



THE CHALICE NEWS

Unitarian Society of Menomonie
A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

November 2023 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)**

Dec 3 – Andrew Garr, Program Director of Milkweed Foundation,
The Milkweed Foundation is a drop-in center for those with mental health issues, will speak about the work of the Foundation

Dec 10 – Nora Hastay, Performance

A local musician and dancer, Nora Hastay, will present a mini concert of holiday music and other original selections. You may remember her from a previous mini-concert -- she has performed for us in the past.

Dec 17 – Festival of Lights

Once again we celebrate the return of the light through looks at Solstice, Advent, Divali, and Hannukkah. This service is filled with readings and beautiful music like O Holy Night, The Spirit of Solstice, I Have a Candle, and familiar carols like Deck the Halls, The Holly and the Ivy, and Silent Night. There is also a chance for you to reflect on past Christmases that were special. Dennis Peters will play his trumpet. Dennis Peters, Karen Williams, and Juliana Schmidt will facilitate.

Dec 24 – No Service – Merry Christmas, Happy Solstice

Dec 31 – No Service – Happy New Year!



DAVE WILLIAMS, An Ending



For the past six years the group Menomonie Cares has been a gentle but forceful presence for Menomonie and Dunn County. Formed in the aftermath of the 2016 election, when the nation was beset with notions of exclusion and discrimination,

Menomonie Cares became a voice for welcoming all to our community, regardless of ethnic background, or sexual orientation, or political persuasion. The accomplishments of Menomonie Cares are legion. One of the first was a window signage effort, and then lawn signs which declared Menomonie to be a welcoming community in four languages. Those signs were distributed through a weekly table at the Farmers Market, which gave the group's representatives a chance to engage passersby and explain the importance of such welcoming. A banner to hang along North Broadway a few strategic weeks each year soon followed.

The Menomonie City Council approved a welcoming resolution brought by Menomonie Cares representatives—unanimously. It continues to appear on the City's website. The Dunn County board soon did the same. And somewhat later, the recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day instead of, or in addition to Columbus Day was also unanimously approved by the Council and then the County Board.

By involving the police chief in Menomonie Cares meetings, the group's influence spread with his support, including changing the process of how one might complain about police actions. Paying careful attention to the school district's policies also yielded results, whether in discussion about learning materials or discrimination policies, or vetting candidates for the board. Support flowed for LGBTQ+ students in the schools and at UW-Stout.

The pandemic forced the group's in-person meetings onto the Zoom platform, but otherwise didn't deter the work of Menomonie Cares. Monthly meetings kept members abreast of challenges and opportunities to effect change, whether by participation in peace vigils, or joining a water walk, or attending a school board meeting, or providing assistance to Afghan refugees.

But as often happens, group life cycles hold sway. Meetings became less frequent, members tired, some moved away, others passed away. On November 10th a core group of Menomonie Cares, including several who had helped found the group, came together to celebrate the accomplishments of those six years, and gently and reverently bring Menomonie Cares to conclusion. The final treasury (we Unitarians served as the fiscal agent all those six years) was dispersed with a last gift. Amid hugs, words of appreciation and smiles of satisfaction, Menomonie Cares disbanded. With hope that it won't be needed again.



Circle Suppers Begin in January

Circle Suppers return in January, 2024. Here's how it works: Hosts agree to hold it at his/her home, supply beverage, and contact participants to bring entrée, bread, salad, vegetable, appetizer or dessert. There should be no more than 5 participants/guests for each host. Hosts will receive the emails of participants to further coordinate food/beverage selections. Dates are up to the hosts. Hosts: Jill Smith and Francis Denning, Dennis and Lynne Hausman, Annette and John Taylor

Book Discussion: Happiness is a Choice You Make by John Leland

Happiness is a Choice You Make: Lessons from a Year Among the Oldest Old by John Leland will be the focus of our next book discussion. To quote an online description, "An extraordinary look at what it means to grow old and a heartening guide to well-being, Happiness Is a Choice You Make weaves together the stories and wisdom of six New Yorkers who number among the "oldest old"— those eighty-five and up." Paul Helgeson will lead the book discussion by Zoom but gathering will be held at our church space, at 10 am.



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 Cassandra Kyser at kyser.cassandra@gmail.com

Homeless Kids Project

Homeless children in our community are still very much in need. You can earmark your regular donation to USM for this project by putting a note in the memo section of your check, or just let Dave Williams, our treasurer, know how you'd like to direct your donation. Thank you in advance for your donation!

Drum Jam followed by New Moon with Tarot readings

Sun. Dec. 10 2-4pm at Sherry and Jack Hagen's house
Some drums are available. Feel free to bring drums and tarot deck. We have one elderly cat.
Questions? sherryhagen0115@gmail.com

A Time Of Year



Catherine Pulsifer

Winter is a time of year
That some look forward to and cheer
But for others, winter feels cold
They just sit back and grow old.

But when you see that first snow fall
Childhood days can be recalled
Day of building a snowman
With friends and family, the clan.

If open your eyes you will see
The beauty of the season, it can be
When the icicles shimmer in the sun
The beauty is like no other one.

Winter brings Christmas cheer
Spending it with people who are so dear
Friends and family around the fire
Will fulfill all of your heart's desire.

So when winter arrives this year
Don't sit back, get out in full gear
Enjoy the time this season brings
Before you know it, it will be spring!