



THE CHALICE NEWS

Unitarian Society of Menomonie
A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

February 2022 Newsletter

SEVEN PRINCIPLES

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
3. Acceptance to one another and encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregations
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

CALENDAR

10 AM - All services/activities will be held by Zoom until further notice due to the spike in Covid numbers in Dunn County.

February 6 - Social time on Zoom

February 13 - Service with Dennis Peters, "The First Principle"

As a friend, Dave, mentioned in his recent "On the Path" message, this is a very difficult principle to follow, or believe. I'd like to spend some time walking through this with you. Do you know people who don't deserve to be considered one of the "every person" mentioned here? Historical individuals? Current political (or personal) examples?

February 13 at 11:30 - Board Meeting

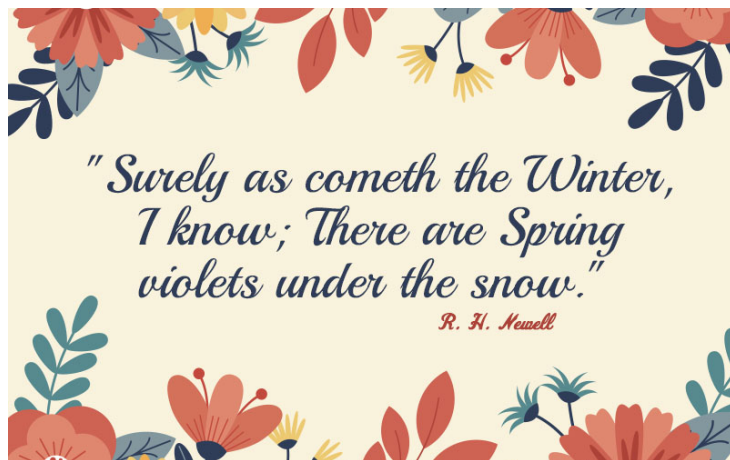
Via Zoom All are welcome to attend

February 20 - On the Path with Kathleen Cundiff

Kathleen presents his spiritual journey and how he came to be a UU.

February 27 - Service with Dennis Peters, "The Second Principle"

***If you have an idea for a service, please let a board member know.**



JULIANA SCHMIDT, PRESIDENT



A unique month, February. It is the shortest month. As we all know, the 14th is celebrated as Valentine's Day -- a day devoted to supposedly expressing feelings in one form or another for the one you love. St. Valentine's Day originated, according to Wikipedia, as a Western Christian feast day honoring one or two early saints named Valentinus. Valentine's Day is recognized as a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and romantic love in many regions around the world.

I recently read that the Romans viewed February as the month of purification. The word, februum, means purification. At that time, February was the last month of the year. The month was named in honor of Februus, the Roman god of purification. On the full moon day of this month, the Romans performed animal sacrifices to please their ancestors and spent a lot of their time praying. Very different activities for February from the Valentine's Day we are familiar with.

Not only do I think it's a nice break after the cold January to think in terms of love and its many forms but February also means at least that the light is returning. There are more minutes of daylight which I welcome. It's very often warmer than January which is better, too, since this recent bitter cold means I don't walk outside as much. Add to that the idea of purification, I think the Romans were onto something. Interesting that February used to be the last month of the year. It makes sense that the end of the year would be seen as a time of purification, a cleansing before heading into the next.

Very often, reflection on goals for the year happens in January. After one is done making plans and resolutions, along comes February, and one could do things like a fast, or get rid of clutter, breathe deeply on a regular basis, or meditate on where your life is going. I can see why Lent began in February when one would give up something like chocolate or caffeine, leading perhaps to some sort of purification. A transfer from the Romans to the Christians? Purification to make one think of the time leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus?

Couldn't we have both within the month of February – Valentine's Day and Februum? The events might even dovetail. I could see self-care books and videos with purification as a focus during February. Or maybe a day set aside for meditation, fasting, listening to calming music. How about February 21? Those who had too much chocolate on the 14th could do a garlic cleanse! Or whatever cleanse might strike his/her fancy!

Just some thoughts on such a cold, winter day... Maybe it's the beautiful, blindingly white snow that makes me think of purification.

Message from Juliana Schmidt, Continued

A joy: This past week I was listening to NPR's All Things Considered. A researcher from Columbia University, Sonja Troller Renfree, was interviewed about a child development project she was working on. You may remember her, she was an active member of our UU as a child, and graduated from Boyceville High School. It made me proud that she was doing such good work, and that we probably had a hand in her career choice since she was also providing childcare during her time with us when we met at the Mabel Tainter.

A sadness: It was one year ago in February that we lost Bill Jacobsen, or Uncle Willy as so many of us knew him. Always a willing hand in cleaning up/clearing after a service, a giver to the community, a great baker, always very generous with his time and talents. A dear man, I miss him.

Stay warm, stay safe, be well,

Juliana Schmidt

President of the USM Board

Have content for the next newsletter?

