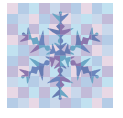


▶ WELCOMING CONGREGATION UPDATE ..... 2

▶ HOW DOES UUSC INVEST YOUR DONATION? ..... 3

▶ WINTER SERVICE SCHEDULE.....4



# Stevens Point Unitarian Universalist *fellowship*

## Season of Service

With so many holidays approaching, there is a feeling of service in the air! There are many opportunities to give back whether it's through SPUUF or the community. Here are just a few ways you can serve this holiday season. For ideas on how to volunteer all year long, check out [www.volunteersrock.org](http://www.volunteersrock.org).

### Holiday Basket Coordinators

Amy and Jodi have volunteered to coordinate our holiday basket this year! We've been assigned a family with three or four children. Detailed information on our family will be received this week in the mail. Once we have information on our family, Amy and Jodi will let us know what is needed and how you can help. The delivery of the basket doesn't happen until mid-December.

### House of Peace Dinner on Thursday, December 10

We need volunteers to prepare main dishes for 40 to 50 people on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at the House of Peace. Julia Weiser will coordinate the meal and volunteers. **We need 5 or 6 volunteers to prepare the items and 5 or 6 to help serve the meal.** (These 10 -12 volunteers can be the same people or different.) We need volunteers to prepare the main course, side dishes like potatoes, rice, noodles, salads or fruit, dessert. Julia Weiser will coordinate the dishes assigned to volunteers. Volunteers should contact Julia by Dec 1 to coordinate the menu.

### Service Music

Do you have a musical talent? Please consider loaning your talent for a service! We are also looking for donations of appropriate CDs that can be used for meditations, preludes, etc. Please contact a member of the Service Committee if you're interested.

### Toys for Tots

Make the holidays a little brighter for a child in Portage County. Donate a new, unwrapped toy for a child age 0—18 between now and December 11. All toys are distributed through Operation Bootstrap and the Salvation Army. For drop-off locations, visit [www.portagecountyrotary.com](http://www.portagecountyrotary.com)

### 2009 Holiday Give Guide

Check out this guide for information on food pantry donations, organizations that need volunteers, and wish lists for area non-profits: [http://www.unitedwaypoco.org/media/2009\\_Holiday\\_Give\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.unitedwaypoco.org/media/2009_Holiday_Give_Guide.pdf)

# Welcoming Congregation Update

Thank you to everyone who attended the Welcoming Congregation service on November 1. We had three gracious panel members: Mitch Fisher, Jordan Sisson, and April Filtz. They shared their experiences as allies or members of the LGBT community within Portage County. There were great conversations and questions. Thanks for your participation!

Our next (and final) welcoming congregation service is on January 24. The welcoming congregation committee is meeting before Thanksgiving to discuss ideas for the last workshop. Following the January 24 service, we will vote as a congregation as to whether or not we want to officially become a "welcoming congregation" in UUA.

If you have any ideas for the last workshop, or if you would like to become a member of the committee, please contact Shannon Williams at [swilliam@uwsp.edu](mailto:swilliam@uwsp.edu).

For more information about welcoming congregations, visit: <http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/welcomingcongregation/index.shtml>

## Come Down off the Ladder by David S. Blanchard

The following poem was read by Mary Arnold at the service on October 11.

*Come down off the ladder.  
Wash out that paintbrush.  
Shake the sand out of your shoes.  
Get up off your muddy knees,  
and give a garden a morning off.  
Fold up the newspaper.  
Turn off the coffeepot.  
Close up your calendar,  
already filled with dates,  
and times,  
and people,  
and places that claim you.  
This church is ready for you to fill its rooms,  
to create its spirit, to generate its warmth,  
to kindle its light.  
This church is ready for you to make community,  
to create beauty, to bend it toward justice,  
to serve its ideals.  
This church is ready for you to be here,  
honoring our past,  
invigorating our present,  
and dreaming our future.  
This church is your church.  
Here we are home.  
Here we are whole.  
Let us begin.*



## Pledge Reminder

As we approach December we need people to pay on their pledges for the Fellowship. We are putting more money back into our capital account in lieu of rent, but we will be spending it on the ceiling in the large room, lighting, flooring in the new back room and insulation on the east wall. If you are unsure of your pledged amount, please contact Ron Chapman. Remember that all contributions are deductible from your income for tax purposes in the year they are made.

