

## July Worship Services

Join us in-person and via livestream at 10:00 a.m. for summer Sunday services and religious education with children and youth. Offering recipients are on page 8.

### July 3: *The Politics of Religion and the Religion of Politics*

Livestream: <https://youtu.be/Z9hu2qY69UU>

At times it can seem as if our true religion is our political perspective, so fiercely do we engage in the political process, so much power do our politics seem to hold over us by influencing moods, directions, choices. Can you clearly distinguish between your politics and your religion, and how do you make that distinction? If I listened to you talk about your religious perspective, and then your political perspective, would I hear differences — and which one would I hear generating the most passion in you? Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt seeks to thread a course through the tangle of religion and politics in this service marking the 4th of July holiday.

### July 10: *Farther Down the River*

Livestream: <https://youtu.be/2zBOKFIAO70>

In Kathy's final service as interim senior minister, we return to the image of navigating the river that opened this transitional year. We did not arrive where we envisioned back in the fall — but just where did we finally arrive, as individuals, as a congregation? What might our shared river journey, our shared lives, bring next? Worship associate Rebecca Flood and music director Ahmed Anzaldúa join Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt in a look back and a look forward from this point in our transition.

### July 17

Livestream: <https://youtu.be/qBZYfv9yFdo>

The service on July 17 will be led by Rev. Andrea La Sonde Anastos, an ordained minister who served in both settled and interim positions over 20 years of active ministry, including a 14-year co-ministry with her husband, George. She has written extensively in the area of worship, prayer, and spirituality and is now living her ministry as a fiber artist. She and George moved to Minnesota from Denver to be near their daughter, son-in-law, and grandson. Here at Unity Church, she participates on the monthly worship theme team and with the chalice circle gleaners.

### July 24: *The Great Emergence*

Livestream: <https://youtu.be/NiyHhbmVMg8>

The tide of change in what "church" means is high all over the world and in all religions. How do we ride the momentum of this global tidal wave in a way that creatively uses what we already have and who we already are to "upcycle" ourselves into a new era of life at Unity? Rev. Shay MacKay will lead this service.

### July 31: *We Fill the Empty Space*

Livestream: <https://youtu.be/KUe5sMEBnf8>

We know the danger of having only a single story about each other, but do we reach the potential of deeply knowing our multiple stories? In this service, Angela Wilcox and Nelson Moroukian will explore how we can participate in our beloved community through thoughtful engagement with each others' unique experiences and identities.

## Farewell to Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt

On Sunday, July 10, Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt will lead her last worship service at Unity Church as our interim senior minister. Kathy



has accepted another interim assignment with the UU Congregation of Wilmington, North Carolina, which will begin in August. Following the worship service, all are invited to a brunch and celebration in the Parish Hall where we will thank Kathy for her wise leadership and the many gifts that she has shared with us this past year. Cards and notes may be sent to Kathy C/O Unity Church.

## Summer in the Garden

Summer in the Garden continues throughout summer at 10:00 a.m. Great for children ages 4-12. Please meet in our outdoor garden next to the parking lot (or lower level if inclement weather). No registration is necessary but drop-in capacity will be limited by the number of adult volunteers present. If you would like to help, please contact religious education staff.

## Religious Education Enrollment

An enrollment session for 2022-23 will be offered on Sunday, July 17, 1:00-2:30 p.m., in the Foote Room, for families who missed spring sessions. More sessions will be scheduled as needed.

# INTERIM REFLECTIONS



## Interim Reflections

“Life calls us on,” we sing at times to close a service, and we have reached another moment when life calls us on: this is my final newsletter column, and I may be departed from Unity Church by the time you read this issue. My life has called me on to another interim position; your collective life is calling you on to a new chapter in your transition. In many ways, neither of us is responding to a call we had expected to receive, yet — life calls us on. I

had anticipated concluding your ministerial transition seeing you welcome your next settled minister, the same conclusion you were anticipating when we began our year together.

