
ComUUnicator

Bringing you the news of the United Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Office hours
Tuesday, 9-3 p.m.
Friday, 9-3 p.m.
262-544-1050

March 2019



United UU Congregation
506 N. Washington Avenue
Waukesha, WI 53188
uniteduuc@gmail.com
uniteduuc.org

March 3, 2019 - Journey To Happiness - Mary Beth Danielson

Many of us have become so used to how we always feel that we forget that part of the deal of being alive is - Being Happy. We will talk about what happiness is and how to get more of it. With Jennifer Beiriger.

March 10, 2019 - The Road Less Traveled - Rev. David Kraemer

As Unitarian Universalists, each of us, no matter how common, has chosen a rare path. We will hear personal journeys from a few individuals and consider our tradition of trailblazers and pioneers. With Gilles Fouquart.

March 17, 2019 - Another Country - Rev. David Kraemer

End-of-life issues are relevant for all of us, no matter how young or old. The title of this service is taken from a book on aging by Mary Pipher. With Geoff Blankenmeyer and the United Choir.

March 24, 2019 - A God As Big As Lake Superior, Revisited - Rev. David Kraemer

Rev. David will share how his own faith journey has evolved, even since arriving here in Waukesha two and a half years ago. This also is Stewardship Sunday. Pledge forms will be distributed and we will discuss the hopes that lie ahead. With Jackie Landers.

March 31, 2019 - A small study of fundamentalism and it's effects on ourselves and our world - Rev. Annie Holmes

There is pendulum of thought that swings back and forth between open and new discovery thinking and closed and fearful doctrines that must be challenged. This pendulum hopefully will always keep moving or else free, radical and new ideas will die. What can we possibly do to keep fresh and diverse ideas flowing freely? Hopefully knowing more of the history of thought will help. With Meg Whaley

Letter from David

I was slicing a grapefruit one morning and thinking to myself how long it was taking. All of maybe 30 seconds. But you know how it is -- run the knife between the membrane and the juicy wedges, both sides, then turn and do the next. And there seemed to be a lot of them.

It's a journey, I guess, this slicing of grapefruit.

In another conversation among friends recently, someone posed the question: when was the last time you were bored? When do you last remember watching the hands of the clock, like the slices of the grapefruit, turn slowly, endlessly, toward whatever else you would rather be doing?

None of us could remember.

I mean, we did remember at one point in our lives watching the clock and how tedious that was.

But none of us could come up with an actual incident in recent times when we were caught wishing time would move faster.

Maybe that's testimony to how rich, how interesting, our lives are. More likely, it's also due to over-commitment, busyness, a feeling of being perpetually behind, combined with an extra dose of a complicated, changing, frustrating, and seemingly nonsensical world.

Like the old curse says, may you live in interesting times.

Our theme for March is "journey." It's a good word for Unitarian Universalists. Our Soul Matters packets revel in how we all celebrate our individual journeys. Here is a place where we do not ask you to think like everyone else, but where we ask you to think

NOT like everyone else. A place where the journey is up to you. A place where the journey itself is the destination.

And more, for most of us, our spiritual journey is not only about becoming who we really are, but also recognizing who we are not. Each of us comes from somewhere. The faith traditions of our past sometimes do not fit anymore. As thinking, self-determinate people, we have the power to cast off what does not work, and grow in to what does.

Our Sunday services this month will lift up some of our individual journeys. We will talk more about what the journey looks like toward the end, as we age. And I will share a bit of my own evolving views of theology, religion and church life.

Our Exploring Spirituality group will meet at 7 pm Thursday, March 14, here at United. Strange Brew/Soul Matters groups will meet at 6 pm Wednesday, March 20, at Magellan's in downtown Waukesha, and at 10 am Thursday, March 21, at Café de Arts.

As always, I try to keep office hours from 9 am to 3 pm on Tuesdays and Fridays, and I am available by appointment throughout the week.



Rev. David Kraemer can be reached at
minister@uniteduuc.org
515-231-2536



More from Rev. David

Times of unrest are often times of great change. While I am often frustrated and angered by mounting injustice in our culture and world, I am also driven to hope by the possibilities in front of us.

