



THE CHALICE NEWS

Unitarian Society of Menomonie
A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

May 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)

May 1 – Annual Meeting of USM

Potluck following the meeting. At the annual meeting we will elect officers, approve the budget, and make some small bylaw changes. (The annual meeting is dovetailed with the church board meeting.)

May 7 - Highway Cleanup

Meet at Riverside Park at 10 am. Rain date: May 14.

May 8 – Service with Dennis Peters, “The Sixth Principle”

“The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.” Sounds pretty good, doesn’t it? Frankly, when I hear it I think of Superman, and that old slogan: “Truth, Justice, and the American Way.” I know, not at all the same. But let’s see what you think of when you hear it.

May 15 – Guest Speaker, “Aristotle and Virtue and Happiness”

Our speaker will be Sean McAleer, the head of the Department of Philosophy and Religion at University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

May 22 – Service with Dennis Peters, “The Seventh Principle”

“Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” This is a really important sentiment, regardless of the awkward wording! Whom does this apply to, and how? Since its adoption (in 1984, I believe), what has it meant to our member congregations—or, stated more accurately, our “association of congregations”? Walk along with me for a bit, please, on this wilderness pathway.

May 29 – Film about Small Congregations



JULIANA SCHMIDT, PRESIDENT



Is it just me, or does it seem like the world has gone crazy? Maybe it was the isolation of Covid, climate change, or political divisions in this country and the world. What is going on? The crazy stories, if true, give me pause so I keep telling myself, “I have to keep looking for the good, the positive.”

I religiously read the magazine, *The Week*, and find incredible examples of the insanity I mentioned. Here are some examples.

A Tennessee Republican state senator cited Adolf Hitler as proof that homelessness isn't a dead end claiming the genocidal leader lived on the streets but “went on to lead a life that got him in the history books.” Huh?

Or, this: There have been 144 mass shootings in the U.S. this year. Mind-blowing...

Even though Covid vaccinations are desperately needed in Brazil, the Brazilian military has been spending more than \$700,000 on impotence pills and penile implants. I'm shaking my head.

Recently the Florida Department of Education rejected 42 of 132 proposed math textbooks for elementary schools saying they “incorporate prohibited topics or unsolicited strategies” such as social-emotional learning and critical race theory. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis says “We want kids to learn to think so they get the right answer, it's not about how you feel about the problem.” Florida officials would not cite specific examples of prohibited textbook material.

More negative from around the world: An Argentine doctor was arrested for performing a legal abortion and faces 10 years in prison. Yes, I said “legal”. The doctor treated a 21-year-old who came to a drop-in clinic 22 weeks pregnant. Because the patient's health was at risk, the doctor (a woman) counseled her and prescribed a pill to induce miscarriage. The patient's family filed a complaint. The case blew up after conservative politicians spread misinformation online, including (and get this) the false claim that the “fetus cried.” Argentina had already legalized later abortions in case of rape or risk to the mother's life or health.

These crazy stories are fairly easy to find in any media outlet or magazine. They get attention. That immediate reaction of outrage or disgust or disbelief fuels our motivation to keep reading. And reading. There's just so much of it. But there are caring, reasonable, thoughtful, considerate people out there who are playing by the rules, working hard for the betterment of their communities and the world, and trying to do the right thing. Some examples:

Teen-run banned book clubs are popping up across our country in reaction to a renewed effort to ban certain books.

[Message from Juliana Schmidt. Continued](#)

An experimental drug has been shown to cut deaths by Covid by half. The new drug, sabizabulin, blocks viral replication. The results in tests were so striking that monitors stopped the trial early. The FDA gave the treatment fast-track status toward approval. Hurray for science!

The ex-wife of Jeff Bezos, billionaire owner of Amazon, MacKenzie Scott, has made it a project to give away the millions she achieved through the divorce settlement with Bezos. Since 2019 when the divorce was final, Scott has given away more than \$12 billion in grants to charities.

A good story here at home is that In April, the choir I started more than 30 years ago performed two concerts in person in two different churches. It was hard for me at times to keep it together because I kept thinking about the last two years of no concerts. I wouldn't be able to say this if the numbers of cases in Dunn County were high. How wonderful it is to perform physically in front of others! But in the back of my mind is that Covid can always yank you back from the normalcy of life. Many say that we are now in the endemic stage of this pandemic. Looking for the positive, I hope this is true.

Peace,

Juliana Schmidt, President of the USM Board

"If we want to find the way back to ourselves and each other, we need language and the grounded confidence to both tell our stories, and to be stewards of the stories that we hear. This is the framework for meaningful connection."

Dr Brené Brown November 2022
ATLAS OF THE HEART

[Adopt a Highway Clean Up Saturday May 7th 10-12 pm](#)

Meet at the Cedar Creek Park near Lucettes. We will gather and share vehicles. Please have good walking shoes or boots, gloves, sunscreen/bug spray and be prepared to walk 2 miles in teams of at least two people. Please watch [the 6 minute safety video](#). We will need a truck to gather the garbage. Rain date May 14th. Please contact Sherry at sherryhagen0115@gmail.com with questions.

[Pictorial Directory](#)

Get your pictures to Jill Smith for our pictorial directory. Jill's email: smithbj@uwec.edu

[Needleworkers Meet Regularly](#)

Needleworkers meet at Golden Leaf Café every Wednesday at 1:00 pm. All are welcome.

[Website Update](#)

Our website is going to be updated soon. If you have any ideas or items you would like to include, please contact Juliana at anoldsweetsong@hotmail.com

[Summer Services and Get Togethers](#)

The Board has already made summer plans. There will be services with Dennis Peters, a walk on the Red Cedar Trail, ice cream at Annette Taylor's, a pool party at Lynn Shaw's, and Kubb at Elmwood Park.

[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.