



# THE CHALICE NEWS

**Unitarian Society of Menomonie**  
*A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation*

## January 2024 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)**

#### **Jan. 14 - Service with Dennis Peters, "The Interdependent Web Interpreted by Science"**

As Unitarian Universalists, we have a Principle that tells us about our role in the world. It says that we are a part of the world, of the "interdependent web." It also tells us to have respect for that web.

How can you have respect for something if you don't understand it? One of the most important tools we have for that understanding is science, of course.

#### **Jan. 28 - Service with Dennis Peters, "Karen Uhlenbeck: Mathematician, Abel Prize Winner, UU"**

We all know that women aren't any good at mathematics. When it comes to tests in math classes, they just freeze up, unable to handle the stress. Well, that turns out not to be the case.

Meet Karen Ulenbeck, a UU woman, and a mathematician who won the Abel Prize in 2019. This prize is the math equivalent of the Nobel Prize and is administered in Norway. Let's find out a little more about her.



*Photo by Harvey Reed at pexels.com*

## DAVE WILLIAMS, Time



Approaching the end of the year brings out a certain amount of nostalgia. All our major news media are readying their look-back at the year about to conclude, TIME magazine chooses its Person of the Year, and we all judge the year based on many factors, including how we spent the 365 days we were allotted.

All this got me thinking about that precious, but fleeting, commodity of time. Which happened to coincide with hearing an old country song by the group Alabama, “I’m In A Hurry,” featuring these opening lyrics:

*I’m in a hurry to get things done  
I rush and rush until life’s no fun,  
All I really gotta do is live and die,  
But I’m in a hurry and don’t know why.*

Not a particularly joyous musical look at life there, but it spurred me to look further for songs about time. I think you would be as amazed as I am about how many there are. Many border on being wistful — perhaps the older we get, the more wistful we become. Time as a youth is bountiful. We can’t wait for it to pass so we can get to some new milestone or event. The older we get, time seems to fly by too quickly.

If you have the time — pick a quiet afternoon perhaps — spin through some of the following songs about time. This is far from a comprehensive listing, but take a few moments to listen to some of these songs and ponder what time may mean to you at this moment in life. Consider:

Beatles, “Yesterday”

Judy Collins, “Who Knows Where The Time Goes”

Jimmy Durante, “As Time Goes By”

Five For Fighting, “100 Years”

Harry Chapin, “Cat’s In The Cradle”

Cher, “If I Could Turn Back Time”

Enya, “Only Time”

Pink Floyd, “Time”

Chicago, “Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?”

Rolling Stones, “Time Is On My Side”

Simon & Garfunkel, “A Hazy Shade Of Winter”

Byrds, “Turn, Turn, Turn”

Taylor Swift, “Timeless”

And the list goes on and on. I’ll conclude with some lyrics from two favorites.

Jim Croce sang “Time In A Bottle”:

*If I could save time in a bottle,  
The first thing that I’d like to do,  
Is to save every day till eternity passes away  
Just to spend them with you  
But there never seems to be enough time  
To do the things that you want to do once you find them...*

Another is Otis Redding’s “Dock of the Bay.” Keep in mind J.R.R. Tolkien’s quote here, “Time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time.” Redding sings:

*I’m just sitting on the dock of the bay, wastin’ time.*

As you ponder year’s end, go ahead and develop your own playlist—time is on your side. Happy New Year!

## Thanks for Supporting Our Christmas Families

As we have for a number of years, members and friends of the Unitarian Society of Menomonie provided Christmas gifts and gift cards for two families in shelter at the Bridge to Hope. While we don't know these families, our holiday spirit shown brightly as people gave generously to assure that families in crisis could still celebrate the holiday season with gifts and food. Thanks to all who helped with these gifts, which we delivered to the Bridge on Dec. 4.

— Dave Williams

## Aluminum Cans for Alano

The Alano folks are collecting aluminum cans. If you want to donate cans, bring them in and leave them at the other entrance (glass door nearest the parking lot).

## Book Discussion

On Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024, we will talk about the 2018 book by NY Times reporter, John Leland. "Happiness Is a Choice You Make: Lessons from a Year Among the Oldest Old." I will be attending by ZOOM.

Some questions we will consider:

- Did the book change the way you think about old age?
- Are some people just born to be happy, and others not?
- Do you accept the "paradox of aging" — that older folks are more content than younger ones? How do you explain this contentment?
- Is there one character you related to more strongly than others?

The book talks about the value of accepting one's mortality. Is it really possible to do this?

— Paul Helgeson

## Have content for the next newsletter?

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

## You Are Welcome to Attend:

- Drum Jam, Sherry's 66th Birthday Celebration and New Moon, Sunday, Jan. 14, 2-4 p.m.
- Full Moon, Sunday, Jan. 28, 6 p.m.

At Jack and Sherry Hagen's in Menomonie, RSVP [sherryhagen0115@gmail.com](mailto:sherryhagen0115@gmail.com)

## Needlework Group

The Needlework Group meets every Wednesday at 1 p.m. at Golden Leaf Café for an hour. All are welcome even if you don't do needlework! And if you don't know how to do needlework, we can teach you!

## This Body

This body is not what it was  
I got shin splints from running today  
Ten years ago all I'd get was smelly feet  
My back aches just from sitting these days  
In my youth, all my pain came from climbing trees

This body is not what it was  
Not some alien thing thrust upon me  
So clumsy, always in the way  
I know it and move it like it's mine  
Didn't say I never walk into walls from time to time

This body is not what it will be  
When the sagging of old age sets in  
And simple backaches are fond memories  
So I'll take and enjoy what it is right now  
Not yet frail from old age but sometimes awkward and weak  
(Really, it suits what's inside quite nicely)

This body is not what it was  
Or what it will be  
And thankfully, right now  
It seems to just fit me

From "Becoming: A Spiritual Guide for Navigating Adulthood" by Kayla Parker.