

# the Flame and the Chalice



July 2011

*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  
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kristi@twofishstudios.com

#### Music Director

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#### Office Administrator/ Newsletter Editor

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## Upcoming Sunday Services

### July—A Month to Examine our Identity and Celebrate our Faith Independence Day (July 3)

No formal service is planned; enjoy the holiday.

### Composing Ourselves, Religiously (July 10)

Most people "make up" their religious identities without realizing it. UU's are well-positioned to do this consciously. Rev. Ted Tollefson, an experienced minister and instructor, will describe this process (with 3 or 4 UU jokes thrown in) and how it uses several familiar ingredients, including community life and celebration. A workshop will follow the service where, braced by a good cup of coffee or tea, we'll practice and test what's been preached.

Rev. Ted Tollefson has served UU congregations in our district since 1980. He teaches world religions at United Theological Seminary and depth psychology at Metro State University. He and his wife Kristen live at a retreat/research center in Frontenac, MN.

### Who are We? (July 17)

Diggit McLaughlin, a seminary student at Meadville Lombard, will share her perspective.

### What's in a Name? (July 24)

Are we a fellowship? Are we a congregation? A community? What do these words connote to others? To our neighbors? Visitors? Is it possible to have a name that accurately describes us without excluding others?

### Civil Rights—A UU Legacy (July 31)

Kelli Clement, a recent graduate of United Theological Seminary, a Unitarian Universalist Candidate for Ministry and the Board Co-Chair of the MN Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, will outline our tradition of support for civil rights.

## Where and When It Began in Mankato

In 1952, G.S. Peterson, a long standing member of The Church of the Larger Fellowship, arranged a meeting for those interested in Unitarianism. Monroe Husbands, representing the Unitarian Association, and Arthur Foote, the minister of Unity Church in St. Paul, attended. They and others founded what was to become the UUFM. For several years the Fellowship met in rented spaces. Nonetheless, the young congregation established and prioritized an active religious education program.

In 1961, the Fellowship incorporated as a non-profit and purchased a substantial eight room house on two acres of land bordering Pohl Road.

1979 - Religious education rooms were remodeled and brought into compliance with current building codes, but the adult meeting space was becoming increasingly inadequate.

1984 - The Fellowship maintained a steady membership of thirty to thirty-five.

## Lisa's Letters



Rev. Lisa Friedman

The word *sabbatical* is related to the word *sabbath*, the seventh day of creation when it is said that even the Creator took a day of rest. In many professions the sabbatical year, traditionally observed in the seventh year, is a time not just for rest and renewal, but a time for deep reflection and learning about one's vocation that is not possible amid its daily demands.

The idea of taking a deep pause in the week, or in the cycle of years, is somewhat radical. It affirms the benefits of taking a step back to allow us a wider view of our work and our place in the world. In this spirit, the great Renaissance artist, Leonardo Da Vinci, urged his fellow artists: "Every now and then go away, have a little relaxation, for when you come back to your work your judgment will be surer. Go some distance away because then the work appears smaller and more of it can be taken in at a glance and a lack of harmony and proportion is more readily seen."

This summer, for the month of July and half of August, I will be observing a mini-sabbatical. I plan to use this time away from the daily demands of ministry in order to reflect on what I have learned about ministry with you as we have grown as a congregation. I want to capture these insights in a way that is useful to us as we enter into this last chapter of ministry together. By the time you receive this newsletter, you will have received my letter explaining that I will conclude my ministry with you shortly after the holidays, just two months shy of eight wonderful years with you.

I want to thank you for this gift of time and for the chance to come back renewed, reenergized and excited about what we can still accomplish in the next six months. During my sabbatical, I will not be responding regularly to email and phone messages, but if you have a pastoral emergency, please call our congregational President, Jane Schostag (345-5355), who will know how to reach me and to help.