But life calls us on, and often in directions never imagined. On some level, we know that we will be called on, over and over, so long as we walk this earth. We do have the option of saying no to a calling, though stories from spiritual traditions warn that we do well to mostly say yes because the forces calling us on, whether we name those forces God, or Spirit, or destiny, or natural selection, or the endless unfolding of the universe, offer us a call in order for us to grow. Refusing to grow, in time, means choosing to die.

So life calls us on, we respond as best we can, and a new journey begins or the same journey continues. I have no doubt that your congregational journey will bring you a mix of challenges and opportunities; I have no doubt that my own personal journey away from you will have a similar mix. I will pray for all of us that we keep saying yes, keep trusting the sacred mystery and one another, and be willing over and over for life to call us on.

Serving you this interim year has been a privilege for me, renewing some of my old ties with this church I have loved so long, establishing some new connections. I leave with joy for having been with you, for some sadness that the year did not conclude as we hoped, but most of all with gratitude for what Unity Church has been, is today, and will yet become.

Holding you with love,  
Kathy

## The Wheel of Life

*In Memoriam*

**James Hogan**

December 11, 1929 – June 1, 2022

## Flowers for Worship

If you would like to provide flowers for Sunday worship, contact Martha Tilton at [martha@unityunitarian.org](mailto:martha@unityunitarian.org).

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## A Message of Thanks from Karen

After all the farewells, with hugs and cards and tears, I leave you now with just a few last words of thanks. On top of all you’ve given me during my time as your minister — a bounty of love, support and partnership — you have now sent me on my way with messages and gifts of appreciation and good wishes for what lies ahead.

For all your cards and kind words, I thank you. For your contributions to my farewell gift, I thank you. For the birdbath, yet to be chosen for our backyard, the birds thank you! And for your monetary gift, which will support the new website and other tools I will need to update and reactivate my literary ministry, I thank you. Until we meet again, Namaste.



## Renewal and Commitment

### Unity Ministry Teams Build Beloved Community, Part II

Erika Sanders, Beloved Community Staff Team

As Unitarian Universalists, while we value freedom of individual belief, we covenant with one another to place justice at the center of our faith. That means grounding our justice work in theological, spiritual reflection. Engagement of Unity Church with the wider community happens, in large part, thanks to the work of nine dedicated Community Outreach Ministry Teams ([bit.ly/uucomt](http://bit.ly/uucomt)). In 2021, ministry teams began a structured process of renewal (see the April *commUNITY*, p. 5: <https://bit.ly/comtrenewal>) that includes a new model of grounding justice work in spiritual reflection.

The two teams I spoke with that engaged with that model, the Double Helix Model of Faith Formation and Antiracist Multicultural Work ([www.unityunitarian.org/adult-faith-formation.html](http://www.unityunitarian.org/adult-faith-formation.html)), provided invaluable feedback, had good conversations, but experienced varying levels of success. With new opportunities to work with the Double Helix coming up this fall, more doors to greater understanding and depth will open for everyone in the congregation.

Nicole Lynskey of the Act for the Earth Team ([www.unityunitarian.org/act-for-the-earth.html](http://www.unityunitarian.org/act-for-the-earth.html)) spoke with me about the benefits of working with the Double Helix.

**Erika:** *How did you experience the renewal process?*

**Nicole:** Although the Act for the Earth Team is decentralized with four different subteams, we made time in other meetings where most of us were together, such as team happy hours and a four-hour retreat in January, where about 25 team members were present. We found this curriculum to lead us to deep and meaningful conversation.

**Erika:** *Did you find that the renewal process changed your understanding of spirituality and faith formation in*

*connection to the work your team does?*

**Nicole:** Talking about spirituality in relation to our work is embedded in the Act for the Earth Team. For many of us, working in nature *is* spiritual, and that shows in the way we meet and our relationships with each other. We sometimes sing as part of meetings, and our spirituality/justice subgroup is about to introduce rituals for our meetings. And talking about climate change can be so depressing that you need to have a spiritual grounding; otherwise, you just want to give up. We know there's a spiritual component to being persistent, especially in a context where all forces seem aligned against our success.

