

STEVENS POINT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
APRIL 2005

Unless indicated otherwise all services and religious school begin at 10:00 am on Sundays in the Odd Fellows Hall, 2854 Church Street, Stevens Point, WI.

Calendar

2005

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| April 3 | John Blakeman |
| April 10 | Lindsay Orlando, UWSP student "Seeing the Light Again" - why I am a Unitarian Universalist.*
Potluck lunch and canvass kickoff |
| April 17 | Professor Emeritus Isabelle Stelmahoske, "A Dream to Live For?" |
| April 24 | Rev. Paul Beckel, Wausau UU Church, topic tba |
| May 1 | Larry Weiser, "Garbage Doomsday- Sooner or Later"
Intergenerational service and activities #
Soup Sunday |
| May 8 | Annual Meeting, no RE |
| May 15 | Steve Bjella, topic tba |
| May 22 | Marcia Johnson, "More World Reflections" |

* This service would be good for older children to hear.

This will be an intergenerational service only if there are volunteers to plan and organize activities for the children.

Other events of note:

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| Apr. 15-17 | Central Midwest District Assembly, Arlington Heights, IL
See details in the text that follows. |
| Apr. 30 | Portage County Cultural Festival |

Our speaker this coming Sunday, April 10 will be Lindsay Orlando, a student from Racine who attends UWSP. She will give a presentation on why she is a Unitarian Universalist. This program may appeal to our youth and young people, so encourage them to attend. On May 1 we have scheduled an intergenerational program for Earth Day. Larry Weiser will give a brief presentation on "Garbage Doomsday" but we need people to come up with more ideas and activities for that event.

This Sunday, April 10, also begins our annual canvass. To kickoff this effort there will be a potluck lunch following the service, and there may be a skit or two. If you would be able to help canvass the members, please contact Steve Bjella. If you have any concerns that you would like brought up in the canvass, contact one of the Board members listed on the address page of this newsletter. Please bring something edible to share with the group.

I noticed last Sunday that the upstairs could use some cleaning. The floor could use vacuuming, and surfaces need to be uncluttered and dusted. If you would like to volunteer to help with cleaning some Sunday, let Julia Weiser know and we will schedule it. Volunteers are still needed to open up, greet visitors and friends, clean and close, and bring a small snack.

The budget is being prepared for approval at the Annual Meeting. It will be sent by email or snail mail to all members. If you have expenditures for which you need to be reimbursed this fiscal year, please them to Julia Weiser as soon as possible so that we can have an accurate picture of our expenditures this year. If you or your committee wants to request that funding for your activities be increased, please contact Julia.

If you have receiving this newsletter by email or regular mail and you wish to be removed from the mailing list, please contact Julia Weiser at 344-7769, or 616 Sunset Blvd. Stevens Point, or weiserj@charter.net.

Thanks go to:

Dorothy Ginnett for keeping the RE on track with all the wonderful ideas and activities

Julia Weiser for organizing and planning the service for Spring holidays.

All who presented and arranged for services

All who opened up before and cleaned up after services

Healing thoughts go out to Iris Weston, mother of Carol, who is undergoing heart surgery this week.

The following article appeared in the newsletter of the First UU Society of Syracuse (NY) and was submitted by Jane Shoup. The author is Victoria Safford, a UU minister in St. Paul, MN.

In a cemetery once, an old one in New England, I found a strangely soothing epitaph. The name of the deceased and her dates had been scoured away by wind and rain, but there was a carving of a tree with roots and branches (a classic 19th century motif) and among them the words, “She attended well and faithfully to a few worthy things.” At first this seemed to me a little meager, a little stingy on the part of her survivors, but I wrote it down and have thought about in since, and now I can’t imagine a more proud or satisfying legacy. **“She attended well and faithfully to a few worthy things.”** Every day I stand in danger of being struck by lightning and having the obituary in the local paper say, for all the world to see, “She attended frantically and ineffectually to many unimportant, meaningless details.”

How do you want your obituary to read?

“He got all the dishes washed and dried before playing with his children in the evening.”

“She balanced her checkbook with meticulous precision and never missed a day of work – missed a lot of sunsets, missed a lot of love, missed a lot of risk, missed a lot – but her money was in order.”

“She answered all her calls, all- her e-mail, but along the way she forgot to answer the call to service and compassion, and forgiveness, first and foremost of herself.”

“He gave and forgave sparingly, without radical intention, without passion or conviction.”

“She could not, or would not, hear the calling of her heart.”

How will it read, how does it read, and if you had to name a few worthy things to which you attend well and faithfully, what, I wonder, would they be?

This essay is thought provoking. There are such documents Living Wills that pass on to our family and friends those items and thoughts for which we wish to be remembered or that we think important. I think that members of the Fellowship wrote these at one point many years ago. Maybe we could have a Sunday session where we do this again.

STEVENS POINT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

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