

BISMARCK - MANDAN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP & CHURCH

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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*

WELCOME TO THE BEGINNING OF OUR REGULAR SERVICE YEAR!

Sunday, September 7

TO SEARCH IN COMMUNITY, OR TO TEACH THE FRAGILE

ART OF HOSPITALITY

Betty Mills

A welcome back to a new church year with some thoughts and questions about what brings us here and why it matters.

Betty is a charter member of our Fellowship, and has served on both the Prairie Star District Board (now MidAmerica) and national UUA Board.

Sunday, September 28

FAMILY MATTERS—WHO DECIDES?

Becky Podol Matthews

Our 2nd Unitarian Universalist principle calls us to honor justice, equity and compassion in human relations. Becky Podol Matthews will reflect on how Measure 1 (on the November ballot) could have compromised her family's options and decisions in the midst of very difficult and personal circumstances.

Becky Matthews is currently on the Board of Directors for the ND Women's Network, active with ND Against Measure 1.

Sunday, September 14

IS COURAGE AN ORDINARY ACT?

Dr. Larry Skogen

Courageous men and women populate our history. Are their heroic acts extraordinary or ordinary?

Dr Skogen is the Interim Chancellor of the North Dakota University System

Sunday, September 21

THE (WEAKENING) WALL OF SEPARATION BETWEEN
CHURCH AND STATE

Clay Jenkinson

Thanks to misunderstandings of the Constitution of the United States and the First Amendment, an increasing number of Americans believe that religion has a rightful and essential place in the public square. Clay will provide a brief historical background to the doctrine of Separation, and discuss the threat to this essential American freedom.

Clay Jenkinson is the Theodore Roosevelt Center Scholar at DSC and Distinguished Scholar of Humanities at BSC.

Church Calendar

An asterisk (*) indicates related article

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Board of Trustees Meeting, 6:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Financial Task Force Meeting, 6:00 pm

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Sprucing Up the Church and Garden Day, 8:00 am

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

First Sunday of the New Service Year, 10:30 am

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Sunday Service, 10:30 am

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

OWL Instruction Begins at UCC (Grade 4-6), 5:30 pm

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

UU Women's Lunch at Minerva's, 12:00 N

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Sunday Service, 10:30 am

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

PPP Gathering (following service), 12:00 N,

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Sunday Service, 10:30 am

Fun! Fellowship! Future! Good works!!

PPP Kick Off:

- **Sunday, September 21, 12:00 N**
- **Light Lunch & Childcare Provided**

Our UU congregation was founded as a labor of love, built on our belief in the worth and dignity of every person and the principles that shape and guide our lives, and we have thrived for over 60 years thanks to the collaboration and commitment of members and friends.

Two years ago, we initiated a new approach to our organizational activities, designed to bring more of us into the process and practice of sustaining our congregation and sharing our talents. This approach is called **People-Place-Program (PPP)**.

We have discovered through experience and conversation that evening meetings can be a challenge for many people. We've heard you! Beginning in September, our PPP Gatherings will move to every third Sunday following service.

We will kick off the fall PPP sessions on **Sunday, September 21** and EVERYONE is invited. The afternoon begins with a light meal (free will donations gratefully accepted) at 12 noon and continues with about an hour of group meetings. It is a great way to explore and enhance our influence on our organization and to share the benefits of planning and practicing our faith.

Hope to see YOU there!

No UU Satay at Street Fair

The UU request to amend our original application from selling beef satay skewers to a less expensive pork product has been rejected by the Street Fair organizers, the Downtowners Association.

The reason given is that many other food vendors had switched to lower cost pork and that there seemed to be a vendor selling a product similar to ours.

Since many UU's loved to buy the delicious unused satay sauce, Colleen Reinke will be whipping up a small batch just for us.

Stay tuned for details about when you can buy your satay sauce!

Our Whole Lives Update (OWL)

We are very excited to be partnering with the United Church of Christ (UCC) to provide our 4-6 graders with OWL instruction.

We begin our OWL classes on Wednesday, September 17 from 5:30—7:00 pm and continue each Wednesday at the same time for six weeks. Classes are held at UCC (1200 E. Highland Acres Rd.) and dinner will be provided.

Our Whole Lives helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, *Our Whole Lives* not only provides facts about anatomy and human development, it also helps participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality. For more information on OWL, click [HERE](#).

Last spring on May 1 we held our partnered Parent/Child Orientation at UCC with wonderful success.

If you would like more information about this important project, please call the church office: 701.223.6788.

UU Prez's Ponderings

Where does the summer go? Does anyone on the planet appreciate summer like those who live on the extremes of the planet? And yes, I consider North Dakota to be on the extremes!