**Erika:** *When you worked with the Double Helix Model, how did that feel? Did it shape how you see your work as a team, and the relationship between your faith formation and antiracism?*

**Nicole:** Since many on the Act for the Earth Team have taken the IDI, and are in accountability groups following our IDI experience, the Double Helix Model didn't feel hard; it felt like another piece of the work that helps us stay focused. For some members of the team, perhaps there was a question: "why are we doing this now, when other things feel more urgent?" Other team members felt that the need to explore the connection between faith and antiracist multicultural work was more obvious. In the end, though, I think we all found it worthwhile. We've also partnered with organizations such as Honor the Earth, which is led by Indigenous people. We've tried to follow that leadership in respectful and authentic ways, and to immerse ourselves in organizing processes that may be unfamiliar to those of us embedded in predominantly white culture. That work will be a continuous process, and the Double Helix Model will influence that.



Note that the Double Helix Model is not available just to teams, but to all of us engaged in justice and community work.

Rev. KP Hong, who developed the model with Laura Park, acknowledged the challenge of antiracist multicultural faith formation work. He weighed in on some essential questions for teams and for all of us doing social justice work:

- What does it look like and what is required to be spiritually grounded?
- Is being spiritually grounded an added component of the work or is the work the very outgrowth of being grounded in faith? What makes being spiritually grounded a prerequisite for taking on "tough issues"?
- Unity's ends statements articulate forms of ministry apropos for a faith community — what are those elements in community outreach that shape a ministry?

This is a complex, demanding, and long-haul process, which seems to be a hallmark of Unitarian Universalism. But as UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray reminded us, "We are resilient. We have everything we need. We are enough. Love will continue to guide us."\*



Contact Drew Danielson to find out more about the IDI and to sign up to take it: [drew@unityunitarian.org](mailto:drew@unityunitarian.org).

\*"From the UUA President: Listening to the Call of Love" by Susan Frederick-Gray. UUA, January 14, 2021. Online: [www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/love-calling-us](http://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/love-calling-us)

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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## The Work of the Board

Jennifer Tong, Trustee



What a tumultuous spring it's been, in the external world and certainly here within Unity Church. As I write this in mid-June, trustees are continuing to

grapple with the fallout of the recent congregational meeting and the implications for moving forward on a number of board priorities, while other activities continue on their usual schedule, including the recruitment of the next cohort of trustees.

I'm in my fifth and final year on the board (I served a partial first term to replace someone who had to leave). I found my time on the board to be both deeply satisfying and also very challenging. I always say the things that are easy have already been done. It's the hard things that are left, and that's why they call it work.

The board's role is to ensure linkage with moral owners, develop policy, and monitor progress toward the congregations stated ends. During my tenure the board has renewed the ends statements, updated the bylaws and the financial limitations, brought back to the board the antiracism work that had been outsourced to the Anti-Racism Leadership Team, revised the progress and financial reporting, and said goodbye to our long-term senior ministers. We learned a new way of working, moving to Zoom meetings when the pandemic hit. And now we are looking at when and how to move forward on significant projects such as the ends renewal process (scheduled for 2023) and a new ministerial search process.

In addition to all that, the board has been working on its antiracism efforts and how to create a multicultural spiritual home. The trustees take this work very seriously. We've spent a lot of time on our IDI plans, working with

Team Dynamics, especially their book *Hiring Revolution*, and talking through what it all means for board work such as looking at our finances through an antiracist lens.

In particular, we have had continuing conversations about what it means for board recruitment, especially at this pivotal time. What kind of relationship do we want to have with the executive team and what does that suggest about the skills and capacities we need on the board? Given the annual turnover of trustees and the learning curve on Policy Governance, how do we ensure the board as a whole has the experience and confidence to serve as an equal partner to the executive team without inadvertently replicating current power structures? Does antiracism work include anti-patriarchy work too? When we say we want fresh perspectives, what does that really mean? Is it just bringing in new trustees or does it mean something more? And how do we talk frankly about all this and stay in the conversation despite the discomfort?

If this work seems exciting and interesting to you, please consider applying to be on the board! If you are committed to realizing Unity's ends statements and especially if you have any experience with other community groups working toward the same types of ends, the board could use your talents. I like to think of the trustees as a portfolio of skills, experiences, and perspectives. While skills in areas such as finance, law, policy development, strategy, and human resources management are always helpful, the board is eager to broaden its portfolio. We are still in discussion about what exactly that means, and you can help shape that discussion.

