
NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods

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Addenda

From the Program Committee

Due to a scheduling overlap, we will not be able to meet at the same time we did last month. . Our next meeting will be April 9th, in the morning **before** the program. Please come to the Fellowship for a Program Committee meeting from 8:45 to 9:45AM. There will be coffee and muffins, and lots to talk about.

Minister's Message

As the clouds of war hang more heavily over our heads, and shifting alliances create a new world configuration before our very eyes, it is important to strengthen the bonds of our Unitarian Universalist community. There are those among us who are ardently philosophical pacifists, and there are those among us who have proudly served their country in the armed services. And there are people with every shade of commitment in between, including differing opinions in the same person all of a day. This is indeed a fearsome time.

How can we as a faith tradition support one another? Please know that some Unitarian Universalists are deeply worried about relatives or friends who have been called into active duty. Please know that opinions range the spectrum on the danger posed by Iraq and other nations, the role of the international community, policies toward weapons. Our cherished diversity is vibrant among us.

In these moments, I hear the words of Hosea Ballou, early Universalist minister, "We need not think alike to love alike." And I remember that ours is as much a committed religious community as it is a social experiment: if we can learn and demonstrate how to live as a diverse people, then surely there is hope for the world. May I encourage a deepening of compassion -- for ourselves, for one another, for this far-too-human predicament before us? May we deepen our own grasp of what is most important to us, to each of us, and deepen our willingness to sit together -- yes, to suffer together, to live through the paradoxes and the pain of our times, as a community? The power of our faith will unfold before us when we meet on sacred ground - which we do, I think, every time we both honor differences and stay connected.

The last week of February marked my first anniversary as your minister. Please let me take the opportunity to thank you for inviting me into your personal and congregational lives. It is an honor beyond description to be a part of this vibrant liberal religious community!

My warmest regards,
Sydney