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# ComUUnicator

*Bringing you the news of the United Unitarian Universalist Congregation*

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

September 2019



United UU Congregation  
506 N. Washington Avenue  
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## **September 1, 2019 - Religious Education pancake breakfast fundraiser**

In lieu of a regular Sunday service, we invite you to join us for a pancake breakfast fundraiser hosted by the children and families of our Religious Education class. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go toward next summer's Summer Spirit youth program. Come hungry and support our RE children!

## **September 8, 2019 - Water Communion. - Rev. David Kraemer with Meg Whaley**

As our church year resumes, our meandering lives flow back together like streams to a river. Bring stories to share.

## **September 15, 2019 - The Bad Seed? - Rev. David Kraemer**

Or are we the Good Egg? What does evolution have to say about human nature?

## **September. 22, 2019 - The Plot Thickens -Rev. David Kraemer**

How much control do we really have over our lives, our interaction with others, and our effect on our environment? Rev. David.

## **September 26, 2019 - Rev. Annie Holmes**

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## Minister's Letter

Every morning this summer I drank my coffee looking out over the lake at our cabin in Chippewa County. On many mornings, a doe and a fawn would come down to the edge of the water on the opposite shore. The angle of the sun painted them bright red against the dark woods.

I watched for them every morning, not really expecting them, but knowing they would likely be there. There's a good poem by Mary Oliver, "The Pinewoods," that tells of deer that come down to the water to drink in the early morning, only Oliver doesn't actually see them, she just knows they were there. "I don't believe, Only to the edge, Of what my eyes actually see," she says. It has been like that with the deer on the other side of the lake for me. Even if I did not see them I expect they were there.

Then one morning as I sat looking across the water at nothing but the root ball of a tree that had tipped over in the wind, suddenly they appeared, right in front of me, on our side of the lake, in the front yard. Great Expectations! I did not expect that!

Then immediately I thought of the new hosta we had transplanted and how much the deer seem to like them. Careful what you wish for.

Our theme this month is "Expectations," a pretty good theme to begin the year. I am looking forward to many good things that are beginning to take root here at United.

Our children and youth education program is building under the leadership of our new Director of Religious Education Dennis Reynolds.

The new Anti-Racism Change (ARC) Team promises meaningful exploration of who we are as people and as a body of faith.

Our Social Action committee continues to increase its work, with many individuals stepping into new roles.

Alex Chilsen has a great lineup of music for the year, including an evening concert on Sept. 28. More voices are always welcome in the choir.

The Board of Directors continues to build vision under the leadership of President Gilles Fouquart..

Maria O'Connor and I will offer a new five-part series on Unitarian Universalist history and polity aimed at both long-time members and newcomers. Our intent is to deepen and build our congregation. Check elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

Potlucks are set for the second Sunday of the month. Circle suppers are in the works. I know social calendars are already filling up. We live and breathe together.

Here at United, we covenant to scatter and nurture seeds of spirit, service and community. We also care for one another in times of need. As our church life continues to grow, I know we will continue to nurture.

I expect great things. And I'm sure things will happen I don't expect. Come with your own expectations. May they be fulfilled.



Rev. David Kramer has office hours from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuesday and Friday.

He can be reached by email at [minister@uniteduuc.org](mailto:minister@uniteduuc.org) or phone 515-231-2536.

# Religious Education

After a summer packed full of fun with our Summer Spirit Program, we are ready for an amazing church year. I am ecstatic to meet all our wonderful kids as we began meeting for Religious Education Sunday morning starting September 8. Our kids will love our new program this fall, UU Pen Pals, where each child will be matched up with a mystery pen-pal in the congregation, all leading to a big reveal, that you will not want to miss!

As we shift our focus towards Sunday Religious Education, we are actively seeking new volunteers and teachers who would like to help out on Sunday morning, or at any of the RE events coming up. Gear up to make a positive impact on our youth, and contact Dennis Reynolds, Director of Religious Education, to find out when and where you can be of help. Everyone has a special gift that can be shared with our children, regardless of the amount of time commitment they can make.

