



Northeast Iowa Unitarian

10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
10:30 a.m. SERVICE BEGINS

Historic Bethania Lutheran Church
331 N Mill Street
(across Mill Street from the Vesterheim Museum)
Decorah, Iowa 52101
www.neiuuf.org
email: contact@neiuuf.org
phone: Sue Otte 563.382.3137

Ministerial Outreach

If you know of a need in our congregation, do not hesitate to contact Derek Sweet, Ministerial Outreach Coordinator.
drgoth@mchsi.com or 382-5318.

RE M I N D E R

The NIEUUF video can be viewed on Cable Channel 16 every Monday at 8:00 p.m.

The NEIUUF Board of Trustees meets the first Tuesday of each month. You are always welcome. Because meetings may rotate location, call Chair Ruth Jenkins (382-5580) or Chair-elect John Hall (735-5311) to know exact time and place.

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

May 20: Dillman Baker Sorrells

June 3: Congregational Picnic/Service at Phelps Park Timberframe Shelter (lawnchairs!)

June 17: Service at Bethania

July 1 : Service at Bethania

July 15: Service at Bethania

July 29: Service at Whalen Cabin near Phelps Park (remember your lawnchairs!)

TIME FOR SOME UU FUN!

Service & Picnic June 3rd: It's time to celebrate summer's return with an outdoor service at Phelps Park. We've reserved the timberframe shelter to the right as you enter the park. In case of rain, we'll announce an alternate location. Please bring lawn chairs or blankets, table service and a dish to pass -- preferably with delicious food in

It's All About Hospitality!

First impressions are important . . . and we want all who enter our fellowship to feel welcome among us. That's one good reason to pay special attention to the **Hospitality Schedule** that Betsy Peirce developed for us. If you didn't receive one in the mail, please call Betsy (382-5274) or refer to the [schedule attached](#). Schedules will also be available at each Sunday service.

Of course, there'll be times when you're scheduled and it won't work for you. Just exchange with someone else, and let the others in your group know too. **THANK YOU ALL!**

UU Discussion Group Continues

A number of NEIUUF members have formed a discussion group and meet to explore contemporary issues facing us as members of the local community, the national community, and/or our world community.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Please call Priscilla Kepfield at 563/380-7111 or email priske@mchsi.com to find out when and where the next discussion group meets and the topic to be covered.

Are You In "THE BOOK"?

If you are a member and have not yet signed the membership book, please do so. It is the last act of joining the congregation and it is the only official register for our Fellowship. Sue will have the membership book at our services each Sunday.

WHO ARE THESE NEIUUF PEOPLE?

NEIUUF Directories Available!

If you are new and wondering how you are ever going to remember everyone's names, there's hope! Well, there's a NEIUUF directory anyway, complete with names, photos, e-mails, phones, etc. What a useful resource for all of us! Lou says to let her know as changes occur, and we'll keep updating the information periodically.

If you have not yet received your directory, contact Lou Hall at 563.735.5311 or email her at lahall77@hotmail.com. *Directories will also be available at Sunday*

NEWSLETTER IDEAS? PASS THEM ON, PLEASE!

Please send your submissions for the next NEIUUF newsletter to:
svermace@mchsi.com or mail them to
Shirley Vermace
503 Pinecrest Drive
Decorah, IA 52101

You may send photos, poems, ideas, articles you have written, small classified ads, quotes, thoughts, artwork, and announcements to name just a few.

UU WORLD MAGAZINE

Are you getting **UU World**, the free magazine for Unitarian members? If not, would you like to be added to the mailing list? Call Janis Rockabrand or Jim Wolfe at 563/547-5311 to get on the mailing list. **UU World** can also be read online at www.uua.org

HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE

DATE	SNACKS/CLEAN UP CREW	GREETER
Feb. 11	Bill Musser, Mary Jorgensen, Janelle Pavlovec	Leah Karlssen
Feb. 25	Betsy & Ketel, Lor Miller	Steven Olson
March 11	Peter Jorgensen, Leah Karlssen, Priscilla Kepfield	Janet Lambert
March 25	Devon VanTyn, Barret Kepfield, Bill Musser	Betsy Peirce
April 8	Mona Quinn, and Reed-Maxfield family	Janis Rockabrand
April 22	Liz Rog family, Mike Vermace	Shirley Vermace
May 6	Jim Wolfe, Amy Chicos, Beth Wahlberg	Derek Sweet
May 20	Shirley Vermace, Lane Schwarz, Kathy Reed-Maxfield	Liz Rog
June 3	Kathleen Sweet, Dale Tregoning, Mona Quinn	Tom Wahlberg
June 17	Janis Rockabrand, Lane Schwarz, Liz Rog	Beth Wahlberg
July 1	Parker Deen, Michelle Eichinger, Carol Hagen	Erik Erickson
July 15	Elyse Hawthorn, Lou Hall, Ardith Hoff	John Hall
July 29	Ruth Jenkins, Harvey Benson, Mark Eichinger	Lou Hall
Aug. 12	Parker Deen, Erik Erickson, Ellen MacDonald	Darrel Hoff
Aug. 26	Idstrom family, Elyse Hawthorn, John Hall	Harvey Benson
Sept. 9	Mark Eichinger, Ardith Hoff, Misseldine family	Ruth Jenkins
Sept. 23	Erick Erickson, Parker Deen, Darrel Hoff	Harvey Benson
Oct. 7	Kristin Albertson, Bruce Jordan, Brenda Burke	Nancy Barry
Oct. 21	Brita Carbonell, Dennis Darling, Marybeth Gallant	Carolyn Corbin
Nov. 4	Nancy Barry, Tim Hayes, Laura Beard	Rob Carbonell
Nov. 18	Markus Burggraf, Carolyn Corbin, Brenda Burke	Dennis Darling
Dec. 2	Brita Carbonell, Brenda Darling, Kristin Albertson	Bruce Jordan
Dec. 16	Tim Hayes, Dennis Darling, Rob Carbonell	Marybeth Gallant

If you are not available for the day(s) you are scheduled, please find someone to replace you and let the others listed for that day know about the switch. All contact information for members is available in the UU directory. If you have not yet received your member directory, please contact Lou Hall at 563.735.5311 or email her at lahall77@hotmail.com.

Directories will also be available at Sunday services.

From NEIUUF member Amy Chicos -- A CALL TO ACTION

I recently attended a lecture at Luther College by Gemma Enlengila, an anthropologist who lives in Tanzania. There she is working with Maasai people to stop female genital mutilation, or FGM. FGM is a topic that most of us feel upset by but powerless to do anything about. The health risks of FGM include infection from the wound and subsequent pelvic infections, infertility, hemorrhage which can lead to death, loss of pleasure, extreme pain, shock, HIV/AIDS and complications in pregnancy and childbirth. FGM is performed on over 90% of Maasai girls in this region between the ages of 11-16.

Many church and governmental groups have attempted to stop this practice. Enlengila explained why these attempts have not been successful, "Efforts that are carried out without the right sensitivity just drive the practice underground." Aang Serian's approach is different because they address the cultural complexities of the issue with sensitivity. Their goal is "understanding the cultural reasoning behind such practises and honoring traditional values, while emphasizing the very real dangers of both HIV/AIDS and FGM."

Enlengila's work is about helping to empower Maasai women. She co-founded and continues to work with Aang Serian, which means Peace House in Maasai. Through educational outreach supported by Aang Serian and led by Maasai women, many practitioners of FGM have turned in their tools and stopped the practice. These women have now become mentors in their communities, educating others about the health risks of FGM and encouraging others to stop.

One of the obstacles to getting women to stop FGM is economic. Through the help of Aang Serian, they created a bead jewelry business, so the midwives who were formerly paid for the FGM procedure now have an alternate source of income. This is an important factor in their success. Aang Serian is now trying to help the women find retail outlets to market their jewelry.

Another challenge Aang Serian now faces is refugees. Young girls from surrounding communities are fleeing FGM and forced marriage. Aang Serian has so far been able to get a grant of \$10,000, half of what they need to build a dormitory for girls escaping this horrific fate.

They are trying to raise funds so they can help the girls who are fleeing from FGM and forced marriage. The girls are able to go to school, and Aang Serian negotiates with the families to ensure an eventual safe return home for the girls. It costs \$50 per month to support a girl at the school.

I have written an article about Gemma's work. You can read the entire article at www.mylife-ismyessage.blogspot.com. If there are others who feel called to action, maybe a group would like to consider sponsoring a girl. Thank you, Amy Chicos

OPEN SOURCE COMPUTER PROGRAM AVAILABLE . . .

