



THE CHALICE NEWS

Unitarian Society of Menomonie

A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

June 2025 Newsletter

Seven Principles

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
3. Acceptance of 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

Programs are at 10 a.m. in our meeting room, unless otherwise noted.
(ZOOM CONNECTIONS WILL BE PROVIDED)

Sunday, June 1 – Peter Kilde, retired head of Westcap — a local community action agency — will speak about the economics of perpetual poverty.

Sunday, June 8 – Guided Meditation

Sunday, June 15 – Joint service of USM with the Eau Claire fellowship at the Mabel Tainter Theater. Tim Hirsch, Tainter family historian, will talk about the connections between our two churches.

And, Happy Father's Day!

Sunday, June 22 – Service w/Dennis Peters, "Mining for Gold"

There are several ways to mine for gold. They run from panning, primarily used by amateurs and by those assaying potential veins, all the way to large open pit mines, such as the Super Pit gold mine in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, now the second-largest open pit mine in the world.

Those aren't the gold mining methods we'll be talking about on this Sunday. In fact, the "gold" we'll be going after is not the gold of those traditional mines. Let's talk about going beneath, under the surface, for the gold that's really important to each of us: the gold we can find within ourselves.

Sunday, June 29 – Meet at the Native American mounds in Wakanda Park for a mini service. Potluck picnic to follow in the park.

DAVID K. WILLIAMS:
Drawing Inspiration



A friendly search via Google for a definition of inspiration yielded this: “The process of being mentally stimulated to do or feel something, especially to do something creative.” An AI Overview offering suggests “a sudden burst of creativity, a motivating force, or even a divine influence. It’s the spark that ignites our imaginations, driving us to create, learn and achieve.” That sounds pretty heady.

But a recent reading of the May 26 issue of *Time* magazine provided me with several inspiring moments. I’ve received *Time* for over 50 years — during college my aunt provided an annual subscription, which we’ve continued since. From its early days as a print news medium, it has moved to adapt to today’s challenges for print journalism — instead of weekly news, it features more in-depth articles about news or people of the day. This particular issue led with a long article about Cardinal Robert Prevost’s ascension to become Pope Leo XIV.

There was an almost equally long article about Paige Bueckers. If you haven’t followed women’s basketball, you might not know or care who she is. Originally from Hopkins, MN, where she led her high school team to the state championship, she moved to the University of Connecticut, a powerhouse of women’s basketball, where she again led her team this spring to the national title, and became the first women drafted for professional women’s basketball in this year’s pro basketball draft.

So big deal, you might say, another hot-shot athlete rises to glory, fame and lots of money! Who cares? But the article spent a number of paragraphs describing Bueckers’ belief that Black women remain undercovered in the media, in a sport dominated by Black women. Bueckers is white, but she said, “There’s not ever equal coverage. There’s white privilege every single day that I see. I feel like I’ve worked extremely hard, blessed by God. But I do think there’s more opportunities for me. I feel like even just marketability, people tend to favor white people, white males, white women. ... I feel like there is privilege to what I have, and to what all white people have.”

Here is an athletically gifted woman willing to speak out about the disparity she’s enjoyed, which has made her a wealthy woman at just 23, when other equally talented Black women will never see her level of success. Might we all be so willing to publicly express such truths!

There were other stories in that same *Time* magazine, which featured “TIME 100 HEALTH: The most influential people in health in 2025.” One brief feature was of Alice Walton, of the Walmart Waltons. As the article noted, “As the richest woman in the world, Alice Walton could turn her resources to any cause. She chose health.” She is funding a school of medicine to train doctors in nutrition, and preventive care including behaviors and lifestyle issues.

Or there is Vas Narasimhan, the CEO of drug company Novartis. Under his leadership his company has now provided treatments for malaria for more than a billion people in 70 countries at no profit to the company.

And Damar Hamlin, a Buffalo Bills professional football player who went into cardiac arrest during a game in 2023, but was saved by emergency responders. He turned his near-death situation into a crusade to donate hundreds of thousands of dollars for CPR education clinics and providing AED (automated external defibrillator) devices to youth sports programs.

There are 97 other profiles of people doing noteworthy things in the world of health care. (Spoiler alert: A few of these people, such as Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., are in influential positions, but not necessarily inspirational). Many of these provide uplifting examples that can stimulate us, motivate us, and maybe encourage us to ourselves inspire others. From whence comes your inspiration?

A Father's Day Prayer

By Amy Jones

Today is Father's Day, so we take this moment to hold space for all that may mean to us.