Also, we are looking forward to hosting a spooky night of Halloween themed fun and fellowship for all our children and young adults on Oct. 31, stay tuned more details are to follow.



Dennis Reynolds, Director of Religious Education can be reached at [dre@uniteduuc.org](mailto:dre@uniteduuc.org)

## **Pancake breakfast fundraiser, Sept. 1**

In lieu of a regular Sunday service, the Religious Education group will hold a pancake breakfast fundraiser on September 1. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards next summer's youth program. Come hungry!

## **Pen Pals Needed**

Children's Religious Education is launching a new "Pen Pals" project this year that will pair up an adult mentor with every child in Religious Education. Adult Pen Pals will write a series of four letters to the children, and receive four letters back. Everyone will remain anonymous until a big "reveal," in December.

We are currently seeking adults willing to be Pen Pals. If you are willing to write a letter to a child, please contact Director of Religious Education Dennis Reynolds.



## **Child Care Workers Needed**

United has been blessed with great helpers in the child care room in the past few years. As it happens, many of our most reliable workers are now moving on to the next steps in their lives – career, travel, education.

We are in need of staff for the Sunday child care room. This is a paid position. If you know of someone who might be a candidate, please contact Dennis Reynolds, Director of Religious Education or a member of the Religious Education Committee -- Gen Freese, Jennifer Beiriger, Moni Whaley, Cynara Fode or Lisa Rosenthal.

# Announcements & Events

## Treasurer's report

TREASURER'S REPORT for Sept, 2019-20			
Income		Amounts from	Amount Budgeted for the
		7/1/19 - 08/06/19	Year 7/1/19- 6/30/20
	Pledges	\$10,203	\$71,180
	Other Income	\$4,700	\$48,050
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$14,903</b>	<b>\$119,230</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>12,280</b>	<b>\$121,790</b>
<b>Income - Expenses</b>		<b>\$2,623</b>	<b>(\$2,560)</b>
The mortgage balance is \$122,650. We have a 5 year note at 4.75% which is due in March, 2022			
Our endowment balance is \$219,417.			
Our Emergency Fund is invested in 3 short term CD's. They total \$18,302.			

## United Choir rehearsals start Sept. 8

United's church choir is small, but mighty! We rehearse regularly before worship on Sundays at 9 a.m. We are committed to working hard, having fun, and enjoying the unique bond of fellowship that comes with singing our best together. If you feel you have the time to commit, please come add to the joy of singing with us.

If you have any questions regarding Music at United, please contact our Director of Music, Alex Chilsen, at [chilseaj88@gmail.com](mailto:chilseaj88@gmail.com)



## September Greeters and Coffee hosts

### Greeters

9/1 PeggyAnne Harris and Dona Lundin  
 9/8 Lisa Rosenthal  
 9/15 Edna Pfeiffer and Patti Kies  
 9/22 Maria O'Connor  
 9/29 Kim Johnson and John Harvie

### Coffee hosts

9/1 Pancake breakfast fundraiser  
 9/8 Tudy Bolling and Sara Toenes  
 9/15 Adele Revoy and Jenny McAllister  
 9/22 Paula Pambianco  
 9/29 Jim Brownlow and Lisa Bieri

Weekly reminders will be emailed. Please find a replacement if you are going to be absent.

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## Five part UU History series, starting Sept. 21

This fall, United is pleased to offer a new five-part Unitarian Universalist History series, led by Maria O'Connor and Rev. David Kraemer. A clever title is still in the works, but the content is shaping up. The series is aimed at long-time, new and especially prospective members who wish to learn more about our roots, our struggles and our evolution as a body of faith.

Classes will meet from 9:30 to 11:30 am on five Saturdays, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 14, and Jan. 11.

Each session will include multiple learning styles, including video clips, stories, individual reflection, triad sharing and reaction, group discussion, and interactive activities.

Throughout the series, the lessons of history will be discussed in terms of what they mean for UUs today.

Our main theme will be the various shifts in our theology over time.

