

**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*

Sunday, March 29

SCATTER MY ASHES

David Kraemer

What happens to us when we die? What do we tell ourselves and others at the end of our lives? How do we live in hearts and minds? This service is devoted to a Unitarian Universalist understanding of death, dying, hope, and immortality.

David Kraemer currently serves All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church in Sioux Falls, SD. He is a graduate of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and has served in ministerial internship and field work placement in UU congregations in Fargo-Moorhead, Rockford, IL., and Rochester, MN. He is a former journalist, and enjoys the life of a modern-day circuit rider throughout the Midwest.

Sunday, March 1

WHAT'S AILING THE LAND

Tayo Basquiat

Tayo will discuss one particular affliction in the human/land relationship and offer 13 ideas for what we can do about it. He is assistant professor of philosophy at Bismarck State College, a board member of the North Dakota Humanities Council, a contributing writer for the Northern Plains Ethics Journal, and active in the area's local food movement.

Sunday, March 8

CHANGE

Tamera Markel

Change is a natural phenomenon in concert with time. Are we resistant to change, finding comfort in the complacency of the status quo, or are we open to change- accepting its growth and potential challenges? Tamera will talk about how patterns of change give perspective to life experiences. Tamera worked as a speech-language pathologist for several years in ND public schools and currently works as the communications/office manager at the Bismarck Mandan UU Fellowship & Church.

Sunday, March 15

"WEALTH ADDICTION": REALLY?

Karen Van Fossan

Is "wealth addiction" a real phenomenon afflicting millionaires and billionaires in particular? Perhaps "wealth addiction" is a ruse to disguise the injustices of our economic system. A capitalist view may not see anything wrong with accumulating great wealth, and in fact, such accumulation has positive social value. We'll also consider the question, "If wealth addiction is real, what, if anything, can those of us who struggle for economic justice do from here?"

Seasoned UU congregation member, Karen Van Fossan is a writer, licensed counselor, advocate for children, and home-stretch seminarian due to graduate in April of this year .

Sunday, March 22

PASSAGES AND TRANSITIONS—REFLECTIONS ON LIFE'S TRANSITIONS

Valerie Naylor

Life is a journey. Valerie will reflect on impactful changes that shaped her life. Valerie is a long-time Unitarian and the recently retired superintendent of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. When she is not traveling, she lives in the Black Hills of South Dakota and continues to work on North Dakota issues.

Church Calendar

An asterisk (*) indicates related article

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

- Sunday Service & children's service, 10:30 am
 - Board Meeting at 11:45 am

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

- Sunday Service & children's service, 10:30 am
 - Congregational Meeting at 11:45 am

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

- Sunday Service & children's service, 10:30 am
 - PPP Gathering at 11:45 am

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

- Adult RE Discussion, 7-8:30 pm

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

Men's Get-Together, 5:30 pm at Luft downtown Bismarck

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

Women's Lunch at Minerva's at 12 noon

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

- Sunday Service & children's service, 10:30 am

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

- *Workshop "RUMORS OF MY DEMISE," 1:00 pm
 - *All-Church Potluck, 6:00 pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

- Sunday Service & children's service, 10:30 am

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

- *Easter Brunch, 10:30 am

Special Events – Special Opportunity!

UU Minister-in-Training, David Kraemer will be our guest the weekend of March 28-29. In response to requests, David will facilitate sessions to discuss and consider end of life issues and opportunities.

Our journey will begin at **1 p.m. on Saturday, March 28** with **RUMORS OF MY DEMISE**. This three-hour workshop is designed to get you thinking, and maybe started, on writing your own life story -- for your obituary, a eulogy, a memoir or just for fun. The workshop includes time for personal reflection and writing, as well as time to share stories with others one-to-one and in a group. Also considered will be end-of-life decisions and planning. This activity is suitable for people at any stage in life (whether you think you are about to kick the bucket or not)!

We'll adjourn in time for an **All-Church Potluck beginning at 6 p.m.** at the church (see following item - food will be awesome as always and fellowship – also, as always – will be engaging and stimulating)!

Sunday March 29 we'll hear David Kraemer's reflections in the sermon titled **SCATTER MY ASHES**. What happens to us when we die? What do we tell ourselves and others at the end of our lives? How do we live in hearts and minds? This service is devoted to a Unitarian Universalist understanding of death, dying, hope, and immortality.

