lives. What does it mean to have faith? What stages of faith do we experience?

Skepticism, Doubt and So What?

(October) In a world full of doubt, when daily survival can be a challenge, what difference does it make to live an ethical life? Do conscience and morality really make a difference?

All We Cannot Hold (November) Our lives overflow at times and we need ways in which to explore, respect and gain perspective. As individuals gathered in community, we become a family of sorts, with sacred time set aside for reflection and the search for meaning. What can prayer and ritual offer us?

Reverence and The Sacred

(December) A time of deepening, of sacred quiet meditation. A time to acknowledge oneness and unity. A time to name precious relationships.



COMMITTEES

Adult Programming

Tricia Nienow
Dani Kroon

Buildings and Grounds

Dave Schostag

Fellowship

Jane Schostag

Membership

Karen Knox
Jeremiah Myer

Finance

Susan Chambers

Fundraising

Michelle Sturm

Library

Becky Rossow

Music

Barbara Brindle

Personnel

Kay VanBuskirk

Promotion/Outreach

Jim Rovney

Religious Education

Lee Ganske

Social Action

Diane Dobitz

Becky Rossow

Worship

Carrie Rice

Board Notes

All Board members, both current and former were present for the first meeting of the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

Committee Coordination – With the growth of our congregation has come growth in the number of the committees we have and the types of work they do. The Board renewed their commitment to ensure coordination between committees and the Board.

Commitment to less more on emphasis service and less on money – With the budget that was passed at the June meeting, the Board sealed a commitment to drastically reduce the number of times we ask the congregation to get their checkbooks out. To this end, the Board has asked the Social Action Committee to review second collections and consider a request for volunteers to donate their time to social action projects. This way, we come together as a congregation, and reach out to the community we live in.

Child care – Kristi will occasionally be looking for volunteers to help with childcare. The budget for child care this year is 20% less than what was actually spent last year. The Board felt that this amount could be made up through use of volunteers on some occasions. In addition, if childcare is needed for an event, it might be possible for the committee sponsoring the event to pay for the childcare out of that committee's budget, or the proceeds from the event, if any.

Ministerial transition – President, Jane Schostag has spoken with Nancy Hagee, Executive Director of the Prairie Start District regarding preliminary planning for life at the fellowship after Rev. Lisa Friedman leaves us in early January. Nancy will visit the congregation in October. She will interview the congregation as well as Lisa in order to help make suggestions about our transition process. At this point, our budget will not support a full-time called minister. An alternative option would be to find another contract minister, as Lisa was. A third option would be to engage an interim minister to assist us during a 1-2 year transition period while we continue with the growing pains of going into being a larger fellowship.

The annual Board/Committee Chair retreat will be held August 27, 2011 from 9:30 – 3:00 p.m. at the UCC on Stoltzman Road. Anyone from the congregation wishing to attend is welcome.

Respectfully Submitted, Barbara Brindle

Planning, Training and Fellowship on August 27

The annual retreat for board members, committee chairs and congregational participants will be held at the United Church of Christ, 150 Stadium Court, Mankato on Saturday, August 27 from 9:30am to 3:00pm.

We will sketch out the activity calendar, be empowered by the potential communication opportunities provided by dropbox, social networking and local websites. This will be an important time to plan our transitional year ahead and spend some time in fellowship.

Board members and committee chairs are strongly encouraged to attend, but anyone who would like to share their wisdom, experience or questions will be welcome.

2011-2012

Board of Directors

President

Jane Schostag

Vice President

Marty Costine

Secretary

Barbara Brindle

Treasurer

Jeanne Myron

Member

Karen Knox

Member

Jason Beam

Member

Kay VanBuskirk

Past President

Laura Bealey

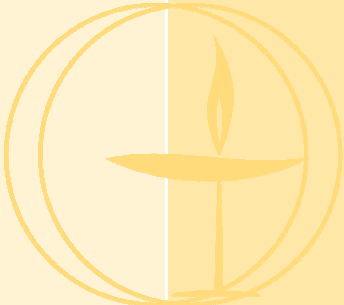
Memorials

A memorial to the growth fund was given by Dave and Jane Schostag in memory of Lew Holden.

OFFICE FILE NEEDED:

The UUFM needs an office file that can be locked to secure personnel files and other sensitive materials. If you have one you would be willing to donate or if you would like to purchase and donate one, it would be considered an in kind charitable contribution. Please contact Joe Anderson, 388-5022 or Kay VanBuskirk, 388-6188.

August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<p>To be scheduled:</p> <p>Membership Committee meeting</p> <p>Building & Grounds Committee meeting</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:00pm Adult Programming Committee meeting</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:00pm Insight Meditation (Sanctuary)</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p> <p>10:30am Sunday Service</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1:57pm Full Moon</p> <p>7:15pm Circle of the Oak and Raven</p>
<p>14</p> <p>10:30am Sunday Service</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Assumption Day - Western (Christian)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00pm Personnel Committee meeting</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:00pm RE Committee meeting</p> <p>6:30pm UUFM Board Meeting</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p>
<p>21</p> <p>No worship service at UUFM today— Join Nora UU Church in Hanska</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Assumption Day - Eastern (Christian)</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30am Board/ Committee Retreat (UCC Fellowship Hall)</p>
<p>28</p> <p>2nd Collection - Salvation Army</p> <p>10:30am Sunday Service</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Eid al Fitr begins (Islamic)</p>	<p>31</p>			

We, the Unitarian Universalists of Mankato, affirm and promote:

- * *The inherent worth and dignity of every person*
- * *Justice, equity and compassion in human relations*
- * *Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations*
- * *A free and responsible search for truth and meaning*
- * *The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large*
- * *The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all*
- * *Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part*

Nora UU Church's Gathering Day — August 21

The Nora UU church choir and the Mankato Fellowship choir will combine for a program celebrating Nora UU Church's Gathering Day - 1881. This will be a program of popular music of the late 1800s. Our UUFM choir director, Michelle Sturm will be a featured soloist.

The program will be at the Nora UU church, near Hanksa, MN at 2:00 pm on August 21.

The choirs will also sing for the 10:30 am service at the Nora church for the installation Reverend Lisa M. Doege.

For directions to the church, go to the Nora UU church web page at <http://nora-uu-church.org/index.shtml>

For more details of the program go to <http://nora-uu-church.org/popup/schedule11-12.html>

--- Gil Hanson, Nora choir director



Good News

We are grateful that four of our members, Jan Fox, Laura Bealey, Kay VanBuskirk, and Michelle Sturm, have come through summer surgeries with flying colors!