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# Stevens Point Unitarian Universalist *fellowship*

*As of Sunday, September 7, the Stevens Point Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will call 3116 Algoma Street home. Our new space will now host all our services, RE programs, and other activities.*

## Home, Sweet Home!

Two important changes have occurred for our Fellowship over the summer. We have moved into a new building! We now have our own space that is not being shared by any other church or organization. This is a first for our small Fellowship! We are very excited about the possibilities our new home creates for us and truthfully, a bit nervous about the added responsibilities. However, everyone is energized about creating a space that reflects our UU values. **Our new address is 3116 Algoma Street, Stevens Point, WI. 54481.** We are sharing the western half of a building with another non-profit organization called Community Industries Corporation.

We are located right in the middle of Stevens Point, on the bus line. The building needs some work, and we are slowly making improvements and bringing the building up to date. Our new home is large enough to give us room for growth. Here is a link to a map that gives you an idea of where we are located and some pictures of our side of the building:

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps?city=Stevens+Point&state=WI&address=3116+Algoma+St&zipcode=54481>

The other big change is the start time of our services. **We have changed the start time of our service to 10:00 am.** Since we are no longer sharing space on a Sunday morning, our members thought a 10:00 am start time would work better for us.

Every week there has been some type of activity taking place at the new space. These range from writing and revising contracts, cleaning and painting, demolishing and rebuilding, pulling up carpeting and reinstalling new, choosing and purchasing furniture, and packing and moving. **A big thanks** to all the members and friends who have worked to clean, paint, and rehab the building and to those who helped with the move from the Springs. I know there were many people involved in a variety of ways **We need a big thanks to Bill Hettler and Carol Weston for their hours of work on the CIC building.** Carol hired students to clean and paint, Bill has knocked down and erected walls. Members and friends pulled out carpeting and cleaned floors, selected carpeting for the rooms, worked on choosing tile and paint colors. Bill and Carol arranged for plumbers, public service people, city inspectors, architects, carpeting professionals to help us do the needed work. The move from the Springs was accomplished in under an hour by members and the Hettler family and friends (who worked for the promise of pancakes.)

**See you in September!**

# Religious Exploration Update

The Children's Religious Exploration (RE) schedule for 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade children is still in-development for fall. Current plans are to focus on a variety of UU topics, including Peace & Social Justice and Earth Stewardship.

The first UU gathering, on Sunday September 7, 2008, will be an Intergenerational Potluck/Work Sunday and the Mingling of the Waters Ceremony. Bring a sample of water that represents your summer travels.

RE lessons will begin Sunday September 14, 2008. Children attend the first portion of the service with their family and listen to the children's story. Then they go to the RE classroom for a volunteer- led RE lesson.

We are very excited to begin the year in our new RE space!

Sincerely,  
Dorothy Ginnett and Kelly Mortenson  
Children's RE Co-Chairs

## Point of View

*Point of View is the member section of the newsletter. Information shared in the Point of View is diverse and does not reflect the official position of the Fellowship on any topic. The intent of this section is to provide a forum for sharing all points of view on spiritual, religious and other issues which relate to our 7 Principles, in order to facilitate continued personal search for truth and discussion among members and friends.*

On Sunday, August 10, 2008, in a [full page advertisement](#) (PDF) in *The New York Times*, the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) affirmed its commitment to having "our doors *and* our hearts" remain open following the tragic violence which erupted in Knoxville on July 27.

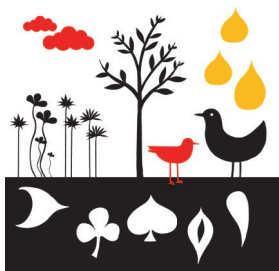
UUA President William G. Sinkford, noting that "the terrible crime and the inspiring responses have put Unitarian Universalism under an intense media spotlight," invited Unitarian Universalists to help "publicly define who we are and what we stand for." He said, "Now is the time to let the world know that we will continue to stand on the side of love—even, and especially, during these challenging circumstances." (UUA.org, 8/12/08)

What does this mean to you? What does it mean to stand on the side of love? How do we communicate that to others?

## Fall Service Schedule

Just as a reminder—our services will now begin at 10:00 a.m. Up-to-date information about services can be found at [www.spuuf.org](http://www.spuuf.org).

