

BISMARCK - MANDAN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP & CHURCH

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

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



Sunday Service & Children's Activities: 10:30 AM
Fellowship & Coffee: Following Service

The Beacon

*Our Monthly Newsletter Sharing Unitarian Universalist Values
in the Capital City Area*

Expanding to Year Round UU Sunday Mornings—Beginning June 3

Summer time no longer means missing the inspiration and connect- edness from Sunday mornings at the Unitarian Universalist Fellow- ship and Church.

Summer programs will be a little more informal and will include time for sharing, readings, music, the opportunity to come together for reflection and connection, and of course coffee, tea and other beverages. Activities for children will be provided.

Our traditional summer picnic gatherings will be incorporated into the schedule, so be sure to watch email and the summer newsletter for further information and other details.

Some Sunday mornings will have time to reflect on a short piece out of *From Zip Lines to Hosaphones: Dispatches from the Search for Truth and Meaning* by Jane Ranney Rzepka. This delightful book has short essays “reminding us of the depth and breadth of seeing life through UU eyes.” The author has an amazing ability to make every day events illustrate how life is full of possibilities. Facilitators will read or summarize the brief pieces. The fellowship office has five copies of the book, so if you’d like to check one out, contact Tammy Hathaway.

Facilitators for June are Don Morrison, Tammy Hathaway, and Col- leen Reinke. June 3 begins the summer with “How We Break the Rules” from Rzepka’s book. (See below)

The starting time will remain at 10:30 a.m. and we’ll conclude by 11:30 a.m.

If you’d like to facilitate a summer program or participate on the fun and rewarding Program Committee, please contact Don Morrison, 527-0060, donrm2010@gmail.com.



POTLUCK PICNIC

Sunday, June 17, 2012

11:00 am-1:00 pm

AT THE CHURCH!

Due to our recent commitment to continue services through the summer, we are breaking with tradition (AGAIN!) and having our first UU picnic of the summer at the church following a brief Music Service. The Hathaway’s will “host” the picnic, but instead of at their home, they’ll be waiting for YOU at the church.

Please bring a food item to share, your own beverage, and a lawn chair if you wish. The church will provide cups, plates, napkins, utensils AND COFFEE! If you have questions, please call the church office: 223-6788.

HAPPY FATHER’S DAY!

<u>Sunday: 10:30 am</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Facilitator</u>
June 3	“How We Break the Rules”	Don Morrison
June 10	“Our Slippery Spirituality”	Colleen Reinke
June 17	Music Service followed by our June Picnic AT THE CHURCH! (See above right)	Tammy Hathaway
June 24	“Drawing the Breath of Life”	Janis Cheney

North Dakotans Against Measure Three

The Bismarck-Mandan UU Fellowship & Church has officially endorsed North Dakotans Against Measure Three. To find out more, click [HERE](#). For information on Absentee Voting, click [HERE](#).

Church Calendar

An asterisk (*) indicates related article

Fri. June 1		UU Office Closed
Sat. June 2	5:00 PM	Relay for Life—Team Sonali
Sun. June 3	10:30 AM	SUMMER SERVICES BEGIN!
Mon. June 4	6:45-8:00 PM	* PSD Webinar: <i>They Joined, They Love Us...Now What?</i> —in church office
Wed. June 6	12:00 N	Board of Trustees Meeting
Tues. June 12	12:30 PM	Program Committee Meeting
Fri. June 15	12:00 N	Women's Lunch—Blarney Stone Pub on Main Ave. in Bismarck—in the new "Booth" section!
Sun. June 17	11:00-1:00	June Picnic at the CHURCH
Sun. June 17		Happy Father's Day
Wed. June 20	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
June 20-24		UUA General Assembly in AZ

** SPECIAL NOTE: Church office hours for June are 9:00 AM—12:00 N Monday thru Friday. If you have questions, please call the church office: 223-6788 **

Sum-summer-Summer Time For UU Kids

As you now have heard, we WILL have Sunday services through the summertime. We will include informal opportunities for the children during those services. Please contact Tim if you have ideas about what your kids might like or if you would like to help out for one or more Sundays. Thank you!
hathaway.timothy.l@gmail.com or 426.9306

Calling all OWLS!

The Religious Education Committee has made a commitment to put into place the Our Whole Lives curriculum for the fall of 2012. We plan to provide the training this summer and we need adults who are interested in being involved in this effort. A summary of the curriculum can be found at <http://www.uua.org/re/owl/index.shtml>. Contact Tim (see above) if you are interested.



