



THE CHALICE NEWS

Unitarian Society of Menomonie
A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

June 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)**

June 5 – Take a Walk on the Red Cedar Trail.

Meet at Riverside Park at 10 am. Potluck following our walk.

June 11 – Benefit Concert for Homeless Children

Meet at Wilson Park in Menomonie at 1 pm. Jason Dea West will perform again for us along with others like Bryce Black and his Jug Band.

June 12 – Service with Dennis Peters, “Song of the Wind”

We notice the wind when it blows strongly, or softly. We notice it when it stops blowing. We check the weather reports and note the windspeed and its direction. But where does it really come from? And what does it mean to us this morning?

June 12 – Board Meeting after the service

June 19 – Happy Father’s Day! No Service

June 26 – Service with Dennis Peters, “Riane Eisler: Partnership Vs Domination”

Riane Eisler published *The Chalice & the Blade* in 1987. In it she proposed a different approach to governments and society. She is now in her 90’s and a director of the Center for Partnership Studies. Hers may be one of the voices we need to hear most, today. See what you think.

JULIANA SCHMIDT, PRESIDENT



I recently finished reading Thomas Merton's *The Seven Storey Mountain*. I am captivated with autobiographies and biographies so I thought, "I have heard of Thomas Merton. This could be interesting". This is Merton's autobiography of faith, much like our UU On The Path series in which members and friends lay out their spiritual journeys which I always find fascinating. The book was published in 1948 which put me off initially. I was a wee bit skeptical that a book published that long ago would be an interesting read. Maybe it was going to be rather dated. But like the

On The Path series in our own church, I was driven to find out more, especially since we previously have had presentations at our own church about Merton. *The Seven Storey Mountain* is a reference to Dante's *Purgatorio*, an allegory. In it, the character is guided by the Roman poet Virgil up the mountain of Purgatory where there are seven levels of sin.

Merton led an interesting life. He was born in France in 1915 to a father, who hailed from New Zealand. His father, a visual artist, continually sought the best places to paint. Because of his father's quest for interesting landscapes, Merton visited and lived in lots of different places in Europe. His mother was an American and also an artist. Her parents were Quakers – his grandfather was a publisher in the US. Merton loved jazz, and in his early years he had many jazz recordings.

Merton loved to visit cathedrals and churches in Europe. I think in his way at that time of his life (pre WWII) he was trying to get closer to his god. He also spent a year at Cambridge University, went to Columbia University where he received a bachelor's and his master's. He taught briefly at St. Bonaventure University in New York. As a child he had been baptized in the Church of England. Discontent with his life brought him to be baptized a Catholic. Just two years after his baptism as a Catholic, he sought out a monastery in Kentucky where he became a Trappist monk. He was later ordained Father Louis.

Such a different path for him. He could have been a writer living a secular writer's life. He did become a well-known writer but lived as a monk. He wrote 50 books, some of his own poetry, but most about spirituality. Amazing! *The Seven Storey Mountain* was well written as you would expect. What struck me most was how driven he was to achieve a link with his god. I think he would have been a captivating speaker and/or conversationalist. An extraordinary life.

Even his death was out of the ordinary. According to Wikipedia, he was in Thailand for a monastic conference in 1968 and was accidentally electrocuted. No autopsy was performed, but a wound in the back of his head suggests possibly something more sinister. There is even a book on the subject of his mysterious death.

In summary, I learned more about Thomas Merton and the Catholic church, and gained a different perspective of a devout Catholic.

[Message from Juliana Schmidt, Continued](#)

And now it's time for others in USM to step up and write for this tiny publication. You, the reader, can also contribute. Have you always wanted to write essays? Here's your opportunity. Maybe you had a reaction (positive or negative) to a UU sermon, or a current event. Or perhaps you would like to write about being a Unitarian, or a UU principle. Here's your chance. Deadline is the end of each month.

Peace,

Juliana Schmidt, President

[The Bridge appreciates our Pop-Up Pantry for Homeless Kids](#)

Found recently in The Bridge's newsletter, "The Unitarian Society of Menomonie asked us if we would be willing to host a pop-up pantry for kids during school holidays and vacations. It's located in our entryway. We are happy to partner with them to make sure no kids go hungry when schools are closed. Thanks Unitarians!"

