

BISMARCK - MANDAN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP & CHURCH

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

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

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



The Beacon

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

WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: WORLD WIDE WISDOM

The BisMan UU announces three months of Wednesday evening services beginning on March 5 at 7:00 pm! See page 2 for details, themes and topics.

Sunday, March 2

(Rescheduled from January 26)

THIS I BELIEVE: THIS I DO

Liz Anderson & Stephen Crane

As UUs, we hold a belief in 7 Principles and the sentiment that what we do while here on Earth matters. In this popular service format, two members will share their spiritual journey and how they live our UU principles.

Stephen, a member since 1985, is a photographer for Basin Electric Power Co-op. He is a past Board member, and enjoys singing in the church folk choir.

Liz works at Juniper and is founding member of the BisMan Women's Roller Derby League. A member since 2012, she also sings in the choir and is currently Membership Team Leader.

Sunday, March 9

FROM CHOICE TO JUSTICE:

OUR SPIRITUAL WORK 41 YEARS AFTER ROE

Rev. Kelli Clement

The old debate between "pro-choice" and "pro-life" is unwinnable and harmful. Together, let's explore what justice means for women and their families.

Sunday, March 16

EMBRACING THE OTHER

Dustin White

Sometimes Paul's Biblical words are used to demonize the "other." However, Paul's message can also, perhaps more accurately, be interpreted as a message of acceptance—a message about embracing the other.

Dustin White studied religion at Concordia and is serving as our church Religious Education & Communications Coordinator.

Sunday, March 23

WORK, SPIRITUALITY, AND MYSTERY

Brian Palecek

Brian will lead us in an exploration of how we, as UU's, might be more open to life's deepest mysteries in our work and professional lives.

Brian is a long-time UU friend and is a member of Quaker community which shares our sacred space.

Sunday, March 30

"YOU'RE NOT A PRIEST!"

REFLECTIONS FROM A CHAPLAIN INTERN

Karen Van Fossan

Our home-grown seminarian, spent last summer as a chaplain intern at Altru Hospital in Grand Forks where she was mistaken for many things -- but never a priest. With respect for the confidentiality of her former patients and families, Karen will share her most unforgettable stories, from the heart-breaking to the ridiculous to the sublime.

Karen is in her final year at seminary and currently works as a creative arts therapist and is Communications Director for Prevent Child Abuse ND.

Church Calendar

An asterisk (*) indicates related article

Sun Mar 2	12:00 N	* Leadership Retreat
Wed Mar 5	7:00 pm	* World Wide Wisdom Service Kick-Off
Sat Mar 8	10-3 pm	* Reproductive Justice Workshop
Sun Mar 9	11:30 am	* Kids Service Auction & Taco Bar
Mar 11-24		* Tammy Out of the Office
Wed Mar 12	5:30-6:50 Time Change	Our Place in History Video Series
Wed Mar 12	7:00 pm	* World Wide Wisdom Service
Thurs Mar 13	6:45-8 pm	* Webinar: Conflict & Intercultural Competency
Fri Mar 14	7:00 pm	* Adult RE: World Religion Class
Sat Mar 15		* Regional Assembly Reg. Deadline
Tues Mar 18	5:30 pm	* PPP Gathering—New Day
Tues Mar 18	6:45-8 pm	* Webinar: Conflict & Intercultural Competency (Repeat)
Wed Mar 19	7:00 pm	* World Wide Wisdom Service
Fri Mar 21	12:00 N	Women's Lunch at Minerva's
Sun Mar 23	12:00 N	* Social Action GLBT Group Meeting
Wed Mar 26	5:30—6:50	Our Place in History Video Series
Wed Mar 26	7:00 pm	* World Wide Wisdom Service
Fri Mar 28	7:00 pm	* Skeptics Meeting
Sun Mar 30	12:00 N	Board of Trustees Meeting

World Wide Wisdom (WWW) Service Begins in March!

We will launch an exciting program on March 5 – the WWW services will begin that Wednesday evening and continue each Wednesday evening at 7 pm until the end of May. The format will be an abbreviated service with a presentation of a topic and questions, and a 30 to 40 minute discussion in small groups.

