



# THE CHALICE NEWS

Unitarian Society of Menomonie  
*A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation*

## October 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)

#### October 1 – Highway Cleanup on Highway 29

Meet at 10 am at Riverside Park, Menomonie. Rain date is October 8.

#### October 2 – “Realistic Hope and Hopeful Realism”, a prerecorded sermon by UU minister, Rev. Phil Lund, our representative at Mid-America

Lund says there are four realities: there has been a noted decline in those who are churched or unaffiliated with a church, called the “Nones”; UU’s are mostly older, and we are educated. In addition, UU’s in this country have declined in numbers. Yet Lund says UUs can be hopeful about the future of Unitarian churches.

#### October 9 – Service with Diane Light, “Coming OUT”

October 11 is National Coming Out day. For LGBTQA+ folks, coming out is often a time of fear and uncertainty, as well as a time of celebration. We’ll explore this topic through the lens of dystopian literature and renew our commitment as a Welcoming Congregation.

#### October 16 - Angie McIlquham,

The Director of Sexual Assault Victim Services at The Bridge to Hope, will speak to us about Explicit/Implicit Bias.

#### October 16 – Board Meeting right after the service

#### October 23 – Service with Dennis Peters, “Education—No Magical Thinking Required”

I’ve harangued about education before: the need for it, the topics required, the applicable age groups, etc. But it’s usually been in passing, connected with another “main” topic. This time education is the main topic. Let’s look together at one of the most foundational topics for our era.

#### October 30 – Anne Ganong will speak to us about Alano

## JULIANA SCHMIDT, PRESIDENT



From *Glad to Be Human, Meditations* by Kaaren Solveig Anderson, Unitarian minister.

### One's Hands

"A couple of weeks ago I was perusing football journals and books. I came across a photograph of a lineman. He was watching the field intently, his body hunched against a heavy sleet, his hands free to the elements. I turned the page of the book and there was a close-up of his hands, bent and mangled, covered with scabs, bruises, and scrapes. I was fascinated by his hands. Hands he would inevitably have to soothe. Hands that held violence and pain but also gentleness.

I put the book down and gazed at my own hands and thought about them: what they touch and experience and create. I already have my grandmother's hands with index fingers twisting slightly forward. I have bulbous veins winding under the skin that speak to my life: typing, playing the piano, soothing hurts, applying bandages, caressing, and daily work.

I like to look at farmers' hands or fishermen's hands. Laboring hands. Hands that speak to the life of the person. I don't want smooth hands; I want mine to speak to my person, to my life's work, to a sum of my parts. A place I can look and see generations before and after me, of work started or incomplete.

I have a colleague who is often present with people when they die. Once I asked her what she did. Did she have some ritual for the passing of a life? She said she helps wash the body. She washes the face as a symbol of what that person has seen, the hands as a symbol of what that person has done, and the feet as a symbol of where the person has been.

I love that symbolism. Unlike the lineman who can look at his hands and see what he does, most of us can forget what it is we do, and who we are connected to. But it's all there, in our hands. Those we touch or greet in welcome and friendship, of creation made possible through writing or painting or playing, of conversations retold, of tears shed in cradled hands.

The Shakers have a saying, 'Hands to work, and Hearts to God.' They believe that your life's calling – your work – should be no less than an act of joy. An act of work is an act of worship.

I stare at my hands and whisper, Amen."

## [Golden Rule Sails Again for a Nuclear-Free World](#)

In 1958, four Quaker peace activists sailed the Golden Rule toward the Marshall Islands in an attempt to halt nuclear weapons testing. The US Coast Guard boarded her in Honolulu and arrested her crew, causing an international outcry. This led to rising awareness of the dangers of radiation led to worldwide demands to stop nuclear testing.

From September 2022 through December 2023, the Golden Rule will sail "The Great Loop". Starting in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area, the Golden Rule will sail down the entire Mississippi River, along the Gulf States, up the east coast to Main, through the Hudson River and Erie Canal, around the Great Lakes, and down the center of the country back to the Gulf of Mexico. Along the way, Golden Rule reps will speak to many groups about how their actions can bring about nuclear disarmament and stop the possibility of nuclear war. Golden Rule events also highlight local environmental, climate change and peace and justice issues by giving others a chance to speak and connecting their issues to the need to stop all war.

## [Adopt a Highway Clean Up Saturday Oct 1th 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 Oct 8th. Please contact Sherry at [sherryhagen0115@gmail.com](mailto:sherryhagen0115@gmail.com) with questions.

## [USM Members Go to Pow Wow](#)

On September 11, four USM members attended some of the 25 th annual Dakota Mdewakanton Tribal Community Pow Wow. This two-day event started on September 10. It was held in Mendota, Minnesota, and featured dancers and vendors from the Ojibwe tribe as well. It was a beautiful day with a light breeze. If you have never been to a pow wow, a circle is formed by a canopy usually of pine boughs but in this case, there were pop-up tents that encircled the large dance area. Dancers moved in a clockwise motion around flags and banners placed in the center. There were four sets of drummers seated under the canopy. They took turns singing the secret, haunting songs of their people. Clyde Bellecourt, Ojibwe activist, had died in January, and so was honored in a special dance led by members of his family. There were native women jingle dancers in brightly colored dresses. And several native male dancers in full native regalia. Non-native people also joined in the dances. I could feel the gentle yet powerful spirits of so many there. It was a very positive experience; I hope that we go again next year.

## [Have content for the next newsletter?](#)

Please email events, news, poems, stories by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month to be included in the next newsletter to [kwiersgalla@gmail.com](mailto:kwiersgalla@gmail.com).

