

**BISMARCK - MANDAN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP & CHURCH**

Sunday Services & Children's Programs: 9:00 AM
Fellowship & Refreshments: Following Service

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

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The Beacon

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

Sunday, June 7

DISCUSSION: UU PRINCIPLE 3

Facilitator: Jean King

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth: What does spiritual growth mean to an atheist, a Buddhist, a Christian, and agnostic? How can we practice acceptance of one another and still claim our own right to conscience?

Sunday, June 14

DISCUSSION: UU PRINCIPLE 5

Facilitator: Jean King

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large: What does it mean to be a democracy? Does the majority always rule? How can we honor the right of conscience of each individual, and yet work together in a democratic society and a democratic congregation?

Summer Services

- Summer discussion services Sunday mornings from May 31 through August 30 at 9:00 am
- Labor Day weekend Sunday, September 6, there will be no official service but we will have coffee hour and fellowship at 10:30 am.
- Our regular Sunday morning services begin after Labor Day on September 13 at 10:30 am.

On Sunday mornings in the summer, our format is relaxed and informal as we sit together at our round tables, suited to encourage conversation. We will have music and a thought-provoking reading followed by small group discussion with coffee and fellowship after service concludes. Children's religious education programs are suspended during the summer; however, children are welcome at service.

PRIDE

Sunday, June 21

PRIDE EVENT: INTERFAITH SERVICE

Facilitator: Janis Cheney

It's Pride Weekend in Bismarck! Join us for an Interfaith Service celebrating our connections and support with and for the LGBT community.

Sunday, June 28

DISCUSSION: UU LIFESTYLE AND LITERATURE

Facilitator: Paul Markel

Have you read any great books lately affirming your UU lifestyle or changing the way you think? Discussion will center on keeping the faith through good reads.



Church Calendar

An asterisk (*) indicates related article

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

Board of Trustees Meeting, 12 noon

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

- ◆ Summer Discussion Service, 9:00 am
- ◆ Congregational Meeting, 10:15 am

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

- ◆ Summer Discussion Service, 9:00 am
- ◆ *Potluck Picnic at Piehl Patch Farm, 11:00 am

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

Men's Get-Together, 5:30 pm, Location TBA

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

- ◆ UU Women's Lunch, 12:00 Noon at Minerva's
- ◆ *Capital Pride Event June 19-21; see article p. 3

FRIDAY, JUNE 20

*Pride in Custer Park, UU Booth, 9:00 am -5:00 pm

SUNDAY, JUNE 21 Happy Father's Day

*Pride Interfaith Service, 9:00 am

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

Summer Discussion Service, 9:00 am

UU Board Update May 25, 2015

While summer doesn't officially begin until the Solstice, it feels like summer now. The days are long, light lingers into the late evening, and after a long dry spell, the rain has come! I've been planting -- flowers and vegetables, and ideas for summer projects into the minds of my husband and sons. If all of these things take root, it should be a fruitful season.

Our congregation will continue to grow together as well during this time. We will gather for summer services every Sunday at 9 a.m., and for our summer picnics each month. I'm looking forward to hosting for the first time on June 14 (let's see how fruitful things are looking by then at the Piehl Place). Solstice will find us hosting the Pride Fest interfaith service, and on June 7 we'll have our quarterly congregational meeting after the 9 a.m. service.

We will check in with each other and discuss our goals at that meeting. Last time we gathered we agreed that we'd like to explore calling a minister. Since then, our pledges have not quite aligned with that goal. We have much to discuss and explore. I hope that we still intend to work toward a minister. It is something I admit that I long for. I feel we need someone to help us rally, to facilitate the journey we share -- someone who helps us grow. We ask too much of too few, and we aren't always able to provide the spiritual nourishment needed. I think we have lost friends and members over the years in part due to this lack. And so, I've given you my take on the topic and I look forward to hearing yours.

I want to thank all of you who do so much. A special thank you to Tamera Markel, our lovely office manager, who calmly keeps things moving with very little direction. I hope that you all have the opportunity to revel in the beauty of summer, and to grow and flourish alongside the growing things around us.

-Marnie Piehl, UU Board Co-President

Art Show

Helen Hammond, a founding member of this congregation, is now a resident at the Missouri Slope Care Center. Helen began painting shortly after her first child was born and our congregation has sponsored at least 2 shows of Helen's paintings over the past years. Now Missouri Slope is including some of Helen's paintings in their annual art show to be held on Friday, June 12th from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Pat Conrad plans to attend and will happily provide a ride to anyone else who might like to come along.

Candles for the Journey

*Two members of the congregation have recently experienced brief hospitalizations -- Susan Lyon and Eileen McNally. Both are back home, and we trust they are on the road to recovery.

*Tim and Tammy Hathaway report selling their house here in Bismarck and purchasing a 200 year-old house in the Albany area of New York. They probably now have a life time of "fix up" projects ahead of them.



Capital Pride 2015!

BisMan UU is a proud sponsor of Capital Pride 2015!

Here's a quick preview of what's planned for Capital Pride 2015!

- ◆ Pre-Pride Event, Sunday, June 14, 4:00-8:00 pm. LGBT movie at the Laughing Sun Brewing Co.
- ◆ Riverboat Social, Friday, June 19, 8:30 pm-10:30 pm
- ◆ Pride in Custer Park, Saturday, June 20, 11:00 am-5:00 pm
- ◆ Dakota Divas Pride Drag Show, Saturday, June 20, 8:00 pm-1:00 am
- ◆ Interfaith Service, Sunday, June 21, 9:00 am at the UU
- ◆ Pride Film Screening at Dakota Stage, Sunday, June 21, 1:30 pm

Come and show your support to our local GLBTQ community! Check out Dakota Outright's webpage for all the details and information on Capital Pride 2015: <http://dakotaoutright.org/events/pride> to learn more!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

UU Pride Booth
Saturday, June 20
9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Custer Park, Bismarck

Can you help staff our UU Booth for a one hour shift?

