

UUFM *BLASTS* FROM THE PAST **Celebrating 70 Years as a Fellowship**

How did this all get started?

In the fall of 1952 (as reported in the February 1963 newsletter), 20 people attended a meeting held in the Saulpaugh Hotel, called by Monroe Husbands, Director of Fellowship Units of the American Unitarian Association of Boston. As a result, our first recorded public meeting was held on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 1953, at the Northern States Power Company auditorium. Aurthur Foote addressed the group on the subject of "Humanism and Theism in Liberal Religion." Annual dues for the first year were \$1.00 and expenditures for the year were \$132.75. The year ended with a balance of \$3.25!

Monthly Blasts from the Past

Over the next 12 months, we plan to reminisce a little and hopefully spark your interest in aspects of our history. We have organized the monthly newsletters saved over the past 7 decades and will share snippets from these, organized by month. Yes- our newsletters used to be on paper and mailed monthly! Now we have the Weekly digital format for sharing information. So- here are a few of our first monthly Blasts from the Past:

August 1959

This newsletter contained one of the first mentions of possible cooperation between the local Fellowship and the 'Nora Free Christian Church' as they were in the process of calling a new minister. This cooperation between our two churches has continued to the present day. From about 1991 until the early 2000s, we shared a minister with Nora Church. We had the benefit of the minister quarter-time, while Nora enjoyed the minister the other $\frac{3}{4}$ time. The Rev. Mary Kapper was our quarter-time minister for the 1990-91 church year, while Rev. Sarah Oelberg assumed that role for another 10 years.

August 2004

An announcement on the front page said: "PRIDE IN THE PARK: Volunteers are needed to help set up our table at the Third Annual South Central Minnesota Pride Fest. UUFM has participated since the Festival's inception and we keep getting better and better!"

This means that 2022 will be the 21st anniversary of South Central MN Pride Fest! And our 21st year of participating! We are very proud of our consistent participation in Pride Fest- celebrating the worth and dignity of every person and our commitment to work together with others to achieve justice for all.

70th Anniversary Kick-Off: Sunday, September 11, 2022!

More details on this Sunday will follow on Sunday mornings and in the Weekly.

Your 70th Anniversary Celebration Team