Maria is a long-time religious educator with vast knowledge and experience in building curriculum. Rev. David will offer what he can from his own studies, experience and time in seminary.

Watch for registration.



Kim Johnson at the Aug. 4 David Stokes' service.

## Piano concert, Sept. 28

Do you like what you hear on a Sunday morning? There's more where that comes from.

Our talented and entertaining Music Director, Alex Chilsen, will offer an evening of music for members and friends at 7 p.m. on Saturday, September 28, at United.

Billed as "On the Side of Love Boat," – for the popular hymn from the teal hymnal and from Alex's own experience working as an entertainer aboard a cruise line – this concert was first offered at the annual auction. Tickets are \$10 and are still available, up to the time of the concert.

This is a perfect opportunity to invite your friends or co-workers or anyone you think might benefit from an introduction to our congregation.



See Patty Vanderpoel in the church office for tickets.

## Strange Brew/Soul Matters resumes in September

Strange Brew/Soul Matters groups will resume on the second week of each month this year - 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month for pizza and beverages at Magellan's in Waukesha; 10 a.m. on the second Thursday of the month for coffee at Café DeArts. The Soul Matters themes and packets will provide food for thought and conversation.

### Social Action committee meeting, Sept. 15

After the summer break, the Social Action committee will meet again at noon on September 15.

Fall and winter projects such as Christmas Clearing Council will be discussed along with other ideas. Contact Ellen Poplawski with any questions at erpop@wi.rr.com.

### Second Sunday potlucks to return in October

Share food and fellowship with members and friends of United during our potlucks.

Themed potlucks are scheduled for the second Sunday of each month following service. A sign up sheet will be made available in the Fellowship Hall two weeks prior to each potluck. See Kaye Wickenberg with questions.

#### 2019-2020 Potlucks

October 13	Tailgate special
November 10	Baked potato extravaganza
December 8	Holiday Brunch!
January 12	Chili lunch to warm you up
February 9	Soup and sandwich
March 8	Baked potato extravaganza
April 12	Mexican fiesta



### September Food pantry collection

The focus for our food pantry collection this month will be on hot and cold cereals and canned fruit.

Kids are going back to school now and the best way they can start the day is with a nutritious breakfast. A donation bin is located by the coat area.



### Threads United, Sept. 4 and 13

Threads United will meet at Marcia Romashko's house 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 4 and 13. 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.



### Ladies Night Out, Sept. 10

We will gather again at La Estacion on Tuesday, September 10 at 6 p.m. It is Taco Tuesdays, which is quite a deal, but feel free to also order off the menu. All members, friends and friends of members are welcome! Please R.S.V.P. to Paula Pambianco by phone, text 262-366-0225 or email paula@kernes.us if you would like to participate.

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### **Buddhist study group in Mukwonago, Sept. 4 and 18**

The Buddhist study group will meet on September 4 and 18 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.

### **Non Violent Communication, Sept. 17**

Interested in becoming a more peaceful presence in our world? Come join the Nonviolent Communication (NVC) practice group, (also known as Compassionate Communication) at the United Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Waukesha. The group will practice the communication concepts taught in the book, *Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life* by Marshall Rosenberg. Marshall had a history of bringing warring parties to the peace table.

The practice group will be helpful for people who are interested in understanding why they react as they do. They will provide tools for developing peaceful ways to relate with family, friends, colleagues, bosses, and people who have differing opinions.

The group will meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. beginning Tuesday, September 17. If you any have questions or would like to be placed on the e-mail list, please contact Linda Gaughan at 262-789-9736 or [LMGaughan@yahoo.com](mailto:LMGaughan@yahoo.com) or Bonnie Koehler at 414-940-2805 or [cre8livng@yahoo.com](mailto:cre8livng@yahoo.com).

### **Mindfulness Meditation Group, Tuesdays**

The mindfulness meditation group will meet every Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 8 p.m. 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.

Please contact Larry Hopwood at [lehopwood@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lehopwood@sbcglobal.net) with any questions or simply join us any Tuesday.



