

BISMARCK - MANDAN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP & CHURCH

818 E. Divide Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58501
701-223-6788

WEBSITE: bismanuu.org • EMAIL: office@bismanuu.org



Sunday Services & Children's Programs: 10:30 AM
Fellowship & Refreshments: Following Service

The Beacon

*The BisMan UU Monthly Newsletter—Sharing Unitarian
Universalist Values in the Capital City Area*

Sunday, April 6

SPIRIT AND NATURE OF TRAVEL

Valerie Naylor

"Certainly travel is more than the seeing of sights; it is a change that goes on, deep and permanent, in the ideas of living." - Miriam Beard

Valerie Naylor is a long-time Unitarian and Vagabond who will share ideas about the spirituality of rambling around. She hasn't been everywhere, but everywhere is on her list.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES:
WORLD WIDE WISDOM**

The BisMan UU now holds 7:00 pm
Wednesday evening services!
See page 2 for details, themes, topics and feedback.

Sunday, April 13

HOLE-Y EDUCATION

Liz Anderson

Are we, as UU parents, limiting our children's knowledge of the world? A humanist's perspective on the importance of learning Judeo-Christian stories.

Liz, a member of our UU, after three years as a religious education teacher, currently serves with the People Area or our "People Place & Program structure".

Sunday, April 20

EASTER BRUNCH

Join us for our celebration of our Earth and heritage! We'll enjoy a delectable Easter Brunch and reflect on the blessings of this season of light and growth and hope.

The UU Traditional Easter Brunch will be followed by a celebration of the season in words and music. Our UU chefs prepare the tasty pancake, egg, fruit & sausage meal. There is a free-will offering. Your relatives and friends are welcome.

There is no children's Sunday school today, however children are encouraged to join their families for the celebration and brunch!

Sunday, April 27

LESSONS LEARNED

Dina Butcher

Dina will explore lessons she learned from her family's November 1939 flight from Germany on the last freighter out of Rotterdam that led her to chairing North Dakotans Against Measure 1"

A former ND Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture, Dina is now VP of WT Butcher & Associates, a private investigative firm. Her greatest joy however, is being "Moma" to her five grandchildren.

Church Calendar

An asterisk (*) indicates related article

Wed Apr 2	7:00 pm	* WWW Service—Atheism/Humanism
Sat Apr 5	2-4 pm	Artist Reception—Mary Mitchell
Sun Apr 6	9:00 am	* Financial Task Force Meeting
Wed Apr 9	5:30-6:45	* Our Place in History Video Series
Wed Apr 9	7:00 pm	* WWW Service—Eastern Religions
Apr 11-13		Regional Assembly in Topeka, KS
Sun Apr 13	12:00 N	Board of Trustees Meeting
Wed Apr 16	7:00 pm	* WWW Service—The Big Three
Thurs Apr 17	5:30 pm	PPP Gathering—New Day
Sun Apr 20	10:30 am	* Easter Brunch!
Tues Apr 22	6:45-8 pm	* Webinar: When Youth Lead
Tues Apr 22	TBA	Social Action: GLBTQ Meeting
Wed Apr 23	5:30-6:45	* Our Place in History Video Series
Wed Apr 23	7:00 pm	* WWW Service—Earth-Based Religions
Fri Apr 25	12:00 N	Women's Lunch at Minerva's
Fri Apr 25	6-8 pm	* Circle Suppers in Host Home
Fri Apr 25	7:00 pm	* BisMan Skeptics Gathering
Sat Apr 26	6-8 pm	* Circle Suppers in Host Home
Sat Apr 26	7:00 pm	* BisMan UU Movie Night
Sun Apr 27	11:30 pm	* UU Kids Service Auction & Taco Bar
Tues Apr 29	6:45-8 pm	* Webinar: When Youth Lead (Repeat)
Wed Apr 30	7:00 pm	* WWW Service—Potpourri


World Wide Wisdom (WWW) Service

We kicked off our World Wide Wisdom service on Wednesday nights in March. There has been great feedback on the new second service, and we are excited to continue this journey with the congregation, and all those who have found a new home on Wednesday nights.

The turn out for this service has been great, and we are seeing many new faces, as well as some familiar friends. Our discussion has been promising, while at times a bit challenging. But at the end of the night, regardless of disagreements, or views, we remain in an atmosphere of friendly fellowship.

After getting a better feel for how these services will function, we are excited to build upon last month. Following the same layout, the first week will feature Atheism/Humanism; the second week will feature Eastern Philosophy; the third week will feature Judaism, Islam, and Christianity (the Big Three); the fourth week will feature Earth-Based religions; and our fifth week this month will feature a special potpourri service.