I recognize that saying certain types of experiences are helpful naturally leads toward looking for more experienced (therefore older, likely white) people, but the board is working however

imperfectly to expand how it thinks about its portfolio of perspectives. Help us think about that! If you have a perspective that you think is needed, the work of the board interests you, and you are comfortable with ambiguity and can stay in difficult conversations, please consider applying.

If you have questions about what it's really like to be on the board, any trustee including myself would be happy to talk with you. Don't hesitate to reach out. We'd love to hear from you.

### *Serve on the Board of Trustees*

To find details about board service and a link to the nomination/application form, please visit [www.unityunitarian.org/board-of-trustees.html](http://www.unityunitarian.org/board-of-trustees.html).

# INTERIM SENIOR MINISTER / WELLSPRING SOURCES

## Board Announces New Interim Minister

### Board of Trustees

It is with great pleasure that the board announces Unity's next interim senior minister, Rev. Kathleen Rolenz. Rev. Kathleen comes to Unity Church with more than 28 years ministerial experience and interim ministry at five congregations, having completed the highest level of accreditation for interim ministry. She has extensive experience with Policy Governance and has worked in several executive team structures, most recently at All Souls Church in Washington, DC. The board was impressed with her experience ministering to congregations and their staff through what can be identified as congregational trauma in response to different circumstances. She will continue to provide Unity Church with high quality worship and preaching, support on its journey to confront racism and oppression, shared ministry that fosters spiritual depth and growth of all ages, and help to navigate conflict in a healthy way that can transform our congregational culture.



Rev. Kathleen understands the time sensitive nature of finding a new associate minister to replace Rev. Karen Hering and has already been in communication with the executive team about this task. She has hit the ground running already. The executive team and board are excited about the portfolio of skills and experience that Rev. Kathleen is bringing to Unity Church in this time of transition. She is well positioned to assist Unity Church in doing the hard work that lies ahead so we will be ready to call a new settled senior minister.

To learn more about Rev. Kathleen Rolenz, please visit her website at [www.kathleenrolenz.com](http://www.kathleenrolenz.com). It is a wonderful source of insight and information as to who Rev. Kathleen is and what she will bring to Unity Church as our interim senior minister. We look forward to welcoming Rev. Kathleen and her husband, retired Rev. Dr. Wayne Arnason, when she starts her position with us on August 15, 2022.

## Invitation to Circle Conversations

**Wednesday, July 6 • 7:00 p.m. • Robbins Parlor**

Unity's Executive Team invites congregants who want to reflect with others on the experiences of the events which unfolded in our church through candidating week, the congregational vote, and the challenges of now being a divided community, to join a facilitated conversation using the Circle of Peace method. We ask that you register in advance for this in-person session because circle size is limited in order to ensure a good conversation. Please register here: <https://bit.ly/ucucircle>.

## UU Wellspring Sources Program

**Retreat: Saturday, August 27 • 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

**Meets most second and fourth Tuesdays, September 2022 through June 2023.**

UU Wellspring is a year-long program of spiritual deepening connected to the Six Sources of our living Unitarian Universalist faith tradition. Through reading and reflection, daily spiritual practice, spiritual companionship, and small group process that holds space to hear our deepest thoughts, the UU Wellspring Sources program is a deeply meaningful way to explore what Unitarian Universalism means to you and how you want your faith to guide your life and your work for justice.

Comments from previous participants:

*From the very beginning, the Wellspring readings and resources, reflection questions and group discussion filled a need I didn't realize I had... Creating a daily spiritual practice gave me permission to make time to reflect, to pause, to appreciate. I refined my own ritual as I learned how each of my fellow spiritual travelers designed their individual practices... Change starts with listening and learning — in my case, through the amazing wellspring Program. And then follow the road wherever it leads.*

*The UU Wellspring program has helped me cultivate [Peace in oneself, peace in the world] further and I would consider it a pivotal experience for adults in our community. . . As the world calls on us to address its most pressing needs, it is imperative for us to tend to our own individual spiritual development so that we can have the capacity to answer and show up. UU Wellspring is one path along this journey.*

To find out more, contact Laura Park at [laura@unityunitarian.org](mailto:laura@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x110. Registration opens in August.



