

STEVENS POINT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

December 2004

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

2004

December 12 “Sex and Poetry” with Arlene Heig and friends

December 19 Intergenerational Service: Winter holidays

December 26 no services

2005

January 2 Becoming a Welcoming Congregation discussion
Soup Sunday

January 9 Don Greene “Three major Aesthetic Philosophies on
Ways to Look at Art and Music”

January 16 Intergenerational Service for Martin Luther King Day

January 23 Julie Stoneberg, Intern Minister, UU Church, Wausau
Topic to be announced

January 30 To be announced

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Our new sign is up on the building. The banner is really handsome and visible from the street. Hopefully it will bring some new and old faces into the building on Sunday mornings.

On December 19 we will have our annual intergenerational service celebrating winter holidays. **This inclusive service is for everyone, from young children to senior citizens. Please bring an activity, song, and or story to share with the group.** Also bring something edible for sharing afterwards. This will be our last service of 2004.

Deadline for January newsletter is December 29. Please submit articles and announcements to Julia Weiser at weiserj@charter.net or send to 616 Sunset Blvd. Stevens Point, WI 54481

We have been assigned a family with 3 small children for the Holiday Basket Project. We are taking donations to purchase the gifts and food for the family. Nancy LoPatin and Michele Bjella are working on obtaining the necessary items so if you would like to help, contact them.

Thanks to all of you who have paid your pledges to the capital campaign. Most of the money is now in and earning interest at the bank. If you still need to pay on your pledge, which was due **December 1**, send payments to Julia Weiser, Treasurer, 616 Sunset Blvd, Stevens Point. If you are unsure what you still owe and/or have paid, contact her by mail or email at weiserj@charter.net. If you have bills for expenses incurred, send or give them to Julia. Even if you wish to donate what you purchased or spent, please let the Treasurer know so that we can list them as in kind contributions; it helps to write the budget when we know our total expenditures and obligations.

If you would like to order a copy of our UU hymnal entitled "Singing the Living Tradition" to add to our supply or for personal use go to the UUA Bookstore website at www.uua.org/bookstore and click on the music category, screen 2. The item number is #7203 and the cost is \$28 plus shipping. We do not have any funds budgeted for hymnals this year as a fellowship. If you want to contribute funds to the treasury to obtain more hymnals we could send in an order for the number desired, and you would get a tax deduction for your donation.

Our deepest sympathies and condolences:

to Eric Swegles on the death of his father recently

to Mary Arnold and Henry St. Maurice on the tragic accident and death of Mary's father in November.

Thanks to:

Carol Weston for ordering and installing the new banner on the front of the building.

Nancy Lo Patin Lummis for coordinating the Holiday Basket project to help a family in need.

To our presenters in November and December to date – Tom Overholt, Dan Barker, and Larry Craig and Liz Liebenstein.

The following was sent to me by Jane Shoup to put in the newsletter.

The late Christopher Reeve and his wife Dana and son were active members of a UU congregation in Connecticut. He says about his faith:

Three years after my marriage I lost the use of almost my entire body. My identity and self esteem had always been based in the physical world of health, athletics, travel, and adventure. In an instant, paralysis created an indescribable void. Family, friends and well-wishers assure me that prayers and my faith in God would comfort me. I tried to pray, but I didn't feel any better, nor did I make any connection with God. I wondered what was wrong with me. I had broken my neck but I had not found God.

Finally I decided to stop beating myself up. Gradually I have come to believe that spirituality is found in the way we live our daily lives. As these thoughts unfolded in the process of leading to live my new life, I had no idea that I was becoming a Unitarian Universalist. ...In the words of our minister: "We see our church as a place where people can be truly religious because they can be true to themselves, where honest doubt is not taken as heresy, and where the beliefs of the past and the present become the inspiration for future growth and discovery:"

Dana and I were talking after church not too long ago, reflecting on the service. I told her what I liked about Unitarian Universalism is that you are not presumed guilty when you walk in the door.

During this busy and hectic holiday season, take the time to create family traditions for Hanukkah and/or Christmas and spend time with your loved ones. In these dark days ahead, the shining of candles and lights can give us hope for the future, no matter what your beliefs or traditions.

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