Please email events, news, poems, stories by the 25th of the month to be included in the next newsletter to kwiersgalla@gmail.com.

*A small bird twitters on a leafless spray,
Across the snow-waste breaks a gleam of gold:
What token can I give my friend to-day
But February blossoms, pure and cold?
Frail gifts from Nature's half-reluctant hand...
I see the signs of spring about the land...
These chill snowdrops, fresh from wintry bowers,
Are the forerunners of a world of flowers
~Sarah Doudney,*



The Annual meeting is MAY 1 and we need your help!

Our Unitarian Society of Menomonie bylaws require an annual meeting each May and ours is set for May 1. There are several items of business at the annual meeting, including election of some offices and most importantly, approving a budget for the next program year.

At the end of this newsletter are two pledge forms. Your review of them, and your response, are both vital to the continued functioning of the Society. One is a financial pledge form, on which you can tell us what level of monetary support you will offer next fiscal year. The other is a time and talent pledge form, whereby you can indicate the different ways you're willing to help keep the Society active and vibrant.

Please print them out, complete them, and mail them to **Dave Williams, Treasurer, Unitarian Society of Menomonie, P.O. Box 214, Menomonie, WI. 54751 by March 1, 2022.** The board will then use all the responses to plan a budget and the work of the fellowship. Thank you!

February

The sun rides higher
Every trip.
The sidewalk shows.
Icicles drip.

A snowstorm comes,
And cars are stuck,
Though road salt flies
From the old town truck.

The chickadees
Grow plump on seed
That Mother pours
Where they can feed,

And snippng, snipping
Scissors run
To cut out hearts
For everyone.

Unitarian Society of

Menomonie

Monetary Gifts Pledge

July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023

Understanding that commitment is essential to the life of the Unitarian Society of Menomonie,

I, _____ pledge the following to the Society for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

I will provide \$ _____ per month, for a total of

\$ _____ for the year.

Other arrangements to pay my pledge: _____

Your generous gifts make the programming, our physical space at the Alano building, and our mission possible. You can place your gift(s) in the collection basket when we meet in person, or mail them to Unitarian Society of Menomonie, P.O. Box 214, Menomonie, WI. 54751.

All donations are tax deductible. The Treasurer will provide a summary of your giving for each calendar year.

THANK YOU!

Unitarian Society of

Menomonie

Time and Talent Pledge

“All members are expected to make a contribution of record in the form of financial, service or other donation, on a yearly basis.” USM By-Laws

Understanding that commitment is essential to the life of our congregation,

I, _____

pledge the following to the Unitarian Society of Menomonie for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023.

On Sundays attend services regularly _____

Serve as a Member at Large on the USM Board _____

Serve on the USM Board, as an officer 2 year term July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Secretary _____. Treasurer _____ Religious Ed Chairperson _____

Ministry Chairperson _____ Membership/PR Chairperson _____

ASSIST THE SECRETARY:

Written Correspondence _____ Digital Correspondence _____

Maintain current membership list _____

When Secretary unavailable, take minutes at Board Meetings _____

ASSIST THE TREASURER:

When unavailable count monetary gifts donated at Sunday Service _____

Assist in creating Annual Budget _____

ASSIST THE RELIGIOUS ED CHAIRPERSON:

Plan activities and space for Sunday morning childcare coverage _____ Provide childcare as need occurs _____ Research appropriate audio, printed and video materials for viewing _____

ASSIST THE MINISTRY CHAIRPERSON:

Be available to critique performance of Sunday Speaker _____
Recommend appropriate compensation for Sunday Speakers _____
Serve on a team to improve the aesthetics of our meeting place /set up
and take down _____

ASSIST THE PR/MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON:

Volunteer occasionally to be a Greeter _____ Host a social activity _____
Plan celebration/recognition for Member's achievements _____
Assist in preparation and mailing of The Chalice newsletter _____
Submit articles and items of interest for inclusion in the Newsletter _____
Provide photos for the Newsletter /Facebook _____
Be on a task force for a special event, such as a memorial or celebration _____
Participate in affinity groups: quilting, needlework, other ...? _____

THERE ARE FIVE STANDING COMMITTEES NOTED IN THE BYLAWS

Serve on and/or assist occasionally for:

Membership/PR _____ . Finance _____ Religious Education _____
Programming _____ Ministry _____

OTHER SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Social Action _____ By-Laws amendments tasks _____
Facilities (assist Alano in upkeep and improvements/ Liaison _____

OTHER:

Provide gifts for our Christmas family (once a year) _____
Help with Adopt-A-Highway (twice a year) _____
Serve as Parliamentarian for member meetings _____
Office clerical services :
Be familiar with the copier operation/change Toner/trouble shooting _____
Assist in keeping inventory of assets current _____
Assist in keeping office clean and organized for member access to contents _____
Be resource for computer operation/trouble shooting _____