This is true within the organization we serve, as well. As most of you know, I have served as president of SOPHIA, the Waukesha County interfaith social justice advocacy organization, for a little over two years. It has been a challenging and rewarding post. I have found personal growth within it, and I hope my connection there has deepened our congregation's justice work.

I took on this volunteer job shortly after arriving in Waukesha at United. In that time, my work here has grown. After much discernment, I have decided to step down as president of the Board of Directors of SOPHIA. I remain committed to the good work that SOPHIA does, but the demands of my ministry and my family have left me too little time too often to carry out the full duties of president.

You might also know that Bernie Gonzalez, who served as the staff organizer for SOPHIA during my time as president, has resigned as well. Bernie's last day with SOPHIA was Jan. 31. He is going on to private sector work and we are extremely grateful for his commitment and service.

In the meantime, SOPHIA has hired a part-time staffer, Kayla Larson, to help us move forward. Kayla's emphasis will be on development and communication. SOPHIA plans to find someone to serve in Bernie's capacity sometime in the coming months.

I remain committed to the work of SOPHIA through participation on the Membership Committee and the Health Care task force, and will continue to help with other tasks as needed. United remains a member congregation of SOPHIA and I am looking forward to our continued involvement. If anything, my resignation as president means that I may have more time here at United to help foster that work.

Thank you for allowing me the latitude in the last two years to accept this position. Together, we will work to make a better world.

What does it mean to be an anti-racist congregation?

Following the "Do Black Lives Matter" series with speaker/historian Reggie Jackson and Fran Kaplan, participants from United have been meeting to consider how we can continue to work toward racial justice within our congregation and in our community.

One first step is to acknowledge our goals in our mission, purpose and leadership. A small group is meeting now to suggest ways we can build racial justice into our structure.

A rubric that outlines how racial justice is expressed in many other areas of church life is being distributed. A hard copy is available in the sanctuary and an online version is in the works.

In coming months, we will consider how we express our goals in worship, religious education, witness, service. To learn more, see Rev. David or Marcia Romashko.

Announcements & Events

Religious Education

The Religious Education theme for March is Journey. This theme will focus on beginnings, endings, and exploring things within ourselves, as well as the outside world.



Katelyn Berken
Director of Religious Education
dre@uniteduuc.org

Treasurer's report

TREASURER'S REPORT for MARCH, 2019			
Income		Amounts from 7/1/18 - 02/22/19	Amount Budgeted for the Year 7/1/18- 6/30/19
	Pledges	\$48,228	\$72,964
	Other Income	\$26,699	\$45,062
	Total Income	\$74,927	\$118,026
Total Expenses		78,415	\$116,184
Income - Expenses		(\$3,488)	\$1,842
The mortgage balance is \$124,051. We have a 5 year note at 4.75% which is due in March, 2022			
Our endowment balance is \$199,326.			
The Emergency Fund balance is \$16,226			

WISDOM Madison Action Day set for March 26

More than 1,000 WISDOM leaders and friends from all parts of Wisconsin will gather on Tuesday, March 26, at the State Capitol to advocate for "The Beloved Community," focusing on themes of Radical Inclusion, Reconciliation, and Living for the Seventh Generation. We will rally together to advocate and educate representatives about related issues in the proposed state budget.

Issues we will talk about include criminal justice reform, increases to public transit, drivers cards for those without documentation, and more.

A bus will leave from Waukesha County

early that Tuesday to take participants to the event. More buses will come from across the state.

Filling the bus is important. The sheer number of people involved makes legislators pay attention. Your voice and your presence are needed. The bus will pick up at the Goerkes Corners Park & Ride at 7 am and then at the Nagawaukee Park & Ride on Hwy. 83. Registration is required for the bus.

The event fee, including materials and lunch, is \$25. The bus costs \$10. T-shirts (optional) are \$10 (+\$2 for 1X, 2X, 3X).

Sign up online at www.sophiawaukesha.org, or see Rev. David.

United UU Congregation presents
the 2019 annual spring auction
Lights...Camera...AUCTION!
Saturday, April 27
starting at 6PM

Plans for the 2019 annual spring auction are underway. This year's theme is Lights...Camera...AUCTION! and you don't want to miss the fun! The annual auction is our largest fundraiser of the year and not only provides a substantial percentage of our annual budget, it helps to create the social calendar for the year.