There is no childcare or children's programming at this point – it will be an all-ages service for which we will continue to gratefully seek and accept feedback.

	Week 1 Wednesdays 7:00 Atheism/Humanism	Week 2 Wednesdays 7:00 Eastern Religions	Week 3 Wednesdays 7:00 Big Three	Week 4 Wednesdays 7:00 Earth-Based
March Theme: The Journey Begins	Bismarck Atheists Meet-up	Birth & Rebirth	In the Beginning	Cycles of Creation: Beginnings
April Theme: Embracing the Journey	A fabulous place	The Path	Too Life	Cycles of Creation: Middle Year
May Theme: Onward	<i>[Will come from March discussion]</i>	Transcendence	The Kingdom	Cycles of Creation: End of the Cycle

Thoughts from Colleen Reinke on the WWW

The Wednesday evening discussion service, the World Wide Worship (WWW) programs, have been very successful in their first month. A thriving Atheist/Humanist community turned out over 30 people for the first service. At least a dozen attended the remaining three services in March (Eastern religions, the Big Three, and Earth-based religions). I was able to attend each service and found them to be very interesting. The small group discussion is quite stimulating as well, and I am so anxious to see where this path leads us.

Let me tell you a story from the "Judaism, Christianity, Islam" Wednesday:

A fellow on crutches arrived a little late, sat in the circle, and immediately challenged the facilitator on evolution. Ah...I was not surprised that someone with a literal interpretation of Biblical scripture might come to one of our groups. When the man joined the small group I was facilitating (we were discussing the creation story from Genesis, which is common to all three religions) we began by introducing ourselves and we started asking questions about literal versus figurative interpretations of the creation story. I made sure all views were accorded respect and it soon became apparent that everyone in the group believed we are to be stewards of the earth rather than dominators. We asked questions of each other; we shared our viewpoints. At one point, the fellow remarked that it was nice to be able to sit in a group of folks who disagreed, but could do so cordially with respect. Yep, I said, that is what these services are about.

Frankly, having this fellow with his traditional views in our group was wonderful. It was challenging. I learned a lot, and I think he did too. We laughed with each other and I hope he comes back.

This encounter has led me to think about how interesting it would be to engage with other churches, other people with other beliefs, in extended conversations about religion and what it means to be human. That deserves some additional thought...What do you think?

YOU ARE INVITED

CELEBRATE OUR EARTH & HERITAGE **EASTER BRUNCH & SERVICE**

Sunday, April 20 at 10:30 am

The tasty brunch will include pancakes, sausage, boiled eggs, juice, coffee/tea & fresh fruit plus a short service.

Our UU Special Events Team will purchase the food and coordinate the volunteer assignments. There will be a free will donation basket. Give as you are able.

Your Response Today will be Helpful!

RSVP to the church (office@bismanuu.org) that you plan to attend and give your name, phone number, and number of adults/children/teens in your party. Your family and friends are welcome!

Volunteer opportunities:

Include in your email any of the items below for which you are able to help.

Set up tables & place settings:	Saturday	1:00 pm
Boil 4 dozen eggs:	Saturday	1:00 pm
Prepare fresh fruit salad:	Saturday	1:00 pm
Set out food/beverages	Sunday	9:30 am
Cook pancakes	Sunday	9:30 am
Wash dishes, tear down, vacuum:	Sunday	12 noon

Thank You. If you have a change in plans, please call the church office at 223-6788 or email office@bismanuu.org

Our Place in History Video Series

Wednesdays, April 9 & April 23
5:30-6:45 pm

We use the DVD "The Long Strange Trip". Our last 2 sessions focus on the impact of Darwin's theory of evolution and on the merger of Unitarians and Universalists. All are welcome to participate; no need to have been at previous sessions.

People, Place, Program

THURSDAY April 17

Enjoy a light meal (for a free will donation)
and child care!

The day has changed—to THURSDAYS! Everything else stays the same...

PPP brings more volunteers into the work of the church -- creating a true community of action within our congregation. Members and friends are encouraged to select at least one "P Area" in which to contribute time and talent to our church community.

"New" Revised Schedule:

5:30-6:15 People & Place Areas meet

6:15-6:45 Dinner and Fellowship

6:45-7:45 Program/RE Area meets

7:45-8:15 Leadership & Staff meet

If you have any questions about "PPP", please contact Colleen Reinke: cjreinke@gmail.com or 701.400.4748

A Social Opportunity...

...for UU Members, Friends & Seekers

April Circle Suppers

Let's get to know one another better by sharing a Potluck Meal together in a host's home with 6-8 people. The host provides the main dish and then suggests a food item for each guest to bring.