[Summer Services and Get-Togethers](#)

The board has planned a summer of services and social gatherings. Here is a rundown:

- June 5 – Walk on the Red Cedar Trail at 10 am with potluck post walk
- June 11 – Benefit for Homeless Children at Wilson Park at 1 pm
- 2nd and 4th Sundays will be a service with Dennis Peters throughout the summer
- No UU on Father's Day or July 3
- July 17 Ice Cream at Annette Taylor's House at 4 pm
- July 31 Evergreen Cemetery Tour at 10 am with Dave Williams
- August 7 Pool Party at Lynn Shaw's at 2 pm
- August 21 Kubb at Elmwood Park at 10 am

[2nd Annual Benefit for Homeless Children](#)

Jason Dea West will again perform on USM's next benefit concert for homeless children. Mark it on your calendar: June 11 at 1 pm at the Wilson Park Band Shell, Menomonie. Also in the lineup is Bryce Black and his Jug Band, and others! This is for a great cause!

[Want to be a Delegate to the UUA General Assembly](#)

Would you consider being a delegate of the Unitarian Society of Menomonie at the 2022 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association? The dates for GA (as it is known) are June 22-26, and the in-person assembly will be in Portland, OR. But there's also a virtual option to attend and participate.

Each congregation in the UUA is entitled to send at least two delegates to GA, where participants "worship, witness, learn, connect and make policy for the Association through the democratic process." If you have interest in either the in person or virtual General Assembly as the Unitarian Society of Menomonie's representative, please contact either president Juliana Schmidt or treasurer Dave Williams. You can view much detail about General Assembly at the UUA website: www.uua.org.

[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.

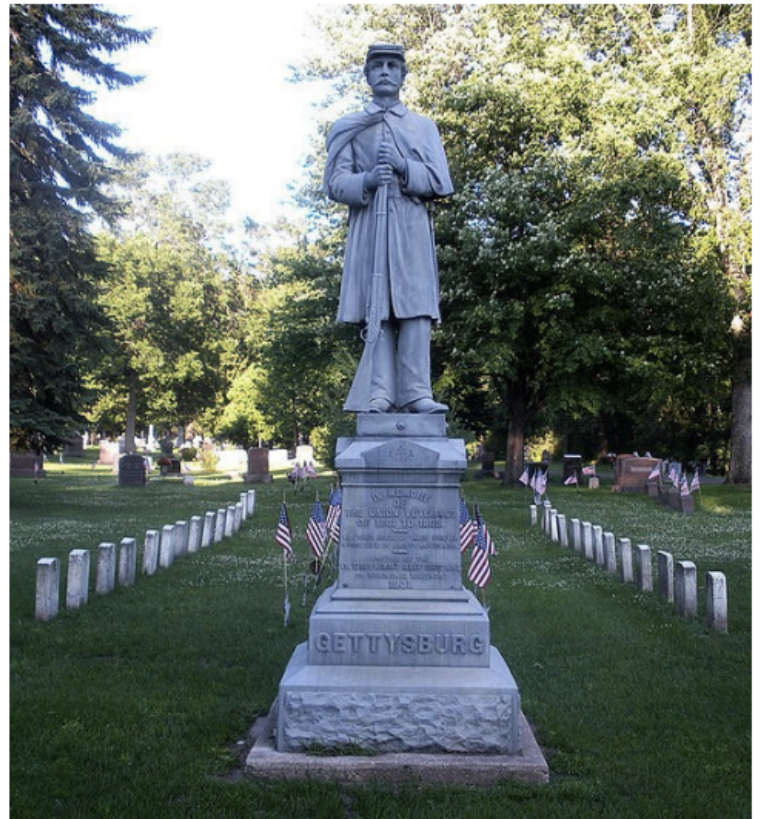
"It was June, and the world smelled of roses. The sunshine was like powdered gold over the grassy hillside."

- MAUD HART LOVELACE

2022 Flags for Veterans, Evergreen Cemetery, Menomonie, WI

Again this year the Unitarian Society volunteered to help Chris Hamm's group place flags on veterans graves in Evergreen Cemetery. Thanks you Juliana, Jill, and Annette for joining Mike and me in support of the Veterans Service Office mission. Some of the other volunteers shared their stories with us about their dedication to insure that no veteran's grave is without a flag on Memorial Day. The weather co-operated, the activities of a doe and her fawn delighted us and we made some new friends.

- Kathleen Cundif



May Highway Clean-up

UU folks gathered to clean up our stretch of the highway. It was a pleasant day. The highway was recently mowed and it hadn't rained. We worked together and got the job done! Thanks and we'll do it again in the fall. As Jack Hagen and I were cleaning a driver of a truck rolled down his window, waved and thanked us.

- Sherry Hagen