UU Smorgas-Board

Tidbits from your UU Trustees

Your UU Board membership has been shaken up a bit, but like a good smoothie, despite initial turmoil, we are sure the end results will be wonderful. Our Trustee Mary Mitchell job's presented too many time conflicts with Board work, so she has been relieved (as in a sense of relief, not a punishment!) of her duties. According to the Bylaws, the Board is to appoint a replacement. Beth Nodland, a former board member, has agreed to fill out Mary's term, or fill in at least until the end of the year. Mary's term would have been over at the end of 2013. Beth accepted this position without even asking WHAT we would be asking her to do! Isn't that great?! Isn't that, perhaps, UNWISE?! Well, she will find out soon enough...

We send SPECIAL THANKS TO MARY MITCHELL, for stepping up to serve on the Board and giving it a great effort, despite uncertainty with her work schedule. Mary remains on the Sacred Space Task Force and has expressed interest in assisting with church projects wherever and whenever she can. You can bet we will be taking her up on her generous offer of assistance with future work! We hope Mary might find another opportunity to serve on the Board at a later time.

The Board held a second retreat at the church on Saturday, May 19. This three-hour extravaganza included reports and discussion of the various committees, and a discussion of past accomplishments and future plans, along with excellent snacks and a White Elephant gift exchange. After Tim Hathaway poached Colleen's excellent glasses, nose, and moustache disguise, she received a handsome mug shaped like a sheriff's hat, which seems quite appropriate. Carol Jean was the envy of all with her lovely brass-ish camel figurine, and Tammy received a slightly frightening paper clip holder, which you can all visit in the office. Marnie received an ACTUAL white elephant! We also did some work. We do find it valuable to just sit and talk and brain storm about what we have accomplished and what we want to accomplish for the rest of the year.



What is This Church?

From Your Board Prez

What is this church? What kind of a question is that?

Well, I mean, what IS this church? Why do we exist? What do we do? What are we in the wider community? What does this church mean to individual members?

These are questions many churches do not ask. Perhaps they think they already know, and perhaps they do know. Many churches exist because someone (Luther, Calvin, etc...) established them centuries ago and they have always been and they always will be. Congregations may not wish to get any deeper than that into their own reason for being. But history only makes a part of a church.

I think it is terribly important that churches ask themselves essential questions. I think we, as a church, need to do it and keep doing it. We need to keep asking:

- Why do we go to church?
- Why do we keep going?
- Why do we stop going?
- What do we want and need from our community?
- Do we have a larger purpose and if so, what is it?
- Are we meeting the spiritual needs of members and visitors?
- Are we providing "pastoral care" for those in need of it?
- Are we providing members with a sense of what it means to be UU?
- Are we reaching a community larger than ourselves?
- Are we listening to each other?

We have asked and answered these questions in the past, but we need to keep asking those questions. That is the only way this church can stay vital and meet the needs of its members. Sometimes we gather information from our congregation through surveys or questionnaires. But you are all ALWAYS welcome to talk to any board or committee member about anything at the church that concerns you.

As a small, lay-led congregation, we face challenges meeting our own needs. We rely almost exclusively on volunteers to hold the place together. And we are stretched thin. BUT what we do have is love. We love the community, we love our little church, and we love each other. And we need to keep talking about what we need, who we are, and what we will become.

Volunteers Recognized

At our service on May 20, all those who have volunteered for and/or supported our church community were asked to stand and be recognized. Not surprisingly, EVERYONE stood up! Luckily, all those who stood also applauded, or it would have been a pretty quiet celebration!

This is the nature of community. Community is everyone working together to accomplish something. We accomplish a free pulpit and a welcoming congregation, among many, many other things. We could not do it without the folks who step forward and lend a hand. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

And that reminds me.....

Kitchen Addition!

We have a new (used) stove! Thanks to the diligence of the intrepid shopper, Tammy Hathaway, we were able to purchase a nice stove from BismanOnline. Thanks for the sharp eyes, Tammy! Thanks also to all the big, strapping manly UU men (Stephen Crane, John Morrison, Tim Hathaway and Tyler Demars) who helped remove and dispose of the old stove, and install the new one! AND thanks to Bonnie Olson for giving it a very thorough cleaning! What a team!

....Volunteers Needed

We are ALWAYS looking for folks who are willing to donate their time and talent to our church community. Here are opportunities to consider:

The Program Committee

If you are interested in having a say in what happens in your church on Sunday mornings, this opportunity is for you! Contact Don Morrison: 527-0060 or donrm2012@gmail.com.

The Membership Committee

If you like keeping our UU circle complete and round, then this might be the place for you! Contact Carol Jean Larsen: 258-6824 or cjlarson43@bis.midco.net.

Religious Education

If you like participating and having an influence in the lives of our young people, do we have a place for you! If this sounds like fun, contact Tim Hathaway: 426-9306 or hathaway.timothy.l@gmail.com.