These 2 hour events are for adult members, friends and seekers.

Please email the church office and indicate your availability for each date below, either as a guest or as a host:

April 25, Fri. supper at 6 PM

OR

April 26, Sat. supper at 6 PM

Also indicate in your email, how many adults in your party, your phone number, and if you are vegetarian, vegan, gluten free or have allergies to pets.

Questions? Contact the church office: 701.223.6788 or office@bismanuu.org

Opportunities Abound!

After meeting with a number of members of the church, we are beginning to think about different ideas. The first idea is a more focused, scholarly approach to religion, deeply exploring a variety of topics. The second idea is a focus more on entertainment and social gathering, in order to discuss a wide range of topics. As the details are worked out, both will be announced.

Our third BisMan Skeptics Group Meeting will be held on Friday, April 25, at 7 p.m. at the church. The meeting will delve into the world of psychics, and the methods that they use to pull off the illusion of speaking to the dead. Dustin White, our RE Coordinator, and accomplished illusionist, will be presenting the topic.

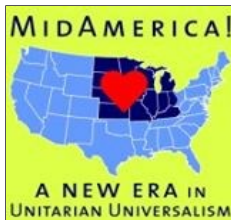
If you have any questions or comments, please contact Dustin White at Dustin@Belzian.com, or pull him aside after one of the church services

SOCIAL ACTION:

GLBTQ Welcome & Equality

The GLBTQ action group met at the end of March, and began working out the details of an anti-discrimination ordinance for the cities of Bismarck and Mandan. After some deliberation, those present worked on a couple of strategies to consider. The group will be working to connect with local organizations and churches to build a plan to go forward in the next months. A tentative date for the next meeting will be April 22.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Dustin White at Dustin@Belzian.com.



Webinar: When Youth Lead with Author Jill Schwendeman

Thursday April 22 repeated Tuesday April 29—both from 6:45-8:00 pm CST

This webinar will engage leaders with the helpful guide, “When Youth Lead: A Guide to Intergenerational Social Justice Ministry.” In this work, Schwendeman demonstrates how teens are an enormous generative force for our faith communities and how adults have much to learn from youth about passion, friendship, discrimination, equality, faith and more. Social justice work is an effective tool for bringing the generations together and the items included in this excellent resource have the potential to build rich partnerships among children, youth, adults and elders. The book includes practical tips for 101 social action projects, and we recommend that webinar participants purchase the text at the UUA bookstore.

If you are interested in participating in this webinar on either evening it is offered, please contact the church office: office@bismanuu.org or 701.223.6788.



Candles for the Journey

Congratulations are in order for Janelle Masters, Academic Dean at Bismarck State College. Janelle received the 2014 International Exemplary Leadership award at a recent meeting of the Chair Academy in St. Louis, MO. The Academy provides leadership development for college and university leaders worldwide. Janelle's award was in recognition of what she had done to advance academic and administrative leadership at BSC.

We express our love and care for Janis Cheney as she continues in her breast cancer treatment. She is hopeful to have her last treatment completed yet this spring! Visit Janis' Caring Bridge page at: www.caringbridge.org/janis Cheney

We continue to keep Kathlyn Kaye in our thoughts as she continues to be a vital source of energy for her family. Kathlyn just celebrated her 80th birthday and she is such a valuable source of love and wisdom for so many.

We continue to keep Karen Pearson in our thoughts as she recovers at home from her recent hospitalization.

It is good to see Chris & LaVonne Scott and Jeff Evenson back with us. Jeff's January hip replacement surgery was a success. Chris has been assisting his wife LaVonne through some health issues this winter. What a joy to see both Chris & LaVonne together at last week's service!

UU Board of Trustees News (and other exciting stuff!)

UU Smorgas-Board

-Colleen Reinke, President

Your UU Board has undergone major changes this past month.

First, Rick Makelky tendered his resignation as a board member effective immediately. We wish Rick well as he continues his journey and we thank him for his service.

The Board has appointed MOLLY BROOKS to fill out Rick's term, which ends in December. Molly will leave her contract position assisting the program committee and will take over the employment portfolio, which Rick was managing. WELCOME MOLLY!

Marnie and Colleen both have new jobs, meaning more responsibilities at work and in Colleen's case at least, more time at work as well. Balancing Board duties will be challenging for both of us as we move forward. Marnie has also announced her candidacy for the Mandan School Board, so her journey continues to evolve and grow in her new community.

Thank goodness Lisa and Tim are so stable and reliable these days! PLEASE, you two...no surprises! (Smiley face)

We continue to assess things that are happening at the church: The PPP (People, Place, Program) efforts, the new WWW service on Wednesdays, religious education efforts and so on. We have appointed and charged the Financial Task Force, which met for the first time in March.