My wish for you this summer is that you will also give yourselves the gift of such restful moments, whether it is lying in the grass watching the clouds roll by, or reading a book under the shade of a tree, or simply unplugging for a day to see what surprises life has to offer. For the sabbath time is not just a time for rest, but a time for connection with the sacred that is found in our innermost selves and in all of creation.

Blessings

Lisa

*"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometime on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is hardly a waste of time."*

John Lubbock



# Committee News

## Adult Program Committee

**INSIGHT MEDITATION** practice will continue during the summer, Thursday evenings at 7:00. If you have wondered if vipassana meditation is right for you, this is an opportunity to learn more about it. Beginners and those more experienced are welcome. The meditation and dharma teaching is led by Bhanti Sathi or Tom Arndt. Each has a unique perspective to share. Vipassana, which means to see things as they really are, is one of India's most ancient techniques of meditation.

## Book Discussion Group

Take time to read this summer. Relax with *Astrid and Veronika*, a Swedish countryside novel about two women, one elderly, the other a young adult, written by Linda Olsson.

Share your thoughts with us Thursday, July 21, at 7:00 p.m. in the Planet Room as we discuss these vastly different women, their growing relationship and the moral, ethical, and religious decisions that trigger their actions.

## Upcoming Worship Themes

**What is Worship? (August)** Worship can be a challenge for UUs. This month we'll look at how what is worthy of worship. We'll name the challenges, make connections, share passion and "a-ha" moments.

**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

**WIND UP FOR THE WEEKEND!** We have a river appreciation experience planned for Friday evening, July 8. We promise spectacular views of the rivers unfamiliar to most. The evening will provide an opportunity for a guided river hike or you may view the river in a more leisurely fashion. Either choice will please your senses. A light supper will follow at the Great Table. Every weekend should start this way! Contact Tricia at 340 7263 or [tlienow@hickorytech.net](mailto:tlienow@hickorytech.net) for additional information and registration.

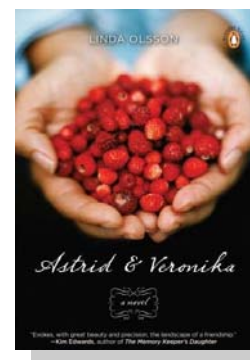
Borrow a copy of the book from Linda Good [linda.good@mnsu.edu](mailto:linda.good@mnsu.edu) or Gena Zelenka [thezelenkas@charter.net](mailto:thezelenkas@charter.net)

Join the UUFM Book Discussion group for any titles that pique your interest or speak to your concerns. Our future selections include *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.

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, D Cramblit

### Fellowship

Jane Schostag

### Membership

Karen Knox, Jeremiah Myer

### Finance

Susan Chambers

### Fundraising

Michelle Sturm

### 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

The final meeting of the 2010-2011 Board was held June 22, 2011. Outgoing board members Laura Bealey, Jim Rovney and Jeremiah Myer will be missed.

The main order of business was passing the budget. With the ministerial position vacant from January to June next year, the Board was able to pass a budget that may result in a slight surplus of funds. The worship committee budget was augmented in order to ensure the ability to provide quality services throughout the spring. We anticipate the need for a Search Committee and suggested it may grow out of the Ministry Committee as it has in the past.

We also discussed several areas for the Board and Fellowship to look at in the coming year, such as:

- Formation of a Search Committee and consultation with the Prairie Star District regarding the transition period
- Updating By-laws and coordinating them with documents that pertain to other committee work
- Updating Committee Job Descriptions
- Facilitating a Committee Workshop to ensure coordination of activities
- Board/Committee Chair retreat on August 27, 2011
- Developing a Photo Board/Committee Bulletin Board [or equivalent] so that members and visitors can easily recognize board members and committee chairs
- Developing on-site, easily accessible information about our principles and sources so that visitors can read and learn more about us while waiting for services to begin
- With a reduced emphasis on fundraising to support our general operating budget, the Board looks forward to considering options for the use of the proceeds from the Rummage Sales