This summer began with Wednesday night discussion services. After a month of low attendance, the Program Area switched the discussion services back to Sunday. Frankly, I would have liked to have given Wednesday nights a bit more time to catch on and "work," but I recognize my "lane" at the church – this was in the lane of the Program Area and I need to chill out. It is summer, summer is short, and we have to be flexible to take full advantage of the time given us to actually wear sandals and bare at least modest portions of our skin to the elements in the land where, if we did those things year-round, we would be committed to somewhere safe for a long period of time.

So we are about to say adieu to summer and greet the fall and the beginning of another service year at the UU. I have been sitting in on Program Area meetings and I can promise you that this will be another wonderful year of services in our fellowship. This fall will also see a change in the philosophy and format of our usual fall pledge drive – look for more from the Financial Task Force beginning in September.

Fall for the UUs represents a new beginning of sorts, which corresponds to no other beginnings I know of except the start of the school year. Let's greet this program year with renewed enthusiasm for our community, the willingness to look at things from new perspectives, and the sense of humor needed to get through *everything!*

-Colleen Reinke

It's a Garden Party!

OK, well, almost! :)

Saturday, September 6 at 8:30 am our Place crew will be at the church working inside and out.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

We will have a list of tasks that need doing around the church to get it in tip-top shape for the beginning of our new service year on September 7.

We would like all of you to think about what flowers you have in your gardens and what flowers might work in the new south side flower area. Please bring any flowers/seeds that you are willing to share with the church! **HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

Financial Task Force

We have been busy looking at different ways to engage the congregation in conversation about stewardship.

One of the things we are doing is creating a Narrative about our church to use in our discussion with the congregation about stewardship for the coming year. We believe it is important for folks to understand exactly what and WHY they are pledging to support their UU fellowship.

You wouldn't invest in a car without doing a little research and driving it around. Right?

In the same way, we want everyone to understand where this fellowship has been, where we are now, what your investments have meant in the last few years, and what your future investment will mean for the congregation.

We will be looking to have some personal conversations with members, and will also delve into this more deeply at a dinner following one of our October services. Please stay tuned!

Denominational Affairs

MidAmerica Region (MAR) Board President, Bill Sasso sent this letter to St. Louis area clergy and congregations:

Speaking as President of the MidAmerica Region, let me offer the support of the Regional Board as it may be appropriate. The Board wants to support you and the St. Louis UU congregations in your efforts to work for a successful resolution and reconciliation of the suffering of the community in Ferguson and St. Louis County. Please let us know what we can do to assist you in this work, and please remember that you are not alone -- we are certainly with you in spirit, and we hope to be of more tangible assistance if requested.

"On behalf of the MidAmerica Region Board, I thank you for your presence in the St. Louis area, and your work to respond constructively in these troubled times."

Janis Cheney will be attending a MAR Board meeting September 5-6 in WI.

UU Artwall! Color and Movement—Paintings by Angela Harmon

We have new art on our walls!

Angela Harmon, a Bismarck native, has enjoyed painting and drawing from a very small age. She soaked up every art class she could while in High School and College, which led her to discover a true passion for painting with oils. The movement and color you see in these paintings came from a her young adult mind. A mind that saw such beauty in the shapes and forms of the feminine body and embraced how it could be rediscovered through dance and movement.



Candles for the Journey

Our thoughts are with LaVonne Scott who is currently in residence at St. Gabriel's Community. We hope that she will be able to return to her home soon.

Helen Hammond thanks the members and friends of the congregation who sent birthday cards to her in honor of her 94th birthday on August 12th.

UU member, Monica Wilkinson died on June 17 after a long illness.

Hiking Church Update

While there was no hiking church scheduled for August, Colleen will be scheduling a hike in September. She will keep an eye on the weather and pick a likely Saturday...any announcements about hiking will be shared on our website, Facebook page, and via email. Fall is a beautiful time to be in the ND Badlands!



Bismarck PRIDE!

The BisMan UU was a proud sponsor of Dakota Outright's Bismarck Pride events on August 1-3. At left is Pat Conrad staffing our lovely UU booth at Pride in Custer Park. Other team members were Dean Conrad, Wayde Schafer, Tim and Tammy Hathaway and Carol Jean Larsen. Janis Cheney provided an interfaith service at the UU on Sunday, August 3 which included three testimonials on "Community". What a perfect weekend it was. Thank you to all those who made it happen. Partnering with Dakota Outright was a pleasure!

2014 Board of Trustees and Staff

President, Colleen Reinke
Vice President, Tim Hathaway
Secretary, Marnie Piehl
Treasurer, Lisa Omlid
Director, Molly Brooks

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Bis-Man UU Fellowship & Church

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[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.*



FALL CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday thru Friday: 9:00—2:00 PM

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