- September 7**—Work Day and Potluck
- September 14**—*The Gnostic Gospels*, Ron Chapman
- September 21**—*Partners with Americas: Our Nicaraguan Experience*, Julia Weiser & Joanie Hanson
- September 28**—*Topic TBA*, Rev. Paul Beckel
- October 5**—Work Day and Potluck
- October 12**—*The Gifts of Grief*, B. Alford
- October 19**—*Topic TBA*, Rev. Glenda Walker
- October 26**—*Principle 1: Inherent Worth and Dignity*, Jim Coakley
- November 2**—*Topic TBA*, Rev. Jody Wheldon
- November 9**—*Topic TBA*, Richard Olson
- November 16**—*Seeking the Divine in Poetry & Literature*, Deb Andrews
- November 23**—*Guest at Your Table*, Intergenerational
- November 30**—Work Day and Potluck
- December 7**—*Practicing Buddhism in THIS Life*, Jennifer Straight
- December 14**—*Winter Holidays*, Intergenerational
- December 21**—*TBA*
- December 28**—No Service



## THANKS!

Thank you to everyone who attended the summer services and potlucks. We had a great time learning about comprehensive sex education, personality/leadership styles, and bird biology!

Thank you to Clara Cleve, Carol Weston and Bill Hettler, and Arlene and Vince Heig for opening their homes to the fellowship and hosting the summer services.

# Congratulations!

Congratulations to our high school graduates, Adam and Joanne!

Congratulations to Carolyn Greenlee for winning a teaching award!

## Central Midwest District (CMwD) News

*The Central Midwest District is one of 20 districts working to further liberal religious values as part of the Unitarian Universalist Association. The district covers all or part of five states – Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Michigan and Indiana – and serves over 80 congregations with over 12,000 members.*

### Multi-Church Social Justice Project

A collaborative social justice project has been developed by a group of Chicago area UU Directors of Religious Education called “No Turning Away”. It’s an effort to have churches throughout the district work together throughout the year to help the homeless in their communities. A web site is available to all churches who wish to collaborate on this project with resources, age-appropriate lesson plans and movie discussion questions. ([www.nomoreturningaway.org](http://www.nomoreturningaway.org))

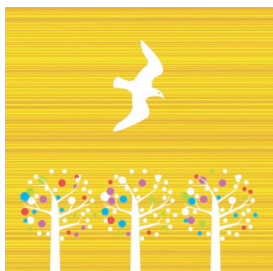
The culmination of the project will be “Cardboard City”. On March 21st, youth and adults from all participating churches will sleep outside in cardboard boxes and tents on their church property. The participants will collect pledges for their night out and the money collected will go to each church’s local homeless organization of choice.

### Identifying as a Unitarian Universalist

The idea of a UU identity, and its process, is a concept that is catching hold in the UU community. This fall, the CMwD is offering a UU identity workshop October 9—11 at the Dupage Unitarian Universalist Church in Naperville, IL. Goals of the workshop are:

- To create an understanding of developing identity as a process
- To become aware of how this process of identity unfolds
- To identify ways to foster the process, especially in regards to faith development in congregations

The cost of this workshop is \$220 and includes two nights stay at a hotel and most meals. For more information, visit CMwD’s web site at <http://cmwd-uua.org/content/>



## SPUUF SOCIAL ACTION

*On Thursday, August 21, the Stevens Point Unitarian Universalist Fellowship provided and served a meal at the House of Peace in Stevens Point. Thank you to Joanie Hanson for organizing this event!*



## Upcoming Community Involvement Opportunities

*This is just a sample of upcoming community involvement opportunities. To find additional volunteer opportunities in Portage County, visit [www.volunteersrock.org](http://www.volunteersrock.org). If you would like to submit an upcoming community opportunity for the newsletter, please email Shannon at [schronis@uwsp.edu](mailto:schronis@uwsp.edu)*

STEVENS POINT  
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### **Friday, September 26** – Hunger Prevention Meal and Seminar

Adult volunteers are needed to help in the preparation and serving of a meal to low income families in Portage County. Participants will be served a meal, educated on eating healthy on a budget, and then will receive the ingredients and recipe needed to make the meal at home. For more information or to volunteer, contact Julie Studinski at 341-6706.

### **Saturday, October 4**— 21st annual Festival of India

Volunteers are needed to serve food, set up, decorate, operate technical equipment, publicize the event, and much more. For more information or to volunteer, contact Cathy Derezinski at [catiji@yahoo.com](mailto:catiji@yahoo.com).

### **Sunday, October 5**—Central Wisconsin Walk to Cure Diabetes

Volunteers are needed to assist with registration, kids activities, assist with the walk route, food, and t-shirt distribution from 7:30 a.m.—Noon at Pfiffner Park. For more information or to volunteer, contact Julie Kersten at 920-997-0038.

Services are held at the Stevens Point Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, located at 3116 Algoma Street, Stevens Point, 54481. Services begin at 10:00 a.m. Child care and Religious Exploration classes for children are available. Visit [www.spuuf.org](http://www.spuuf.org) for more information.

### **Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

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# The Uncommon Denomination