# WELCOME NEWCOMERS



## Welcome Words

**Laura Park, Director of Membership and Hospitality**

Are you exploring Unity Church during the summer months in hopes of finding a spiritual home for the fall? Wondering how you might find a pathway into our community and the spiritual and antiracist multicultural practices that create our church life together? Let me recommend three possibilities:

- Come to a summer Wellspring Wednesday on July 13 or August 17. Intentionally intergenerational, we'll gather for dinner, a chapel service, and an experience that all ages can enjoy together. See the back cover for this month's offering.
- Attend Finding Yourself at Unity, Sundays at 11:15 a.m. after the service. You'll meet both congregants and staff and get an introduction to Unitarian Universalism in general and Unity Church in particular.
- Consider what small group you'll join in the fall. Small groups are by far the best way to, as the poet Marge Piercy puts it, "weave real connections, create real nodes" in a large church like ours. Some possibilities: Chalice Circles (look at Adult Faith Formation under the GROW tab on the church's website), UU Wellspring (see page 5 for a description), fellowship groups (find them under the CONNECT tab on the church's website), or a Community Outreach Ministry Team (find their description under the ACT tab on the church's website).

Looking for more possibilities? I'm here to help answer your questions about congregational life and the pathways you might explore to know the church better and deepen your spiritual life. Contact me at [laura@unityunitarian.org](mailto:laura@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x110. I look forward to meeting you!

## Mentoring at Unity

### *A Deeper Path to Connection*

Would you welcome having a guide to congregational life at Unity Church? Request a mentor! Your mentor will meet with you at least once a month face-to-face and be available for ongoing questions and advice. You can decide together what connection would be most helpful. You might attend Sunday services together or meet to discuss Unitarian Universalism and your spiritual journeys, or attend a church event together, or find another way to connect. Each pair makes a commitment to work together for at least six months. If you have questions, or would like to request a mentor, please email Laura Park, Director of Membership and Hospitality, [laura@unityunitarian.org](mailto:laura@unityunitarian.org).

## Pathway to Membership Classes

Explore a deeper connection to Unity Church and the commitments and opportunities of membership. Contact Laura Park at [laura@unityunitarian.org](mailto:laura@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x110 with questions or to participate.

### **Finding Yourself at Unity • Sundays • 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.**

**Gannett Room in-person and online at [bit.ly/fyuonline](https://bit.ly/fyuonline)**

Finding Yourself at Unity includes eight classes that you can attend in any order to better understand how Unity Church supports our faith journeys, our work to build Beloved Community, and our efforts to bless the world. July offerings:

- July 3: No class (Fourth of July)
- July 10: No class (celebration of Rev. Kathy's ministry)
- July 17: Community Outreach and Social Justice
- July 24: Worship and the Liturgical Year
- July 31: Building Tour

### **Committing to Unity • Date TBD**

This session, for people ready to become members, explores the deeper meanings and expectations of membership and shared ministry. It offers time to reflect on the meaning of generosity and how you can discover the places in your life where the world's need meets the gifts and joy you have to offer. The class concludes with a ceremony as participants sign the membership book and officially join the church.

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Having been a part of this community since kindergarten, **Jane Crosby Schmidt** is excited to join the church as an adult. She enjoys

tap dancing, choral singing, going for bike rides with her family, and her work with the local Girl Scout council.



**Orla Gotthelf** is a Mechanical Engineering PhD student at the University of Minnesota where they enjoy teaching and doing

diversity work. Orla came to Unity to find community. In their free time Orla loves working on electronics projects and competitively playing the Pokémon Trading Card game.



**Bill Gritzmacher** and his wife Cindy moved to Lakeville eight years ago upon his retirement from a long career as an elementary

school teacher and principal. They took some time to find a community that would help them grow in loving kindness and compassion and found Unity was a good fit. Bill enjoys being physically active, reading, learning, talking with and exploring with friends, and being with grandchildren.