Following the service, there will be additional time for discussion on any aspects of death and dying. **All are welcome at any or all of these sessions.** Don't miss this special weekend with David Kraemer exploring aspects of our continuing search for truth and meaning in our lives and deaths. --Janis Cheney

POTLUCK SUPPER

Saturday, March 28, 2015

6:00 pm

An opportunity to visit with
UU guest David Kraemer



Candles for the Journey

*LaVonne Scott is in our thoughts and prayers as she continues to recover from a stroke at the Good Samaritan rehab facility.

UU Children's Religious Education Opportunity

We are looking for volunteers to be a part of our Children's RE program on Sunday mornings. *This is a wonderful opportunity to live your UU values by teaching them to our youth! If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Marnie Piehl at piehl.patch@gmail.com or call/text 701.220.2704.*

Invitation: Our 4th Principle in Action

by Karen Van Fossan,

UU Seminarian and Congregational Member

I have some good news -- and an invitation. As part of my free and responsible search for truth and meaning (our 4th UU principle), I have found spiritual nourishment in a little-known but growing faith tradition. I remain committed to Unitarian Universalism, at the same time that I enjoy feeding my Christian roots in the Independent/Old Catholic tradition. The word "Old" conveys ancient -- holding onto the egalitarian origins of the faith; after rejecting Roman Catholic hierarchical changes in the 1880's, it brings a combination of age-old ritual and progressive social gospel. For me, it also fits nicely with Unitarian Universalism -- I experience both traditions to be scrappy and open-hearted.

On Saturday, April 18, I will be ordained a deacon in the Holy Cross Old Catholic Diocese of the Midwest. If you are interested in traveling to the Twin Cities, I'd be honored to share the celebration (and details) with you. Upon ordination, I will continue my public ministry for children; I'll also continue to grow in my North Dakota UU communities of faith.

Save the Date!

Easter Sunday Brunch

April 5 at 10:30 am followed
by short service.

Bring your visiting relatives!
Free will donation for the brunch.





Camp Unistar - A Wonderful Vacation Opportunity

These words from the Unistar brochure describe the experience very well:

"Camp Unistar is a place of natural beauty and serenity nestled on Star Island, surrounded by the clear waters of Cass Lake. Here amidst the pine forests of northern Minnesota, Unitarian Universalists and like-minded friends gather to relax and regenerate. The dark, clear nights are perfect for star gazing, while sunrises and sunsets invite meditation. Water activities abound and there are miles of trails through the quiet forest. Campers enjoy sailing, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, hiking, volleyball, horseshoes, crafts, card games, board games, conversing or quietly reading on screen porches...all on an island with no roads or commercial enterprise."



We first went to Camp Unistar when our kids were 7 and 4. It became an annual excursion for the next 12 years and beyond (even when the kids were too busy). If you enjoy the outdoors, it is an idyllic place. If you enjoy wonderful food, (vegetarian friendly), you'll find it here. If you enjoy meeting people and becoming part of an intentional community, this is a great place. Lodging is either a room in a rustic cabin (there is hot and cold running water) or tenting. Each week during the summer offers a different (optional) adult program and a children's program (3-11) during the same hours. Teen activities are planned on site with staff support. The rest of the time is luxuriously yours for activities or relaxation.



Brochures will be available on the front counter. You can also check out the website at www.campunistar.org. Or ask us. The registration deadline is in early March, but there are often spots available after that as well.

— Jan Cheney and Steve Crane

Photos taken from Camp Unistar's Facebook page

https://www.facebook.com/campunistar/photos_stream?ref=page_internal



Children's RE Teacher, Angela Harmon, gives the children canvas and paint for their art projects.

Pictured from front to back: Cora, Alma, Gus, and Angela Harmon

ART WALL DISPLAY

Children's Art

The Wonders of Spring

What do kids long for most during these winter months? Possible the warmth of sunshine on their rosy cheeks, puddles for splashing, trees for climbing, and of course bike rides. Spring not only brings us baby chicks, but a rejuvenated spirit, a lighter heart and a hope for a better future. Our UU children captured the *Wonders of Spring* through bright colors and brilliant imagination.

Enjoy a child's eye view of what we've all been waiting for **SPRING!**

Artists: Alma, Cora, Maggie, Yere, Gus, Xochitl, and Karly

EMERGENCY SHELTERS

This is the second in the series of short articles on the issue of homelessness in our community. This one is about the availability of emergency shelter.

The Ruth Meier's Hospitality House, located in the former Baptist Home on Boulevard Ave. has been, and continues to be, the primary facility for individuals needing emergency shelter. At the current time Ruth Meier's provides 3 major services, all of which require daily breathalyzing and random drug testing.