While we are saddened by the thought of the Reverend Lisa leaving us, we are also optimistic about the next phase in the growth and service of this fellowship.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Barbara Brindle, Secretary

## Treasurer's Snapshot—Fiscal Year 2010-11

	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Offerings	\$ 110,410	\$ 112,914
Fundraisers	8434	10,200
Parsonage & Additional Income	15,055	15,042
Total Income	<b>\$ 133,899</b>	<b>\$ 138,156</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Administration & Insurance	\$ 10,618	\$ 10,994
Building & Grounds	20,670	18,692
UUA/PSD Support (Fair Share to PSD)	2,518	2,518
Mortgage	12,000	12,000
Committees	6,218	7,879
Personnel	82,224	85,288
Total Expenses	136,248	137,371
Net Income/Loss	<b>\$ -2,349</b>	<b>\$ 785</b>

### 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

*Congratulations to Jason & Liza Beam on the opening of Crystal Café, Main Street, Lake Crystal. May all your panini experiments be successful!*

### Thank you!

We have received pledges for the 2011-12 fiscal year totaling

**\$95,748!**

# July 2011

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7 7:00pm Insight Meditation (Sanctuary)	8	9 4:00pm Worship Committee meeting (Carrie & Dave Rice home, 115 Allan Ct)
10 10:30am Sunday Service	11 6:00pm Adult Programming Committee meeting	12 7:00pm Personnel Committee meeting	13	14 7:00pm Insight Meditation (Sanctuary)	15	16
17 2nd Collection - Habitat for Humanity 10:30am Sunday Service	18	19	20 Newsletter Deadline for Submissions 6:00pm RE Committee meeting 6:30pm UUFM Board Meeting	21 7:00pm Book Discussion Group 7:00pm Insight Meditation (Sanctuary)	22	23
24 UUFM serves Salvation Army meal 10:30am Sunday Service	25	26	27	28 7:00pm Insight Meditation (Sanctuary)	29	30
31 ECHO Donation Collection 1st of Ramadan (Islam) 10:30am Sunday Service	1	2	3	4	5	6

*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*

## Editorial Comments

My experience providing clerical services to churches began in the 1970s with Sunday bulletins. My mom ran the mimeograph machine and my job was to insert a piece of scratch paper between each freshly printed bulletin (to keep the ink from smearing). I was also the assistant bulletin-folder, a skill which greatly out-shined my ability to sit still through an entire Sunday morning service. As a toddler, I was the cause (or possibly the excuse) for my mother to miss many a sermon preached by her husband. One of her greatest moments of embarrassment was the result of patting my diapered behind and hearing it amplified by the church foyer.

As I grew older, I developed such coping mechanisms as reading the book of *Esther*, singing at the top of my lungs, digging through my mom's purse (communion wafers have an incredibly long shelf life when stored in a pastor's wife's bag) and locating the exact center of the hymnbook one page at a time. I learned that getting carsick on the way to church did not exempt me from the service.

At one point it occurred to me that keeping an outline of the sermon might help pass the time, but gave it up after the first attempt. It turns out my dad didn't use outlines for his sermons, and his tendency to meander, when combined with the enticing aromas heralding a potluck in the basement, was poison to my already limited ability to concentrate. Of the five-hundred or more sermons preached in my presence, I remember only a smattering of illustrations and very few overarching themes.

So I hope you understand why I rely on those of you who enjoy attending Sunday services to keep me current (preferably via email and by the 20th of each month) with the activities and events that need to be included in the *Weekly Update* and the *Flame and the Chalice*.

Joe

## Mayer's Minute

(Quotes selected by Steve Mayer)

*I'm glad I didn't have to fight in any war. I'm glad I didn't have to pick up a gun. I'm glad I didn't get killed or kill somebody. I hope my kids enjoy the same lack of manhood.*

Tom Hanks

*It is a damn poor mind indeed which can't think of at least two ways to spell any word.*

Andrew Jackson