



THE CHALICE NEWS

Unitarian Society of Menomonie

A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

August 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, Aug. 3 – Pool party at Lynn Shaw's house, 2 p.m.

Always a fun time! You don't have to swim if you don't want to. Bring some snacks to share. For directions to Lynn's house, contact her at shawlynn38@yahoo.com.

Sunday, Aug. 10 – "The Last Service" service w/Dennis Peters

Let's hypothesize a little bit. Let's say today is the last service for Unitarian Society of Menomonie. Once we finish this morning, we will start packing up our office. We'll order in pizzas and soda. Some of the office will go into storage. Some of it will be shredded and tossed. Some will be distributed to those interested in having a piece of our history as a remembrance.

What?! What's going on here? I don't want to be done with this, you say. Well, let's think about it.

Sunday, Aug. 17 – Steve Hanson, Originator of Eye on Dunn County, a daily news platform focused on Dunn County and Wisconsin, will speak to us of his experience starting and running what is now another digital news service for our area.

Sunday, Aug. 24 – "Starting the School Year" service w/Dennis Peters

It's the end of August! When I was a kid, that was the starting point of the new school year. It was a time of mixing eagerness and dread. We had heard awful things about that teacher; does he really beat up kids? (Turns out the answer was "yes"! I get to start playing in band! Do they have to revarnish the floors every year? It smells awful! Come back with me to our youth. Youths? Let's revisit parts of our origin stories.

Sunday, Aug. 31 – No Service. Happy Labor Day!

Coming Up...

Sunday, Sept. 7 – The traditional Gathering of the Waters service. Be sure to bring water from a place you have visited this summer, or we will have symbolic water on hand for your use at the ceremony.

Sunday, Sept. 21 – Reba Eldenbouki, native of Nigeria, will speak to us about misogynistic and repressive practices and traditions which affect Nigerian women.

The program committee will likely meet August 15 at 9 am at Golden Leaf Café.

105 NE 21st Street, Menomonie WI (Alano meeting room, across from Mayo Clinic)

www.menomonieuu.org • Find us on [Facebook](#)

DAVID K. WILLIAMS:
'All Hat, But No Cattle'



I spent several minutes recently outside my front door talking to a member of the Jehovah's Witnesses. She has stopped at our home a number of times, often with other family members or fellow parishioners. She is respectful of our different beliefs as I try to be of hers. I've learned some of what Jehovah's Witnesses believe.

I've also developed great respect for the fact that she's willing to go to a stranger's door and talk about her faith, knowing that she must often deal with rejection, doors slammed in her face, people being rude. She's a genuinely nice person and so are her kids, all of whom work at a local fast food restaurant and now greet us by name if we use the drive-thru.

A friend some years ago used the phrase "He's all hat, but no cattle," referring to a person who was full of swagger about something he had, or had done, but lacked any substance to back that up.

It occurred to me that my Jehovah's Witness contact was anything but "all hat, but no cattle." She was demonstrating the strength of her convictions by going door to door, sharing what was important to her about her faith. I wondered if I could do that.

We Unitarians are notorious for not proselytizing, but working — very hard — to respect the religious views of others, and seeking to learn from them. We view our religious experiences as a quest, so I suppose if we did go door to door, it would be to ask the resident to tell us about their faith, rather than share ours.

Reality says none of us will probably be doing that.

So are we then "all hat, but no cattle?" I don't think that fits most of us. We wear our commitments and beliefs on our sleeves in other ways.

Our social action efforts are often quiet and below radar screens, but we seek to make a difference by living out our values in service. Among our members are those recording books for the blind, helping at Stepping Stones or the Bridge to Hope. We've delivered Meals on Wheels, tried to help homeless kids in the Menomonie schools, packed commodity boxes for senior citizens, stood on the street protesting government atrocities, and well, the list goes on.

Perhaps the alternative description for us might be "small cap, large herd?"

Whatever description we might use, I know for sure that we don't swagger.

Factoids

Wisconsin is the 6th hardest state in which to get registered to vote.

Susan B. Anthony spoke at the Mabel Tainter Theater twice.

— From Ellen Ochs' presentation on July 6

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*That August time it was delight
To watch the red moons wane to white
'Twixt grey seamed stems of apple-trees;
A sense of heavy harmonies
Grew on the growth of patient night,
More sweet than shapen music is.*

— from “August” by Algernon Charles Swinburne

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Board Members

Jill Smith, President

Paul Helgeson, Vice President and Alano Liaison


David Williams, Treasurer

Lynn Shaw, Secretary

Juliana Schmidt, Programming Chair

Mary Beth Lvoncek, Homeless Kids Project

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.

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Good Reads

“How We Die: Reflections on Life's Final Chapters”
by Sherwin B. Nuland

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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.