# Looking back, by Susan Bergmann

## CHURCH RECORDS STORED UNDER THE BED

Every church history has interesting stories, and ours is no exception. One of our strangest ones is about our church records being stored under Lorraine and Avril Farris's bed. When I first heard about it from Charlotte Simpson, before she passed away in 2010, she was still quite indignant about it. The story dates back to 1984 when the Farisses stepped up to help save the church from disbanding. Soon after some of the records showed up on their doorstep, no doubt left by one of the former members, who perhaps no longer wanted the responsibility of keeping the church doors open. Or maybe, they no longer wanted them under their bed!

In the years that followed the conflict between Lorraine and Avril and the congregation escalated. The return of these records was just one of many sources of irritation in the small congregation, and by 1987 the congregation was determined to get the records back to the church. It is hard to know why they didn't just return them, but their refusal led the frustrated congregation to consult the Central Mid-West District, who advised the congregation to insist on their return. In December of 1987 disagreements about the running of the church spiraled out of control and the Farisses resigned their church membership. They returned the records in January of 1988, but instead of just handing over the items, they drew up rather official looking document leaving us with a

detailed list of what they were returning.

It was signed by president Nissley Kaste, who worked hard to hold the congregation together, through this difficult time. This fascinating document provides an explanation about how the Farris's ended up with some of the records, but not why they kept them for so long.

Susan Bergmann Historian 2019

The following records, in possession of the Farris's for safekeeping purposes for the United Unitarian and Universalist Society of Mukwonago, Wisconsin were turned over to the Church Board at the church on January 10, 1988:

1. Original record book of the Unitarian-Universalist Society of Mukwonago. Contains minutes from December 13, 1877 through March 17, 1950. Most of the record book entries reflect minutes and financial statements of annual meetings. (this book was deposited on our doorstep the first week in July, 1984 while we were in Phoenix, Arizona. Our daughter, Janet, discovered the paper bag and its contents and put it inside the house)
2. Original treasurer's book of U.U. Society of Mukwonago from 1890 to 1924. (this book was also deposited at the doorstep of the Farris residence along with the Record book.
3. Record of minutes from March 1950 through April 28, 1971. (this book was left on the ~~the~~ raised platform in the community hall of the church shortly after the death of Merle Dettmann) Note: a resolution to sell the parsonage in 1974 is inside the front cover of the record book.
4. Record book of Junior League - Feb. 5, 1942 to Feb. 7, 1952.
5. Record book of Junior League - from Feb. 21, 1952 to June 6, 1957.
6. Record book of Junior League - from July 18, 1957 to May 1964

Note: Junior league books were removed from the Clubroom in 1986 when all books and records were being evaluated and were removed in the presence of witnesses for safekeeping.

7. Box of memorabilia from church's 100th anniversary.
8. Church service bulletins from Rev. Ringe era.
9. Anecdotal records of church correspondence, events, etc. Mainly from 1946-1963. These records were kept in a metal file on a shelf in the clubroom of the church. More than half of the records in the file disappeared in 1985 when the Farris's were investigating missing church property. The remaining records were removed for safe keeping. The members of the church board were apprised on the removal of the records.

Above records turned over to the church board on January 10, 1988.

Nissley B. Kaste  
Board representative

# September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Pancake breakfast Religious Education fundraiser	2	3 Mindful Meditation 6:30pm	4 Buddhist study group 6:30pm	5	6	7
8	9 Board meeting 5pm Ladies Night Out 6pm Mindful Meditation 6:30pm	10	11 Strange Brew 6pm	12 Soul Matters 10am	13	14 Church Board Retreat
15 Social Action Committee meeting 12pm	16	17 Non Violent Communication group 10:30am Mindful Meditation 6:30pm	18 Buddhist study group 6:30pm	19	20	21 UU History series 9:30am
22 October newsletter deadline	23	24 Mindful Meditation 6:30pm	25 ARCT meeting 5pm	26	27	28 On the Side of Love Boat piano concert, 7pm
29	30					