



THE CHALICE NEWS

Unitarian Society of Menomonie
A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

July 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)**

July 3 – No service – Happy 4th of July!

July 10 – Service with Dennis Peters, “The Old Testament: A 20-Minute Summary of Origins, Writing, and Re-Writing”

Most of you Christians, or former Christians, are familiar with the Bible. You may not have read all of it, but you may have attended Sunday school, or listened to services about Job, or Jonah, or the Resurrection, or Moses. Journey with me now, back through time, for history lessons (and some conjectures) about where the Older Testament came from, and how it matters today.

July 10 – Board meeting after the service at 11:30 am, all are welcome

July 17 – Ice Cream Social at Annette Taylor’s home

Address: 1202 North Shore Drive, Menomonie, at 6:30 pm. Need a ride? Contact Juliana (715-505-3525).

July 24 – Service with Dennis Peters, “Human Potential: Yours, That Is.”

Each of us is born with gifts, and with challenges. Some of it is based in genetics, and epigenetics. Other parts of our legacy come from our upbringing, and from our reaction to that upbringing. How do we put all those pieces together in a package that is joyous for us, and useful, positive, for the world around us?

July 31 – Evergreen Cemetery Tour with Dave Williams at 10 am



Religion—Can It Be A Joke? By Dave Williams



One of our guiding principles is the free and responsible search for truth and meaning. That sounds pretty serious, and well it should be. For most of us it portends a life-long effort, sometimes fraught with diversions, sometimes promising, always engaging.

But, it seems to me, there ought also to be a place in that effort for some humor, for lighthearted moments. Unitarian Universalists can poke fun at themselves, and endure the poking of others. Remember Garrison Keillor's comment that

Lake Wobegone was founded by Unitarian missionaries attempting to convert the local natives through interpretive dance?

Or the comment that UUs would be far more likely to want to go to a discussion about heaven than actually go to heaven?

I have always enjoyed pithy "sidewalk sermons," the pun-rich, brief phrases sometimes found in church kiosks. The messages they carry are often worthy of remembering, since they get to the essence of a topic or an issue in often a short sentence. I did some prowling around the internet and share with you here some of that passerby wisdom.

Christian denominations have used these sermonettes often, and in fun ways. Some samples:

Jesus was an undocumented refugee.

Honk if you love Jesus: text while driving if you want to meet him.

Don't give up: Moses was once a basket case.

With all this rain, we need an ark! Fear not! (Wait for it... we Noah guy!)

No, it's not as hot as hell!

Easter comes once a year. How often do you?

Adam and Eve: the first people to not read the Apple terms and conditions.

Some of these sidewalk sermons purport to speak for God:

Don't make me come down there! God

Just love everyone. I'll sort them out later. God

And there are some you would expect to find at Unitarian Universalist churches:

Jesus had two dads and turned out fine.

[Message from Dave Williams, continued](#)

Be kind whenever possible. (It's always possible!)

**Thou shalt not lie or use alternative facts.
Exodus 20:16**

Tolerance does not mean tolerating intolerance.

If the fetus you save is gay, will you still fight for its rights?

Questioners wanted—apply within.

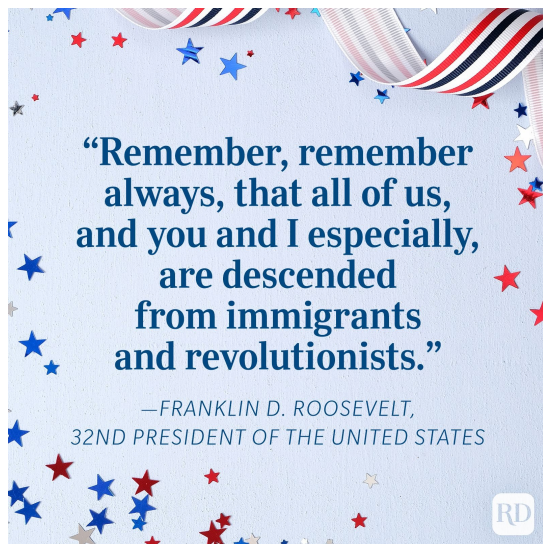
We love you more than fair trade coffee!

And there are many, many more. So in the midst of your search for truth and meaning, take some time to savor some of the humor out there. After all, didn't the three wise men bring gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh?

[Summer Services and Get-Togethers](#)

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

- 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



“Authenticity is the daily practice of letting go of who we think we’re supposed to be and embracing who we are. Choosing authenticity means cultivating the courage to be imperfect, to set boundaries, and to allow ourselves to be vulnerable; exercising the compassion that comes from knowing that we are all made of strength and struggle; and nurturing the connection and sense of belonging that can only happen when we believe that we are enough. Authenticity demands Wholehearted living and loving—even when it’s hard, even when we’re wrestling with the shame and fear of not being good enough, and especially when the joy is so intense that we’re afraid to let ourselves feel it. Mindfully practicing authenticity during our most soul-searching struggles is how we invite grace, joy, and gratitude into our lives.”

Brene Brown

THE GIFTS OF IMPERFECTION

[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.