The first week of every month will feature Atheism/Humanism; the second week will feature Eastern Religions/Buddhism; the third week will feature Judaism, Islam and Christianity (the Big Three); the fourth week will feature Earth-Based religions. Each service will have a facilitator who will present a topic and series of questions to consider. We will break in to small groups to consider these topics and questions. This will not be a lecture series, but rather an opportunity to discuss and explore concepts together.

	Week 1 Wednesdays 7:00	Week 2 Wednesdays 7:00	Week 3 Wednesdays 7:00	Week 4 Wednesdays 7:00	
	Atheism/Humanism	Eastern Religions	Big Three	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	

This second service comes about for several reasons. The primary reason is to give folks an opportunity to experience a different kind of service. Sunday mornings, we have been told, do not work for everyone. We also know that there are many people who say their favorite part of our services are the discussions, but that those discussions are too short. We hope that this service attracts folks from outside our community who may be interested in exploring these topics in greater detail. This WWW service may bring others to our congregation who would be happy to find a home with us. Another intended benefit is to ease crowding on Sundays.

There will be no childcare at this point – it will be an all-ages service; we will gratefully seek and accept feedback. These three months will represent a “demonstration project” to judge the interest level for this type of service in our community. If it works, it will likely continue next fall. Stay tuned and mark your calendars!

OWL (Our Whole Lives) Update

We are pleased to announce that we will be moving forward with the OWL programming in conjunction with the United Church of Christ. Our next move forward is to iron out the schedule between our two churches so that we can move forward together. A parent meeting is being planned, as well as a resource group for parents who want to share their experiences in regards to this programming and the material. For more information on the OWL curriculum, click [HERE](#).

Leadership Retreat

Those who participated in the leadership retreat in January asked to follow up on that event to track our progress and make sure we are all still heading in roughly the same direction. That follow-up will take place on March 2 at noon after our Sunday service. Tim Hathaway will facilitate and we hope to be done in one to one-and-a-half hours. Lunch will be provided.

If you have been involved in the PPP process and would like to attend the retreat, please do so.

RSVP to the church office email: office@bismanuu.org by Saturday, March 1.

Faith & Reproductive Justice:



It's Time to Talk

We will offer a faith-based approach to explore and practice new ways of engaging on complex issues with integrity and respect

Rev. Kelli Clement

Facilitator: Rev. Kelli Clement—Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

Date: Saturday, March 8, 2014

Time: 10:00 am—3:00 m—Lunch Provided

Place: The UU Church

No registration fee. RSVP appreciated but not required. For questions or to RSVP, email: office@bismanuu.org or call 701.223.6788

This event is presented in partnership with:
North Dakota Women's Network
ND Coalition for Privacy in Health Care

Funded, in part, by a grant from the Unitarian Universalist Association's "Standing on the Side of Love", an interfaith public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression. All are welcome to participate.

Social Action: GLBTQ Welcoming & Equality

After our first meeting, the GLBTQ Action Group discussed renewing our UUA Welcoming Congregation status by deepening our Welcome in our community. A large portion of this will be to move forward, with our partners, on an anti-discrimination city ordinance. Our goal, to help move this along, is to persuade individuals running for political positions to take a definitive stance on the matter.

We are also looking to help build up the GLBTQ community in the area. This will include, in addition to the anti-discrimination ordinance, workshops and courses to help educate the community about issues in regards to GLBTQ history, challenges, and community.

We are excited to move ahead, and look forward to working with the community on this. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 23, after the church service. All are welcomed to come and join in.

People, Place, Program

TUESDAY March 18

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

The day has changed—to TUESDAYS! 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

Adult Religious Education

We want to thank everyone who took the time to fill out our brief survey. After reviewing the information gathered, we have set up a preliminary curriculum to move forward with.

The World Religion Courses will kick off with a meet and greet event on Fri, March 14, at 7 p.m. at the church. There will be a brief introduction to religious studies and the courses (the materials used, methods of study, etc.).