**Cindy Gritzmacher** is an investor in her grandbabies and all children; she is committed to peace, justice, equanimity; a teacher and

lover of music, mindfulness, lifelong learning, practicing Yoga, bringing love; a favorite reminder: all one! Cindy says being older and wiser is lovely and really fun, with nothing to prove. She is so grateful to have found Unity Church!



**Jeff Miersch** has been associated with Unity Church since he was growing up in St. Paul, and is excited to have finally signed the membership

book. He is married to Alisa Lein (also a Unity "lifer"), and they live in St. Paul with their pets. Jeff enjoys fixing old homes and buildings, brewing beer, and BBQ on a summer's evening. He looks forward to continuing his support at Unity and seeing how the church continues to grow with the future.



**Jane Newman** is new both to Unity Church and Minnesota, but not to Unitarian Universalism having been involved within All Souls Tulsa

over the last 41 years. Jane moved here to be near her daughter and her family. Besides spending time with family, she enjoys being outside, playing the piano, and fixing and making things.



**Linda Pozen** (she/her) is completing her Master of Social Work at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Originally from

the Chicago suburbs, Linda now lives in Minneapolis with her spouse Orla. Linda and Orla share their home with two cockatiels and three cats. Linda enjoys gardening, houseplants, listening to podcasts, Dungeons and Dragons and volunteering with the Women's Prison Book Project.



**George and Mary Wawro** are new to Unity Church, but not Unitarian Universalism. They love the great outdoors in all four seasons and enjoy hiking, biking, kayaking, and skiing. Their dog, Lucy, is an avid hiker too.

## Bond of Fellowship

*As those who believe in religion,  
As those who believe in freedom,  
fellowship, and character in religion,  
As those who believe that the religious  
life means the thankful,  
trustful, loyal and helpful life, and  
As those who believe that a church is  
a community of helpers, wherein  
it is made easier to lead such a life;  
We join ourselves together,  
name, hand, and heart,  
as members of Unity Church.*

—William Channing Gannett,  
March 9, 1879, adapted

# GENEROSITY MINISTRY TEAM

Each week, seventy percent of our Sunday offering is given to a community non-profit and thirty percent supports the Community Outreach Ministry at Unity Church. Donations are gratefully accepted online at <https://bit.ly/sundayoffering>.

## July 3: Legacy Arts Group

Legacy Arts Group (LAG) brings youth together through art, providing a safe, collaborative framework to think out loud about issues that matter and identify venues to project their voices into the community. The American High School Theater Federation has selected LAG's current production "The Beautiful Ugly" featuring Minneapolis BIPOC high school students, to participate in the Edinburgh Scotland Fringe Festival this August. This collection will support the group's travel to Edinburgh. Unity Church member Ellen Wold is an advisor to LAG. [www.legacyartsgroup.com](http://www.legacyartsgroup.com)

## July 10: Our Justice

Our Justice, founded in 1967 by a group of doctors and clergy, assists Minnesota women in accessing abortion care. Our Justice works to ensure that all people and communities have the power and resources to make sexual and reproductive health decisions with self-determination. This collection will help fund a facilitator for EMERGE, a peer-led, post-abortion support group that serves as a healing space, reducing stigma and building narrative power. Unity Church member Sara Ford is an Our Justice supporter. [www.ourjustice.net](http://www.ourjustice.net)

## July 17: Camp Tamarack

Camp Tamarack is a non-denominational overnight summer camp whose mission is to give urban youth the opportunity to experience a rural environment while developing strong personal survival skills. Camp Tamarack provides a first-time camper experience in a safe and fun environment with opportunities to canoe, swim, dance, play games, and build community. This offering will be used to keep camper tuition affordable (Camp Tamarack's weekly cost is \$300/week, Minnesota's average for overnight camps is \$850/week) and assist with scholarships. Unity Church member Dick Buggs is a supporter of Camp Tamarack. [www.camtamarackmn.org](http://www.camtamarackmn.org)