Our auction is set for April 27 starting at 6 pm. Get ready to bid on some wonderful items, purchase homemade treats and have a great time.

Donations can be made to our auction by following the link on the homepage of our website. Donation forms are also available in the front foyer by the coat area.

Past donation items include works of art, ticket vouchers for area events, themed baskets and United UUC social events such as dinner parties and outings.

The deadline for auction donations is April 6. Contact Auction committee chair, Gilles Fouquart at gfouquart@gmail.com or Patty Vanderpoel in the office at uniteduuc@gmail.com with questions.

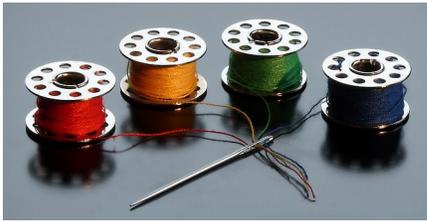
Schedule of Events

6 - 7	Check in Dessert sale Silent Auction
7 - 8:30	Live Auction
8:30	Approximate time of check out

Threads United, Mar. 6 and 20

Threads United will meet at Marcia Romashko's house 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Mar 6 and 20. The group is currently making quilts for Healing Hearts, a local non-profit agency that offers grief support.

Contact Marcia at owasseh@yahoo.com for information.



The next Social Action meeting is at 12 p.m., Sunday, March 17.



Peggy Ann Harris enjoying some homemade treats at the February Hot Dish potluck

Strange Brew and Soul Matters, Mar. 20 and 21

Strange Brew/Soul Matters groups will meet at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Mar. 20, at Magellan's Pizza in downtown Waukesha, for pizza and beverages, and at 10 a.m. Thursday, Mar. 21, at Café DeArts for coffee. March's theme is "Journey". Soul Matters study packets are available at church, or electronically by contacting Patty Vanderpoel, office administrator, at uniteduuc@gmail.com

March Greeters and Coffee hosts

Greeters

- 3/3 - Meg and Moni Whaley
- 3/10 - Mary Beth Danielson and Len Lamberg
- 3/17 - Edna Pfeiffer and Dona Lundin
- 3/24 - Alex and Marcia Romashko
- 3/31 - Pattie Kies and Maria O'Connor

Coffee hosts

- 3/3 - Gilles and Sarah Fouquart
- 3/10 - John and Kaye Wickenberg
- 3/17 - Barb Johnson and Sandy Zingler
- 3/24 - Chet and Sally Celenza
- 3/31 - Chad Lantow and TBD



Please find a replacement if you are going to be absent.

Sunday Potluck, Mar. 10

It's SoUUpY Sunday! The March potluck has Soup and sandwiches on the menu.

Sign up in the fellowship hall or contact Kaye Wickenberg at Kwickenberg@wi.rr.com or call 262-965-2048.

Social Action news

Ongoing collections

Donation bins and baskets can be found in the front foyer by the coat area for:

Shoes

Purses

Coats

Travel-sized personal care items

These items are collected, counted and delivered to area organizations dedicated to helping those in need.

2,635 personal care items collected

The 149 personal care items collected between November and February, will be donated to the MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary in Milwaukee. That brings the grand total of donated items to 2,635.

If you have any items from your travels that you would like to donate, the collection basket is in the main lobby next to the glass doors leading to the hallway.

United Blood drive, June 6

Stock up on your spinach so you can donate blood at the United Blood drive on Thursday, June 6th; from 3-7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Blood donations can be given every 8 weeks, so you can donate up until April 11 and still be eligible to donate at United's Blood Drive.

If you are a regular blood donor or a first time donor interested in saving lives, please contact Ellen Poplawski at erpop@wi.rr.com for more information.



Sienna House and Richard's Place meals, March 31

There is a tentative plan to prepare and deliver meals to the residents of Sienna House, which provides transitional housing for men, and Richard's Place which provides housing for people living with HIV/AIDS, on March 31 after service. Please watch future announcements for updates.

SOPHIA Prayer Breakfast set for April 27

Mark your calendars for April 27 at 8:30 a.m. for the annual SOPHIA Prayer Breakfast. It will be held at La Casa de Esperanza, 410 Arcadian Ave, Waukesha. Go to the website at www.sophiawaukesha.org for more information or contact Rev. David.