Our second BisMan Skeptics Group Meeting will be held on Fri, March 28 at 7 p.m. at the church. The meeting will focus on discussion about the historical Jesus. The question of whether or not Jesus existed, and if he did exist, what that means, will be explored.

We will also begin to look at the option of creating a theological discussion group. If there are parties interested in such an option, please contact Dustin White, our RE coordinator at Dustin@Belzian.com, or pull him aside after one of the church services.

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

UU Smorgas-Board

-Colleen Reinke, President

Your Board has been a busy bunch the last month. We have been focusing on the following:

- Shoring up our role as employer with our employees
- Expanding Dustin's duties to include the communications position
- Working on making the second "www" service happen (see article)
- Laying the groundwork for the appointment of a Financial Task Force

Next Steps:

Launching the WWW

Finalizing Financial Task Force appointments

Implementing publication guidelines

I can report that personally, going to a five-member board has worked well so far. We have the same vigorous discussions, but we take less time getting started and have been working very efficiently at our meetings.

UU Financial Update

-Lisa Omlid, Treasurer

As of February 27th, members and friends of our congregation had pledged \$40,670 toward our 2014 pledge goal of \$52,220. Thank you!

Pledges make up 78% of our 2014 budgeted income of \$67,220, so we count heavily on each other to make our congregation financially work.

If you haven't yet pledged, please contact Tammy in the Church Office to do so. If you have pledged and would like to increase your pledge, please do the same.

Letters acknowledging the tax deductibility of your 2013 contributions were mailed out during the third week of February. Again, please contact Tammy if you have any questions about that.

The Board is interviewing people for appointments to the Financial Task Force. The Board has drafted guidelines for this task force, to be appointed in March. Please stay tuned for more information!

Policy

-Rick Makelky, Member at Large

I'll be working on reviewing job descriptions and organizing a framework for the policies.

UU Kids Service Auction & Taco Bar

-Tim Hathaway, Vice President

Ok, confession: This isn't really "Board" related, but this is what I've been up to 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.

When:

Sunday, March 9 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!

Change

-Marnie Piehl, Secretary

Change is constant in the world and the workplace. As someone who loves change, I'm okay with that. I like to see it happen and be part of it. I've always been proud of this trait. But I was humbled this year to discover that I'm not quite as easy recognizing and rolling with the changes within as I am with those that come from outside.

I recently came to terms with the fact that what I want to contribute to the Fellowship now, is different than what I have traditionally given. I have found great satisfaction in spending my Sundays with our littlest friends and members -- a move away from the spotlight and the communication elements I've traditionally been drawn to.

My internal revelation brings to mind the shifts happening within our congregation as well. We are growing, our needs our changing and our approach to addressing those changes is shifting, too. A second service, the PPP structure, OWL training, a long-term facility plan, and new ways of looking at financial giving are just some of the changes within the Bismarck Mandan Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. It's a lot to take in, but I know that just as I am better for embracing the change within me, I believe our Fellowship will be better for embracing the changes within as well.

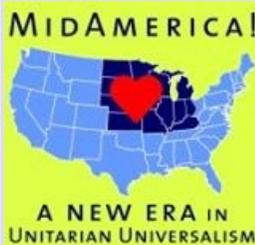
Denominational Connections (and other exciting stuff!)



MidAmerica Regional Assembly April 11-13 Topeka, KS

The MidAmerica Regional Assembly is a weekend of coming together for enriching fellowship, inspiring lectures and workshops, and deepening worship. There will be live workshops, worship, and entertainment. We'll open with our traditional banner parade and welcome. Saturday, Paul Rasor presents the [Arthur M. Judy Memorial Lecture](#) live in Topeka (live streamed to other locations), followed by the business meeting live in Bloomington (live streamed to the other locations), and workshops.

Early Bird Registration deadline—March 15. Contact the church office to express your interest in attending.