We hold love for those who have lost fathers, and for those fathers who have lost children.

We acknowledge and hold non-binary, transgender, and cisgender dads in families made of two dads, foster and adoptive dads, and single dads.

We hold and work to lift up all fathers of color, and those fathers raising children of color.

We hold fathers kept apart from their children by borders and war.

We hold fathers and children who have lost connection, children who have been disowned or abandoned by their fathers, and the father-figures who step in.

We hold those longing to become fathers.

We hold those who may be full of questions about their biological fathers.

Most importantly we hold and thank the dads, the papas, the daddies, and all who show up everyday to give their all to the children who need them.

Human relations are complicated. These days of recognition are complex.

Please take a moment to breathe in what serves you... and breathe out that which does not.

Dunn County Democrats Meeting

The Dunn County Democrats meet every Friday at 2 p.m. at their headquarters, 315 N. Broadway, Menomonie.

All are welcome.

USM Needleworkers

USM needleworkers meet every Wednesday at 1 p.m. at Golden Leaf Café to chat and relax with their fiber projects.

They can teach you how to knit, crochet, or tat.

All are welcome.



The Program Committee meets on the third Thursday of the month at 9 a.m. at Golden Leaf Café.

All are welcome.



New Alano Liaison Needed

The Alano Clubs meet the second Monday from 5-6 p.m. A UU member attends the meeting and shares concerns and questions both UU and Alano has, and reports back to the UU board.

The following month when attending the Alano meeting, any conclusions to the questions and concerns are addressed. This info is passed on to the UU.

Please contact Sherry with any questions about the liaison position: sherryhagen0115@gmsil.com

Please email events, news, poems, photos, and stories by the 25th of the month to be included in the next newsletter to Kyser.Cassandra@gmail.com.

The Real Wealth of Nations

by Riane Eisler

Good Reads

The Art of Happiness: A Handbook for Living

by His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Planetary Emergency

by Kent D. Shifferd

The late Shifferd was a lifelong environmental and peace activist, Unitarian, and author of our next book discussion pick, From War to Peace: A Guide to the Next 100 Years.

Menomonie News Net

In April, representatives Becky Kneer and Bruce Siebold spoke to us about the new media platform, Menomonie News Net.

If you wish to make a donation to Menomonie News Net, send your donation to the Community Foundation of Dunn County.

Letter from UUA Director of Communications and Public Ministry Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd May 2025

This is an historic year for Unitarian Universalists. May 25, 2025, is the 200th anniversary of the chartering of the American Unitarian Association (AUA), one of the founding organizations that makes up today's Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). In 1961, the Universalist Church of America, founded in 1793, and the American Unitarian Association, founded in 1825, consolidated to become the UUA.

In a few weeks, many of us will gather in Baltimore, MD for our annual General Assembly (GA) — a location not far from the pulpit that, in 1819, the Rev. William Ellery Channing preached ninety minutes of what we now call The Baltimore Sermon — that foundational text which came to serve as a kind of declaration that Unitarianism existed as a point on the landscape of American religion. I hope you will join us at GA to celebrate this anniversary and so much more, together in community.

It's also true that the chartering of the AUA as an institutional representation of Unitarians was met with ambivalence — indeed, Channing himself declined to lead the organization out of a concern about the consolidation of power. However, out of that age-old dance of interconnection and individuality that we have been practicing for generation upon generation, an organization was born. Its initial purposes were to propagate Unitarian religious views and aid in benevolent work in the community.

The AUA — and we Unitarian Universalists — have become so much more. Our roots run deep in this country and abroad, and the foundational concepts brought forth by liberal religion, including Unitarianism, have paved the way for more inclusive religious practice, congregational commitment, and institutional leadership. In fact, our own UUA President, the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, joined with the Chief Officer of the UK Unitarians, Liz Slade, to celebrate the happy coincidence that both the AUA and the original UK Unitarian organization, the British and Foreign Unitarian Association, were founded on the same day in 1825. You'll find that video message and so much more about this historic moment in this email.

May you feel the deep roots of our traditions as you explore the content below, and may it spark more reflection and discussion for you, as it has for so many of us at the UUA, about what this anniversary means for Unitarian Universalism today and in the future.

[Click here to watch the "Happy 200th Anniversary to British and American Unitarians!" video](#)

[Click here to register for General Assembly 2025](#)

Editor's Note: David Williams submitted this letter for reprint in the USM Newsletter. It has been edited for length.