



THE CHALICE NEWS

Unitarian Society of Menomonie
A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

March 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 IN OUR MEETING ROOM
(ZOOM CONNECTIONS WILL BE PROVIDED)

March 6 - No Service

March 13 - Service with Dennis Peters, "The Third Principle"

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.

March 13 at 11:30 - Board Meeting

All are welcome to attend

March 20 - Mini-concert with Sam Weaver

Sam Weaver is a Menomonie resident and guitar master. Bring a poem or reading you would like to share.

March 27 - Service with Dennis Peters, "The Fourth Principle"

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

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

Hello March

M ay the early spring
A waken your soul and
R emind you to
C elebrate the season with the
H ope and Joy it brings



JULIANA SCHMIDT, PRESIDENT



I think you all can agree that we live in a beautiful location. Looking out my window after the recent six-inch snowfall, I marvel at the bright-white, fresh, clean look of the landscape, and the detail the snow has created outlining every branch, twig, and the leftover leaves on the oak trees. I am reminded that beauty is all around us if we but look for it each day. These vignettes of loveliness present themselves often at odd times, sometimes at chaotic moments or unexpectedly. The sunlight shafting through a window creating interesting shadows and dancing dust particles, the way the wind has sculpted the new snow, the animal tracks on the blank white of my yard, the clouds in an azure sky.

Winter can be rather monochrome with shades of gray and white (or is that the absence of color?) but I find it inspires as much as high summer. Spring is around the corner (although another cold snap today makes me feel like maybe this may be an empty statement) bringing impossible shades of green, the smell of warm earth, and new bird song. Our world is coming alive from its winter drowse. I use the word, drowse (def. half asleep), because life was always just dormant in trees (buds). The sound of the joyful cardinal song has begun again. Also, days are longer, the light more intense and direct which brightens everything.

Not only is there an aesthetic feast for the eyes, but there are many opportunities to hear those examples of beauty in nature. The birds offer so much in their pattern songs or calls, the wind singing in the trees, the flow of the Red Cedar River or a little stream under the ice in winter as I do a winter hike.

At all times of the year there is much beauty to behold and hear in our Menomonie. We are certainly blessed.

The natural world offers much but there are occasions of beauty in our seemingly mundane chores and activities. A newly made bed, colorful food on a plate, or a to-do list that is beautifully written. It has always stuck with me that even the simple ironing of a handkerchief, as one of my professors said once in graduate school, can be a work of art.

Making music is certainly a source of great beauty for me. I appreciate it every day when I can sit at my piano and play a beautiful or well-constructed piece of music. I think of my deceased mother very often and how she got me my first piano and paid for years of lessons. An opportunity for reflection on the beauty and how it all came to be. Certainly, listening to great music is another way to get an aesthetic fix. And there are so many ways that can be accomplished – recordings be they on-line or in physical form, live-streaming, and in-person concerts, or pick-up performances, even rehearsals. Hearing The Menomonie Singers which I started more than 30 years ago as we now gather for rehearsals (masked), moves me often.

[Message from Juliana Schmidt, Continued](#)

In addition, another source of beauty may be a hobby like needlework or seeing the innocent faces of your grandchildren on your computer screen across the miles. My granddaughter who lives in California, loves to dance. She often dances for us on Zoom calls. What a delight!

A large reason why I do needlework is the colors and textures of my needlework as my pattern slowly emerges – it's so satisfying, even spiritual.

In this pandemic, beauty has sustained me, as it probably has done for you. I'm sure I've stated that fact in previous newsletters but it bears repeating. Beauty can sustain in troubled times and in normal times. I hope you're able to drink in and enjoy the feast for the eyes and ears that exists any given day.