There will be "Welcoming" literature on display.

You will hand out a UU flyer promoting our June 15 Sunday Service featuring Dakota Outright speakers.

Please email your YES response to the UU office office@bismanuu.org or call the office at 701.223.6788. Thank you!

Mark Fogelson (pictured below) performed a folk music concert at the UU.

Photo: Janis Cheney



May 17, 2015



PRIDE IN CUSTER PARK



UU PICNIC POTLUCK
AT PIEHL FARM
Sunday, June 14
11:00 AM
Marnie Piehl, host

Bring a dish to share and a lawn chair. Mossy on over to the "Piehl Patch", about 3.5 miles south of Mandan.

UU provides plates, cups, utensils.

Car Pooling: Contact the UU or call Carol Jean Larsen by Friday. 701-516-7848.

Activities: Swimming in solar heated pool, creek and woods to explore, horses to pet, trampoline with net, badminton.

Directions

- *I-94 to Center/Stanton exit and **Left** (south)
- * Road turns to gravel at stop sign
- *Cross RR tracks.
- *Turn **Right** at first mailboxes
- *Drive across the RR tracks again
- * Stay **Right** into Piehl's yard

Marnie's contact:
H - 255-2612
C - 220-2704

Homelessness in our Community - Conclusion

This little write-up concludes the series of articles on homelessness in our community. Our congregation is trying to help the situation by serving the noon meal at the Ruth Meier's Hospitality House on the 5th Thursday of those months having 5 Thursdays, and participating on the Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People.

The coalition is made up of representatives from the many agencies serving folks who are experiencing homelessness, or are at risk of homelessness, and a number of churches. The group meets monthly to talk about issues arising in the community, to share information on available resources such as rooms in shelters and money to pay for security deposits or MDU hook-ups, and to identify unmet needs.

Coalition members facilitate the semi-annual Point in Time count of those who are homeless in our community. On a given day in January, and again in July, coalition volunteers go to those sites where homeless folks gather in an attempt to count all those who did not sleep in their own bed the previous night. There are several basic questions asked, but no personally identifying data collected. Questions include:

- Where did you sleep last night?
- How long have you been homeless, and what is the primary cause of such homelessness?
- Are you a veteran? (many are)
- How long have you been in the community, and did you come here to find employment?
- Are you employed now? (many are)

And then the respondents are given an opportunity to check off all factors they consider to stand in their way of their achieving permanent housing, such as addiction problems, bad credit, felony convictions, or mental health issues.

The purpose of this Point in Time count is to document the extent of the problem in order to help North Dakota qualify for the federal funding. Although this survey can be taken in the major communities in our state, there is no way to accurately count those sleeping in vacant barns in our smaller communities.

A concrete need the coalition identified, and is trying to meet, is to help the homeless get their clothes cleaned. It is difficult to go on a job interview in dirty clothes. Agency staff gives their clients vouchers for a specific number of loads of laundry and the client turns the voucher over to one of the 3 participating Laundromats. The Laundromat uses laundry detergent and bleach provided by the coalition, and the Laundromat's own money, to get the machines started. The Laundromats then return the redeemed vouchers to the coalition for reimbursement of their out-of-pocket costs. I am now managing this program on behalf of the coalition.

Another concrete service is the annual Project Service Connect being held each August before school opens. This ½ day event brings all of the service providers together in one location, so the clients can get their hair cut, receive a lot of personal care supplies such as deodorant and toothpaste (which cannot be purchased with food stamps), learn about job openings from the day labor organizations, get bus passes and help writing a resume, and, if needed, get blood pressure and blood sugar checks.

Most of us don't notice homeless people in the course of our everyday lives. But their number has increased drastically in North Dakota since 2008. And from the articles in recent newspapers, you have seen information about the closing of the Soup Café due to the loss of its lease, and the financial problems Ruth Meier's is having. There are always needs to be met.

I know that homelessness was not one of the topics the congregation chose as a priority for the current year, but I've been representing the church on the homeless coalition. Thanks for letting me share this information with you over the past several months.

—Pat Conrad



Left: Maypole Dancing at the UU

Pictured: Marnie Piehl, Karen Van Fossan, Ronya Hoblit

May 3, 2015

SAVE THE DATE—UU POTLUCK SUMMER PICNICS!

- ◆ Sunday, June 14 (see p. 3 for details)
- ◆ Sunday, July 19
- ◆ Sunday, August 16 (Potluck Picnic and Blessing of the Animals)



2015 Board of Trustees and Staff

Co-President, Mamie Piehl piehl.patch@gmail.com
Co-President, Molly Brooks brooks.molly@gmail.com
Secretary, Ronya Hoblit hoblit2001@yahoo.com
Treasurer, Lisa Omlid omlid.lisa@gmail.com
Trustee, Stephen Crane scrane@bis.midco.net

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Bis-Man UU Fellowship & Church

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[We are on Facebook!](#)

Check out our Website!

www.bisanuu.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.*



SUMMER CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

11:00am—3:00 PM

It is ALWAYS a good idea to call first before stopping by: 701.223.6788

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