## July 24: Beyond Walls Urban Squash

Beyond Walls Urban Squash is an intensive program that combines the sport of squash, academic tutoring, and community service in a manner that successfully transforms the lives of underserved BIPOC youth. Trained tutors provide one-on-one instruction with the goal of closing the educational gap and developing personal academic skills. Students play squash three times a week with the goal of competing in regional and national events. This collection will support summer programming. Unity Church members Rene and Christoph Meyer-Grimberg support Beyond Walls. <https://beyondwallsmn.org>

## July 31: One Voice Mixed Chorus

One Voice Mixed Chorus is Minnesota's own — and one of the nation's largest — lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and straight allies chorus. One Voice builds community and creates social change by raising its voice in song. One Voice inspires passionate, vibrant, and creative performances for thousands of audience members each year during concerts, outreach tours, and through its pioneering OUT in Our Schools program. One Voice, known for its musical excellence and diverse programming, is described by Chorus America as "one of the region's best ensembles." This collection will support choral programming. One Voice offices and rehearses at Unity Church. [www.onevoicemn.org](http://www.onevoicemn.org)

## Generosity Ministry Team Seeks New Members

Unity's Generosity Ministry Team invites Unity Church pledging members to consider joining the team. Prospective members must have a sense of humor and an abiding curiosity in and about non-profits with whom Unity shares common cause. The team meets on the first Thursday of each month to research, review, and move forward congregant-submitted offering recipient nominations. If interested, please contact Dick Buggs at [unuseddreams@msn.com](mailto:unuseddreams@msn.com).

## Nominate an Organization to Receive the Sunday Offering

Criteria for Sunday offering nominations submitted by congregation members:

- All nominations are considered. However, the Generosity Ministry Team places emphasis on non-profits whose annual budget is \$500,000.00 or less.
- The offering amount will be significant in relation to the size of the organization's or project's budget.
- Recipients must have a connection with Unity Church through shared work or church support.
- Recipients' mission/values must reflect the core values of Unity Church.
- Please allow one year before submitting repeat nominations.

Ready to nominate? Visit <https://www.unityunitarian.org/sunday-offering.html> and complete the online form.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

## Affordable Housing Team

### Construction of Affordable Housing Is Coming Soon

It's official: our partner, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, kicked off their latest deeply affordable housing project on June 23 — with support and speakers from Unity's Affordable Housing Team.



The "Gladstone Crossing" development will provide 40 high-quality, well-managed apartment homes for families who make less than \$30,000 per year, with a focus on young families (18-24 years old) who are at risk of homelessness in suburban Ramsey County. Onsite staff will work with each family as they co-create plans to meet the family's current needs and assist in engaging health and wellness services, vocational and educational supports, healthy child development and parenting support, and support with housing stability skills.

We can show our support by showing up at key moments like city council and county meetings and learning more about Beacon's regional policy work to address the development gap of deeply affordable housing.

If you would like to be involved or want to address the housing crisis, please contact Dayna Kennedy at [daynamelissa@icloud.com](mailto:daynamelissa@icloud.com).

## Obama School Team

### Thank You

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our work in supporting the scholars, staff, and teachers of Barack and Michelle Obama Elementary School this year! From those giving to the church offering last fall, to people who brought treats for the monthly teachers' meetings, to those who assisted with Staff Appreciation Week in May, to those who helped watch over the children during the carnival on June 1, and those who worked to get the library in good shape at the end of the year — we appreciate you all!



Scholars and volunteers enjoyed time together at the school carnival on June 1.

As noted previously, next year will be a transition year for Obama School. Assistant Principal Jill Knudsen has been named Acting Principal and will oversee a smaller student body. Before closing at the end of June 2023 for major renovation, the school will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the building, and we're invited to be involved with the celebration. Stay tuned! And in the fall, we'll be looking for volunteers to assist the teachers and work in the library during the school year. More information will be out later in the summer.

On behalf of the leadership team, thanks again! Karen Abraham, Mike Carls, John Christiansen, Pat Christiansen, Diane Grasse, Nancy Heege, and David Smith

### Food Shelf Needs for July

Great job! During the month of May the congregation collected 315 pounds of food for Hallie Q. Brown Food Shelf!