# How UUSC Invests Your Donation

The following list illustrates the many ways in which UUSC translates support from our donors, during Guest at Your Table, into tangible projects to advance human rights. (Source: [http://www.uusc.org/content/guest\\_donations](http://www.uusc.org/content/guest_donations))

## Gifts of \$30 and up

- **\$30** pays for part of a multilingual brochure for Boston residents about the [Color of Water campaign](#) [4], which aims to adopt a human right to water in Boston, Mass.
- **\$40** buys materials for a woman in Northern Uganda to make her own groundnut sheller. A groundnut sheller helps to reduce women's workload and generate needed income for families, as residents return home after more than 20 years of war.
- **\$65** pays for a small business loan for a displaced woman in Kenya. Kakamega Grassroots Initiative organizes women displaced by the 2008 electoral violence into groups of 20 and provides them with training and small business loans. There is a very high rate of repayment and the first group of recipients is now on their second loan.
- **\$66** pays for door-to-door campaigning in Soweto, South Africa, to educate people about their human right to water — as guaranteed by their constitution — and helps to carry out inspections by residents of municipal water services.

## Gifts of \$150 and up

- **\$170** purchases a month's supply of chemicals and testing strips for members of indigenous communities in San Marcos, Guatemala, to carry out water-quality monitoring of rivers downstream from the GOLDCORP mine.
- **\$200** would buy a bicycle ambulance (a stretcher pulled by a bicycle) for a resettled village several miles from a health center in Northern Uganda.
- **\$300** pays for six hours of sales, marketing, and financial management training for a member of the [Southern Alternatives Agricultural Co-operative](#) [5] to help grow their pecan-processing business.

## Gifts of \$500 and up

**\$500** would allow the [Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition](#) [6] to fund travel for U.S.-based torture survivors to Washington, D.C., to share their stories and lobby Congress to end state-sponsored torture.

- **\$600** repairs a home in Gaza, under a home repair program run by youth groups.

**\$750** allows the [Northwest Arkansas Workers' Justice Center](#) [7] to provide a "Know Your Rights" training workshop for 25 immigrant women who work in poultry-processing plants.

## Gifts of \$1,000 and up

- **\$1065** would purchase a professional video camera and materials to document the worldwide struggle for water justice and makes videos available for educational campaigns on the human right to water.
- **\$1,500** pays for travel to PepsiCo headquarters and operation sites to conduct assessments of the beverage giant's human-rights impacts as a part of the implementation of its new human-right-to-water policy.
- **\$1,850** assists the [Kenya National Alliance of Street Vendors and Informal Traders](#) [8] to hold a peace-building forum with over 150 participants, including street vendors, municipal officials, police, and city planners.

## Gifts of \$2,000 and up

**\$2,000** would allow our partner [Muslim Advocates](#) [9] to distribute a video to Muslim-American communities in five languages to learn about their rights and what to do if they are subject to racial and/or religious profiling.

**\$3,000** allows a grassroots NGO from Asia to lobby for the [People's Protocol on Climate Change](#) [10] in international forums.

**\$5,000** allows [Kenya's Rock Women Group](#) [11] to provide revolving loan funds and financial-skills training to 75 women impacted by the post-election crisis in Kenya.

**\$8,000** pays for a [women's center in Darfur](#) [12], where women receive training in their rights and small business management, as well as business funds. The women's centers also help women organize their firewood committees. They also provide a place for psycho-social counseling and a chance for women to learn new skills. The funds pay for the construction of the center, staffing, equipment, and supports the start-up of small businesses.

**\$10,000** allows our partner [Barakat](#) [13] to provide human-rights training workshops for 100 schoolteachers in Afghanistan during their summer break.



# Winter Service Schedule

STEVENS POINT  
UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
FELLOWSHIP

Up-to-date information about services can be found at [www.spuuf.org](http://www.spuuf.org).



- November 22**—*Guest at Your Table*, Intergenerational  
**November 29**—*Turning Inside Out*, Rev. Martin Levanhar (DVD)  
**December 6**—*adam&eve@garden.god*, Richard Olson  
**December 13**—*Golden Rule*, TBA  
**December 20**—*Winter Holidays*, Intergenerational  
**December 27**—No Service  
**January 3**—*Celebrate Me Home*, Gini Couter (UUA Board of Trustees)  
**January 10**—TBA, Corinne Dempsey  
**January 17**—MLK Intergenerational Service  
**January 24**—Welcoming Congregation Service  
**January 31**—*Spinoza's Critique of Scripture*, David Williams  
**February 7**—TBA  
**February 14**—Poetry Sunday

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**  
3116 Algoma St.  
P.O. Box 361  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
[www.spuuf.org](http://www.spuuf.org)



**The Uncommon Denomination**