This is the day of the annual United Auction, as well. SOPHIA also is in need of items for its silent auction.



Support United with AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

Select United Unitarian Universalist Congregation as your charity of choice on Amazon and you'll begin supporting the good works we do everyday for our congregation and outside community.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON | JUNE 19-23, 2019

General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates. The 2019 General Assembly will be June 19-23 in Spokane, Washington. Most General Assembly events will be held in the Spokane Convention Center.

The Power of We

What do we want Unitarian Universalism to be? It is a time when we are asking big questions in our faith, and GA 2019 will be focused on digging into those questions together. It is a critical chance for congregational leaders and passionate UUs to set new goals and aspirations for our religious community. Help begin to reshape our Association and our congregations in new and powerful ways.

This year's theme is about collective power, "The Power of We," as well as the possibility, the purpose, the struggle and the joy of what it means to be together in faithful community. In the past two years, Unitarian Universalism has recommitted to the work of liberation inside and outside our faith community. The antidote to a time of dangerous dehumanization is a love that connects us to our deeper humanity. Come to Spokane to experience what our shared faith can become when we embrace the Power of We.

Registration and Housing Open March 1

GA Registration and the GA Housing Reservation System open at 9 a.m. PST at www.uua.org/ga

Excellent Programming

GA will offer more than 100 programming selections over the course of five days. This year, in addition to Theme-Based Programming, the schedule will feature Role-Based Track Programming, including time for discussion among attendees, sharing inspiring models and stories, and concrete suggestions for how to further the work or "take it home." More programming details are available at www.uua.org/ga.

Financial Aid Available

The UUA is committed to the goal of making GA accessible to as many attendees as possible. Go to uua.org/ga in the month of March to learn about scholarships to support delegates - particularly those from marginalized groups - and volunteer opportunities (work in exchange for registration).



THE POWER OF WE

Nonviolent Communication Practice Groups, Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon

There are two Nonviolent Communication Practice Groups at United. The Tuesday Morning group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 10:30 a.m. - noon. The Thursday Afternoon group meets on the first and third Thursday of the month from 1:00 - 2:30 pm.

The groups practice concepts from Marshall Rosenberg's book, *Nonviolent Communication, A Language of Life*.

Please contact Linda Gaughan at LMGaughan@yahoo.com or Bonnie Koehler at 414-940-2805 or cre8livng@yahoo.com to learn more and to be put on the contact list.

Buddhist study group in Mukwonago, Mar. 6 and 20

The Buddhist study group will meet on Feb. 6 and 20 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Linden Grove campus, 837 Veterans Way, Mukwonago.

Any interested members, friends, or anyone who wishes to bring greater peace to their own minds are encouraged to stop in and find out if this group might assist you, or someone you know.

Questions can be directed to Patti Kies at buddha@uniteduuc.org.



Mindfulness Meditation Group on Tuesday Evenings

The mindfulness meditation group meets every Tuesday evening from 7 to 8:30 pm in the UUUC sanctuary. We have members from the UUUC and the Lake Country UUC as well as people from various parts of Waukesha County. This friendly and welcoming group provides an opportunity to learn or deepen a mindfulness practice. No previous meditation experience is necessary; an introduction and guided meditation will be provided for anyone new to meditation.

Various studies have shown the benefits of mindfulness meditation: reduced stress and anxiety, increased peace of mind and happiness, improved health, and stronger relationships.

The format for the group includes different types of meditation practice, selected readings, and discussion of readings and practice. Currently we are reading *No Death, No Fear* by Thich Nhat Hanh. Copies of the book will be available to share.

Please contact Larry Hopwood at lehopwood@sbcglobal.net with any questions or simply join us any Tuesday.

Charlotte Koeffler 1918-2019

Born when the United Unitarian and Universalist Society of Mukwonago, (UUUSM) was only 40 years old, Charlotte's life spanned a large part of our church history. She graced our pews from her birth until 2007 when we sold the church on Main Street. Throughout the years she worked tirelessly to support the church, contributing to our congregation in ways too numerous to mention. Our congregation is so thankful that she was not only generous with financial support, but that she did so much more than just show up on Sundays, and was a volunteer in the true sense of the word.