Hospitality

These are the folks who greet you on Sunday mornings and help coordinate special events in our church. If you have an extra smile and enjoy fun events, look no further! Contact: Carol Jean Larsen: 258-6824 or cjlarson43@bis.midco.net.

Building and Grounds

If you are handy with a paint brush or vacuum cleaner or just like working on fun projects that would make our church building looking spiffy, contact Tim Hathaway: 426-9306 or hathaway.timothy.l@gmail.com.

Have You Own Idea?

Perhaps none of the above appeal to you, but you have a thought about what you *would* like to do. Just let Tammy in the office or any Board member know! Church office and Board contact information is listed on the last page of this newsletter.

Thank You To Those Who Step Up!

A Big Thank You to all those folks who have helped out at the church this past month! A special shout out to:

- Bonnie Olson for keeping out church clean,
- Tyler Sanford for mowing,
- Joann Ashley for planting flowers and tending to the flower beds outside our church,
- Ann and Mike Knudson for supportive acts for the church too numerous to mention,
- Our Summer Program Team for continuing services through the summer months....

It takes many people who donate their time to keep our church rich and running smoothly. We appreciate everyone who makes that possible!

RUTH MEIER'S HOSPITALITY HOUSE

Once again, members and friends of our congregation served the noon meal at the Ruth Meier's Hospitality House on Thursday, May 31st. Many thanks to Yoshiko Sato, Mike Knudson, Christine Kujawa, Vicki Beitelspacher, Liz Anderson and Pat Conrad for providing this community outreach service.

Our next regularly scheduled noon meal will be on Thursday, August 30th. An email will be sent out about a week prior to that date looking for volunteers.

PLUS...while at Ruth Meier's last Thursday, we learned that they have 2 'open' dates in June - Thursday June 14th and Thursday June 21st. Is anyone interested and available to serve the noon meal on either of those dates?? The volunteer commitment runs from 11:00 AM to 12:45 PM - no cooking or cleaning up involved. And the guests eating at the facility appreciate what we do. Please contact Pat Conrad as soon as possible if you are interested in these OPEN dates: 258-6388 or patriciaryanconrad@msn.com. Thank you!

Candles for the Journey

Please keep Jean King and Dan Christ in your hearts. Dan's daughter, Jean's sister, died in Colorado in late May following a long, progressively deteriorating illness.

Charlotte Hammond, Helen's daughter-in-law, is half way through her treatment regime. We look forward to the day when she will be able to return to church with Helen on Sunday mornings.

We welcome Vinod and Aruna Seth back to Bismarck. The Seth's spent many months with family and friends as they cared for daughter Sonali during the final months of her life.

Congratulations to Jesse White, Kathy Nelson's son and Mason Goddard Churco, Tammy and Tim Hathaway's son, upon their graduation from high school.



**Sponsored by
Midwest UU
Leadership**

Small Congregation Workshop Series

They Joined, They Love Us...Now What?: Mon., June 4 from 6:45—8:00 PM

Too often, newcomers join UU congregations with great enthusiasm, participating and attending regularly. Then 2-3 years later they seem to disappear. This workshop will look at some reasons for this as well as explore ways to keep folks engaged and turn them into long-term members.

If you are interested in this webinar, please see Tammy, call the church office: 223-6788 or email: office@bismanuu.org.

**Prairie Star District Webinar Workshops—
On the Computer in the Church Office**

Our congregation continues to participate in the monthly webinars sponsored by Midwest UU Leadership. The online workshops are 75 minutes long, with a presentation and discussion time. Please feel free to join in on a subject of interest to you. Contact the church office: 701-223-6788 or office@bismanuu.org.

Board of Trustees and Officers

President, Colleen Reinke	cjreinke@gmail.com
Vice President, Tim Hathaway	hathaway.timothy.l@gmail.com
Secretary, Karen Van Fossan	karenavanfossan@gmail.com
Treasurer, Carol Jean Larsen	cjlarsen43@bis.midco.net
Director, Beth Nodland	bnodland@aol.com
Director, Lisa Omlid	omlid.lisa@gmail.com
Director, Mamie Piehl	mamie.piehl@bismarckstate.edu or piehl.patch@gmail.com

Office Administrator

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

Bis-Man UU Fellowship & Church

P.O. Box 297
Bismarck, ND 58502

[We are on Facebook!](#)

Check out our Website!

www.bismanuu.org



JUNE UU OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday: 9:00—12:00 N

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.*

Very Useful Links

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

www.uua.org

[Prairie Star District](http://www.psdoua.org)

www.psdoua.org

[Church of the Larger Fellowship](http://www.clf.uua.org)

www.clf.uua.org

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

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

www.questformeaning.org