Please let us know how you think we are doing!

UU Financial Update

-Lisa Omlid, Treasurer

As of March 31st, 48 Member and Friend households have pledged \$40,670 toward our 2014 Budget pledge goal of \$52,720.

Recent unexpected, necessary, non-budgeted expenses include a computer hardware upgrade totaling \$1,248 and the soon-to-be-completed roof repair for an estimated \$2,669.

Helping us to better understand our current financial situation as well as to plan for our financial future are the members of our newly formed Financial Task Force: Dean Conrad, Steve Crane, Jean King, Carol Jean Larsen, and Jim Lennington, in addition to one or two members yet to be named. Welcome and thank you for being willing to serve. They will join Board President Colleen Reinke and myself in initiating and pursuing a much more conscious discussion of money within our congregation than we have had in the recent past. Again, thank you!

If you have not yet pledged, want to change your pledge, or have any other congregational financial questions, please contact me (omlid.lisa@gmail.com) or Office Administrator, Tammy Hathaway (office@bismanuu.org).

UU Kids Service Auction & Taco Bar

-Tim Hathaway, Vice President

Ok, TRUE confession: This isn't really "Board" related and didn't even happen last month as planned, but it's important, it is DEFINITELY happening this month and it's what I continue to be working on with the UU kids!

We are planning a **Service Auction and Taco Bar** fundraiser to raise money to help rejuvenate our lonely and rickety playground equipment.

When:

Sunday, APRIL 27 immediately following service

What:

The kids will auction off their time and talent to YOU, the congregation members. Do you need a little help with those pesky odd jobs around the house or office? Now's the time to get it! The kids time and talents will go to the highest bidder!

100 % of YOUR bids for kids' services will be donated to the kids vision of the playground rejuvenation project. Please help them reach their goal!

In Faith

-Marnie Piehl, Secretary

I have a friend who is in crisis. It's a temporary thing; she has a good life, one that might be considered privileged by some. She also has a big heart and is a fierce friend, wife and mother, but she's flailing a bit in this hard time. In talking with her and supporting her, what I find is that she does not have the spiritual foundation, or, more importantly, the spiritual community that I take for granted.

When bad things, or stressful things or simply too many everyday things happen, we sometimes flail. We struggle and spin and feel like the world and our lives are out of control. But, when that happens to me (and oh does it!), I am still tethered to peace and love and faith thanks to my religion. The practice of faith and the people here at the Bismarck Mandan Unitarian Universalist fellowship keep me grounded. This place is the eye in any storm and I am grateful for it.

Resignation and Welcome

Rick Makelky, resigned as Board Member at Large but not from our church and lives, we won't let him! We are grateful for his balance and service to the Board.

We welcome Molly Brooks, who has been appointed to finish Rick's term, ending in December, 2014. Molly will have her report in this spot in May.

2014 Board of Trustees and Staff

President, Colleen Reinke cjinke@gmail.com
Vice President, Tim Hathaway hathaway.timothy.l@gmail.com
Secretary, Marnie Piehl piehl.patch@gmail.com
Treasurer, Lisa Omlid omlid.lisa@gmail.com
Director, Molly Brooks brooks.molly@gmail.com

Office Administrator

Tammy Hathaway
Church phone: 701-223-6788 • Cell phone: 701-426-9307
E-mail: office@bismanuu.org

Coordinator of Life-Span Religious Education and Communication

Dustin White
Cell phone: 701-516-4781
E-mail: Dustin@Belzian.com

Bis-Man UU Fellowship & Church

P.O. Box 297
Bismarck, ND 58502

[We are on Facebook!](#)

Check out our Website!

www.bismanuu.org

Vision Statement

*We will be a vibrant, caring, spiritual community
for all who seek an inspirational and
religious home.*

Mission Statement

*We are a fellowship of free minds, welcoming
all, a beacon of enlightenment and sanctuary,
and offering a call to build a better self,
community and world.*

Religious Education Mission Statement

*The Bismarck-Mandan Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship seeks to provide a path for spiritual
inquiry for people of all ages.*

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, socioeconomic status,
physical or mental ability.*



REGULAR CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday—Friday: 9:00—2:00 PM

Very Useful Links

[Unitarian Universalist Association](http://www.uua.org)

www.uua.org

[Mid America Region](http://midamericauua.org/)

<http://midamericauua.org/>

[Quest for Meaning](http://www.questformeaning.org)

(Church of the Larger Fellowship Young Adult Forum—VERY cool!)

www.questformeaning.org