There is a Men's Drop-in Shelter at the corner of 23rd Street and Rosser which can accommodate up to 100 men a night, and has been serving 80 or so each night this winter. The facility is a single big room with bunk beds, small lockers, and hot showers. The men are always provided with sandwiches for dinner in the evening and perhaps sweet rolls for breakfast if those rolls have been donated to the facility, as they have no ability to do any cooking at the Drop-in Shelter. The men are charged \$2 a night to stay here. The facility remains open during the day during the winter months. Some of the men residing in this facility have jobs, but not enough money to move into an apartment. Others are not looking for work, and may only come indoors to sleep when it is too cold to remain in their cars or trucks overnight.

Men who are successful in improving themselves at the Drop-in Shelter are referred back to the Ruth Meier's facility on Boulevard where there are smaller rooms for 8 to 12 individuals and the possibility of 3 meals a day. All who move to the Boulevard address pay \$50 a week for their accommodations, and must be working or looking for work. There are also dormitory beds for a limited number of women in the building on Boulevard, and several rooms for families with children, with the same requirements as for the men.

As affordable housing is the main deterrent to escaping homelessness, Ruth Meier's is renovating most of the Boulevard building into efficiency, one and two bedroom apartments. When an individual or a family moves into one of these apartments, that family unit is no longer considered to be homeless as this new apartment can become their permanent residence. Individuals in these apartments pay for them on a sliding fee scale basis, up to 30% of their monthly income. Individuals living in these apartments can also obtain their meals from the Ruth Meier's kitchen. Renovation has been completed on 19 apartments, and all of those are full. At least another 19 are awaiting completion, but completion must wait until adequate funding is available.

About 10 years ago there was recognition that women, single women with children, single men with children, intact families, and sometimes even grandparents with children were also experiencing homelessness. At that time Welcome House was established. Welcome House is located in Mandan in the former Heartview building. Welcome House has 9 family rooms and can provide beds for up to 50 individuals. Welcome House is a no-use facility which does background checks on all adults entering their program and breathalyzes their adults each night. Their goal is to have families live there only 90 days before achieving self-sufficiency and their own apartment, but that time limit can be extended when necessary. Case management services are continued for an additional 3 years for those program graduates who request such services. The case management is to help prevent another episode of homelessness when people lose their jobs or have major unanticipated expenses.

In spite of these emergency shelters, we still have people sleeping in their cars throughout the city.

-Pat Conrad

UU Event Reminders



Exciting opportunity for teenagers! Be inspired to participate in one of these awesome summer programs! Click on the link.

Learn more and register today at uucsj.org/youth!

To register or for more information go to <http://www.midamericauua.org/RA>

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Please click [here](#) to view the UU Veatch Program's 2014 Annual Report.

This report is shorter and more streamlined than in prior years. We're making it available to you in an online version to:

- (1) reduce the amount of paper we're sending to you (an environmental value);
- (2) reduce the cost of postage and mail handling for sending out the report (an economic value); and
- (3) preserve some money in our budget to experiment with video updates about the work of our grantees that we can post on the UUCSR website (a strategic value).

Online resources can be both more engaging and more timely in telling you about the difference Veatch grants are making.

Members of the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock should be justly proud of the ways in which their generosity is putting Unitarian Universalist principles and values into practice through Veatch Program grants, helping bring into reality the kind of just and equitable world we dream about.

48 Shelter Rock Rd. Manhasset, NY 11030

(T) 516.472.2924 (F) 631.794.1424

denise@veatch.org | Visit us on the web: [Veatch](#)

Two Days of Events!

WE Rise: Women Empowered offers behind the scenes insight, meetings with local lawmakers, and training on how to lobby. March 9th will be a day filled with learning, listening and lobbying for policies that enhance and enrich the lives of women and families.

The training is from 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm on Sunday, March 8th.

Contact Information:

North Dakota Women's Network

tel. 701- 226-1116

network@ndwomen.org

www.ndwomen.org



2015 Board of Trustees and Staff

Board

Co-President, Marnie 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@bepc.com

Communications Coordinator/Office Manager

Tamera Markel
Church phone: 701-223-6788 • Cell phone: 701-934-3169
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

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.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Office hours will vary.

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

Very Useful Links

[Unitarian Universalist Association](#)

www.uua.org

[Mid America Region](#)

<http://midamericauua.org/>

[Quest for Meaning](#)

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

www.questformeaning.org