Webinar: Conflict and Intercultural Competency

Presenter: Rev. Lisa Presley, MidAmerica Region UUA Congregational Live Consultant

Thursday March 13, repeated Tuesday March 18—both from 6:45-8:00 pm CST

All of us get into conflict, whether we want to or not. And we often get trapped not only by the content, but the different approaches we have to conflict based on who we are, our cultural backgrounds, and how these interact. This webinar will look at conflict, and also at the intercultural aspects of this all.

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.



Janis Cheney Nominated for MidAmerica Board

Our very own Janis Cheney has been nominated for a position on the MidAmerica Region Board of Trustees. The election will happen during the annual conference and business meeting to be held simultaneously in 4 locations the weekend of April 12 (see top article, this page).

There is a possibility of car pooling to Topeka, likely leaving Thursday April 10; returning Monday April 14. If interested, please contact the church office.

Janis with Karen
Van Fossan

For more information about the MidAmerica Nominating Committee Report, click [HERE](#).



Candles for the Journey

We light a candle of concern for Kathlyn Kaye who recently lost her sister to cancer.

We express our love and care for Janis Cheney as she continues in her breast cancer treatment.
Visit Janis' Caring Bridge page at: www.caringbridge.org/janischene

We light a candle of joy for our friends, Brian and Angie McGinness on the birth of their daughter, Niamh (pronounced Neve, for those of you who are not Irish.) The baby's name comes from Irish mythology.

Thank you!

Thank you to Tom Disselhorst for his instrumentals and liner notes!

To Steve Crane for filling in for Jean when needed and being an all-around good sport!

To the puppeteers/assistants for the Feb 23 puppet show: Dennis Nunberg, Jim Lennington, Heidi DeMars, Beth Schatz Kaylor, and Kim Hocking – you were so good on such little notice and rehearsal time!

Your Help is Needed....

Each Sunday we need people to Greet at the front door and to serve and clean-up Treats for "Coffee Hour". How about joining us in making our time together welcoming and fun? Please check your calendars for a Sunday that you or your family can help. (If you are new to our congregation, we will pair you up with a seasoned volunteer.) We will be recruiting volunteers after the service on Sunday mornings. Look for Angela Harmon or e-mail Martha Straw at mkstraw@live.com to pick your date. Thank you!

Meditating With the Body

Meditation With the Body class is moving to a new night and new location and will no longer be held Thursday nights at the UU.

The new location is at Yoga for You 420 East Avenue B (across the street from the library). The new time, beginning March 3, will be Mondays at 7pm.

Please see bismarckmeditation.wordpress.com for more information.

UU Equipment Available for Use

The UU Fellowship now has a camera and tripod available for checkout.

The camera is capable of taking still photos and Video.

Please restrict use of this camera for church purposes.

Any photos and videos should be saved and backed up on the church office desktop computer.

The church's office desktop and laptop computers will have a video editing program.

The laptop can also be checked out, with teacher supervision, for in-class UU youth projects requiring video editing. Please see Tammy, or Steve Crane to check out the equipment.

Training is required before use and will be provided by Steve Crane.



"Life Is But A Dream" Art Reception

Artwall photographer, Mary Mitchell, with the help of our Artwall Coordinator, Char McLaughlin, will host an open house and artist reception on Saturday, April 5 from 2:00-4:00 pm (Date change).

Join Mary for refreshments and conversation!

2014 Board of Trustees and Staff

President, Colleen Reinke
Vice President, Tim Hathaway
Secretary, Marnie Piehl
Treasurer, Lisa Omlid
Director, Rick Makelky

cjreinke@gmail.com
hathaway.timothy.l@gmail.com
piehl.patch@gmail.com
omlid.lisa@gmail.com
rmakelky@hotmail.com

Office Administrator

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

Coordinator of Congregational Life

Molly Brooks
Cell phone: 919-564-6907
E-mail: brooks.molly@gmail.com

MOLLY'S HOURS:

Wednesdays: 5:30-8:30 and Sundays: 10:00-2:00
(by advance appointment only for meetings)

Coordinator of Life-Span Religious Education

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

Bis-Man UU Fellowship & Church

P.O. Box 297
Bismarck, ND 58502

[We are on Facebook!](#)

Check out our Website!

www.bismanuu.org



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