Are you open to new ideas...in computing? The *open source* movement is growing. There are many open source computer programs and even a free operating system to replace the dogma of the Microsoft model. *Open source* is a community that moderates ethical concerns such as conflict of interest in order to give consumers the best deal. Use what you believe in. I can help you get set up!

Contact: Lane Schwarz 387-0780 or lanebob@oneota.net

Snacks & Clean-up Jobs:

There are three people designated for snacks/clean-up each week. You may want to call the others on the snack/clean up crew for your week to coordinate who will bring what - or just see what happens, but be sure to include juice for kids! We have an account set up at the Oneota Co-op that has some money on it to pay for snacks. You may also choose to donate your snacks, or be reimbursed. If you do not buy your snacks at the co-op and would like to be reimbursed you may submit a receipt to LouAnn Hall and she will get a check to you.

- Plan on arriving no later than 9:45
- Bring a snack to share for about 30 people and juice for the kids!
- Set out the snacks and the donation basket
- Make coffee and heat water for tea (coffee maker is on the counter, and coffee and filters are in storage space under the stairs.) Use 3/4 cup for 12 cups of coffee. Pour the coffee into a Thermos and start a second pot ASAP. We usually go through two pots of coffee.
- Clean the kitchen (leave the way we found it!)
- Do dishes and wipe counters and table tops. (Dishwasher - press “wash” and the “on” and that’s it!)
- Take garbage home with you to dispose.
- Put away coffee and other UU property. (Storage area is underneath the stairs in a big cupboard, this is where the coffee is stored also.)

Greeter Job:

- Plan on being at the church by 9:45 a.m.
- Get a few of the white cards for new members to fill out, these should be under the stairs in the basement in our storage area.
- Greet each person as they come in the door upstairs.
- If the person is new, be sure to welcome them to our fellowship and guide them to the coffee and social time in the basement.
- Find someone to take the new person around to meet others.

Questions?

If you have any questions or problems, call Betsy Peirce at 382-5274. Remember, if you cannot work the day you have been scheduled, it is your responsibility to find a replacement and let your group that day know about it. In case of illness that morning, just try to let your group know somehow.

THANK YOU DILLMAN!

Dillman Baker Sorrells' time with us is almost over. Those of us working on the various committees that keep our fellowship running have especially appreciated her wisdom and experience. Since many of us have come more recently to this UU tradition, we have learned much from her about UUism. And although we are constantly reinventing who we are as a congregation, it is comforting to know that others before us have been doing the same thing for a long time. Please let her know how valuable her time with us has been for our fellowship. We wish her a joyful and creative retirement, knowing that she will be guest preaching from time to time. She is much in demand all over the Prairie Star District.

HAPPY RETIREMENT DILLMAN!

Keeping in Touch

As we continue to find our numbers growing, we know that it may be easier to lose track of one another. What can we do to make sure that we stay in touch and are aware of needs and joys among ourselves? The ministry committee invites you to join us as we discuss some ways to keep in contact. Please call Sue (382-3137) or Derek (382-5318) if you'd like to help with some brainstorming about these issues. And don't forget that Derek is our Ministerial Outreach Coordinator: contact him with anything that seems appropriate. drgoth@mchsi.com.

Spring makes its own statement, so loud and clear that the gardener seems to be only one of the instruments, not the composer. ~Geoffrey B. Charlesworth

Note from the chair...

What a joy to serve this young, vibrant and creative fellowship! What a joy to work regularly with such creative and energetic leaders!

In this past year, we have moved service locations, created a ministerial outreach coordinator, donated monies and service to worthy causes, initiated childcare, youth and adult education and much more...

...and it appears we have only begun! I look forward to my new non-voting role as past chairperson next year and the leadership that Ruth Jenkins will bring to our board of trustees. She will be blessed with the continuation of some board members and new leaders stepping forward to serve. It is at this time, when one year ends and another begins, that we take stock, reflect and re-imagine all that we are doing. At this springtime of new beginning, we hold our annual meeting. We commit our talents and monies. We elect new leaders. We re-imagine what we and this fellowship can be.

I look forward to the new year and hope for your continued creativity.
I look forward to your presence on Sundays and at our Annual Meeting to celebrate this transition from old to new.

Blessings,

Dennis