Peace,

Juliana Schmidt, President of the USM Board

[Empty Bowls 2022](#)

Saturday, March 26, 2022 from 11-2 at Menomonie High School. This is a fundraiser for Stepping Stones, our local food pantry. There will be a drive-through lunch and an on-line auction which begins March 26 and ends April 2, 2022. (see the flier on next page)

[Dunn County Community Resource Guides](#)

Community Resource Guides for Dunn County are in our UU office. The Guide was developed to assist community members with limited resources, as well as agencies that partner with these individuals, in providing timely access to needed services.

[Church Directory](#)

Jill Smith is working on a church directory. Please send a picture of yourself to her. For more info, smithbjj@uwec.edu

[May 1st Annual Meeting](#)

The Annual Meeting is May 1 at 10 am in the meeting space. On the agenda are the approval of the 2022-23 budget, the election of officers, and a bylaw change. Mark your calendars and send your pledge forms (last 2 pages of this newsletter) to Dave Williams as soon as possible.

[Reminder of Pledge Commitment](#)

Please submit your pledge commitment forms for what you will be willing to provide this fellowship for next year! The February newsletter included both the financial pledge form, and the form to indicate what time and talent you can commit, and those are again attached to this newsletter. Our deadline for them is March 1. The board will use this information to plan next year's programming, and budget, which needs to go to the membership by mid April for consideration at the annual meeting on May 1.

Please either complete the form and return it to Dave Williams on line at williamsda@uwstout.edu, or mail it to the Unitarian Society of Menomonie, PO Box 214, Menomonie, WI. 54751 as soon as possible

Thanks! Dave Williams, Treasurer.

[New computer and Zoom Equipment](#)

We now have a new computer and equipment for Zoom services. While we have returned to in-person services on Feb 27, there are those who may want to continue to avail themselves of Zoom services due to distance or weather or illness. Many thanks to Juliana Schmidt for the use of her equipment and license for Zoom services over the course of the pandemic. Thanks also to Dennis Peters, Jill Smith and Dave Williams for securing the new equipment.

[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.



EMPTY BOWLS

DRIVE-THROUGH LUNCH

A fund raiser for Stepping Stones of Dunn County

Saturday, March 26, 2022
11:00 – 2:00

Menomonie High School, 1715 5th St. West, Menomonie

Online tickets go on sale starting March 1.
Visit Stepping Stones website – www.steppingstonesdc.org – for details and order today!

Online Auction!

Goes Live on March 26 & Ends on April 2, 2022

Visit www.steppingstonesdc.org or Stepping Stones' Facebook page to check out the catalogue and start bidding!



[Request for Prayers from Pastor Wendy Slaback, Menomonie United Methodist Church](#)

A dear friend and member of our community, Veronika Zazovsky, reached out to me today to ask if a prayer vigil could be organized for Ukraine. Veronika's family is from Russia and she has several family members and friends who are caught up in today's conflict, but her heart is breaking especially for the young foreign exchange student, Sonya, who is living with the Zazovsky family this year. Sonya is from Ukraine and is terrified for her parents and younger siblings who have fled their home and are still searching for a safe place to go.

I know this is a busy season for many of us with Lent beginning next week, but I invite you to pray for Veronika and Sonya and all who have loved ones in harm's way since the outbreak of attacks last night. If you have any interest in planning or even hosting a prayer vigil, please let me know. I'd also be open to hosting the prayer gathering at the Menomonie UMC. We don't have activities currently on our calendar for Thursday evenings so I could possibly host at 6:00 or 6:30 pm perhaps on March 3, March 10, or even March 17 (although I know that is during Menomonie's spring break, so some potential prayer vigil participants may be traveling out of town that week). I do have an out-of-town commitment this weekend (2/25-2/27) and will not be checking email while I'm away, and I will be at a confirmation retreat on 3/4-3/5 but I can usually arrange my schedule to make myself available on any other days if any of you want to meet to help coordinate a vigil. I confess I have not organized a prayer vigil like this before (although I have participated in several), so I welcome the wisdom of this group.

Thanks,
Pastor Wendy Slaback
Menomonie United Methodist Church

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 _____