Char was the middle of the three Rintelman sisters, and the second child that we have baptism records for in our record book. As the daughter of former members Ernest and Jessie Rintelman she was involved at UUUSM from her early years, attending Sunday school with her sisters Fern and Loraine. I remember hearing the story about the frosted glass windows that were, according to the Rintelman sisters, installed in some of the sanctuary windows, so that the children would not be distracted by what was going on outside.



Charlotte (far right) in the choir, Circa 1930s



A check for \$100 and gifts of food were presented to the Mukwonago Community Commission recently by the United Unitarian and Universalist Church of Mukwonago. The gifts helped fill 24 food baskets presented to needy families with 69 individuals living in the Mukwonago area. (left to right): Frank Hetherington, and Mrs. Linda Harris of Waukesha, Mrs. Marlene Fitzgerald of Mukwonago and Mrs. Charlotte Koeffler of Mukwonago. Fitzgerald is President of the Community Commission. The others are members of the U&U Church of Mukwonago. (Photo by Eric Severson).

Charlotte (far right) donating money and food to the Community Commission, Nov. 1989

As an active member of UUUSM Char's name pops up time and time again in our church histories and files. The first time is in our record book which records her birth in September 24, 1918, and her baptism June 15, 1919 by UUUSM minister, the Rev. Thomas Murray.

Char was an active and influential member of our congregation. The 80-year History by J. Grutzmacher notes that, "The Junior league was started in the home of Mrs. Harold Koeffler in 1942 with Charlotte Koeffler and Ruth Kern as officers. They served the church long and faithfully, raising money every year for the Minister's salary besides improving the roof, whenever the need arose." This was in the days before members pledged, and without this amazing group of women raising money, the church would not have been able to pay their bills.

In 1984 Charlotte Koeffler attended the pivotal meeting that decide fate of our church after Rev. Ringe died. The church had been closed for a year, and the handful of members who had held the church together over the past decade were unwilling to take an active part in starting it up again. Charlotte was one of five dedicated parishioners who voted to keep the church going, and was there to support the church as the congregation grew and flourished.

In the years that followed, Char was involved in the life of the church in many different ways. In 1987 she and her husband Harold provided housing and hospitality for Rev. Holly Bell during the 6 weeks she served in Mukwonago, and provided her with the use of a typewriter. Holly enjoyed the time she spent with them.

When Harriet Steele was honored on her 85th birthday in 1987, the dinner was prepared entirely by Charlotte. The event was held at our historic church after the Sunday service, in the downstairs community room.

Char and her husband Harold also made substantial donations to the church. In 1996 they donated \$36,071 for new siding for the church, (worth \$59,037 in 2019) and in 1998 a matching grant of \$5,000 (\$7,664 in 2019 money) for the two new furnaces.

Soon after Harold's death in 2012, Char moved into Linden Grove, where she remained until her death.



My friendship with Charlotte Koeffler dates back to the time when we were both members of the Mukwonago Area Women's Club. I still remember the first Sunday I visited the UU church in Mukwonago in 1999. Her face lit up as she rushed over to greet me. She had such a wonderful smile, and having one familiar happy face greet me is something I always remember. She was there every week to welcome me, and is the reason I returned the next week. She held strong beliefs, and was intensely disappointed when her beloved church was sold. All the troubles and turmoil over selling the church never got in the way of our friendship. She lives on in my memory.

Susan Bergmann, historian



Charlotte reads the church history at the 110th Anniversary Celebration of the UUUSM

March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 MacCannon Brown sanctuary tour 2pm	2
3	4	5 Mindful Meditation 7pm	6 Threads United 9:30am Religious Education committee 5pm Buddhist study group 6:30pm	7 Non Violent Communications 1pm	8	9
10 Soup and Sandwich Potluck, after service	11	12 Non Violent Communications 10:30am Board meeting 5pm Mindful Meditation 7pm	13	14 Exploring Spirituality 7pm	15	16
17 Social Action committe meeting 12pm	18	19 Mindful Meditation 7pm	20 Threads United 9:30am Strange Brew 6pm Buddhist study group 6:30pm	21 Soul Matters 10am Non Violent Communications 1pm	22	23
24	25	26 Non Violent Communications 10:30am Mindful Meditation 7pm	27	28	29	30
31 Sienna House meal preperation and delivery, after service						