During the month of July the food shelf is in need of toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, body soap, and tissues. In addition, non-perishable food items are always needed. Please bring an item — or two — every time you come to church.

Thank you for your continued support, the food shelf is grateful for our ongoing donations.



### Act for the Earth Wellspring Wednesday Event

### A Night of Gratitude for Nature

June 13 • See back cover for details.



## Anything But Settled: The Future of Unity Church

Shelley Butler, Unity Library-Bookstall Team

Are you feeling unsettled about the future of our church? I am and have been thinking on what I might have done better. Every now and then, I find myself late to the information party, which turned out to be the case with interim ministry and the recent ministerial search. In my opinion, the Ministerial Search Team kept the congregation informed as well as allowed by the suggested UUA search process. Yet, at the congregation meeting in which we were to call the candidate, in subsequent conversations, and at one of the listening sessions that I attended, I heard people say that they didn't understand the process and/or the voting.

At the risk of being too little/too late, we've added these books and links about ministerial transitions and search to the Unity Library Catalog online, [www.librarycat.org/lib/UnityChurch](http://www.librarycat.org/lib/UnityChurch):

- *In the Interim: Strategies for Interim Ministers and Congregations*, 2nd Edition, edited by Barbara Child and Keith Kron. Interim ministers are not placeholders but trained and accredited in this specialized type of ministry. A collection of essays covers the work and challenges of interim ministry and may answer many congregant questions. Included: "Following Two Different Interim Ministers." Anderson Library: 253 C.
- *Hiring Revolution: A Guide to Disrupt Racism and Sexism in Hiring* by Trina C. Olson and Alfonso T. Wenker. Wise Ink, 2021. The Team Dynamics founders teamed to offer valuable guidance on combatting "baked-in bias," and expanding thinking creatively to make workplaces stronger by hiring diverse teams of people. Used by Unity's Board of Trustees. Anderson Library: 658.3 O
- *The Settlement Handbook* by the Unitarian Universalist Association Transition Office (<https://bit.ly/settlementhandbook>). This handbook is designed to provide clarity in navigating a search process, fairness in the process, and support to teams and congregations engaged in the process — based on best practices. This handbook answered many of my own questions, including this, "The vast majority of candidating weeks culminate in a successful call... On average, over the last two decades, there has been one unsuccessful vote every other year." Note that the 2021-2022 handbook used in the most recent search may not include the same guidelines as the handbook available for our next ministerial search, as it is updated annually.
- *The Transitional Ministry Handbook* by the Unitarian Universalist Association (<https://bit.ly/ministryhandbook>). This handbook describes best practices for departing ministers and congregations transitioning from one ministry to another. It describes types of ministries, including much to know about interim ministries and ministers.

## New in The Justice Database: Intersectional Environmentalist

Resources, toolkits, trainings, podcasts, and partnerships to deepen awareness of and engage diverse voices in environmental justice and solutions. Thank you for the recommendation, Heather Benedict! Find a link in the Justice Database: <https://bit.ly/JusticeData>.

## July Parish Hall Artist

Larry Ehrlich

I am a pen and ink artist, and I am obsessed with drawing extraordinary ordinary moments of life. In my



artwork I am telling a story, a tale influenced by my childhood growing up in St. Paul, Minnesota, playing and adventuring along the densely forested shores of the Mississippi River. It is the story of autumn leaves and the sounds of water and wind and animals, frozen waterfalls locked in time and the hush of freshly falling snow. We all carry within us such impressions from our childhood, early memories that we take with us into adulthood that never cease to shape our perceptions of our surroundings. We bring these recollections with us when we travel to places we've never been or seen, and as the world seems to build itself around us, we cannot help but contribute a bit of ourselves to what we see. I pour my heart and soul into each piece that I draw, and when you find a connection to one of my works, I believe we are sharing some valued treasure that we both unearthed along the shores of our formative years.

Ink has always been my favorite medium to work in, and my main tool for drawing is a fountain pen. I draw what moves me, whether it be a scene from an abandoned photograph or something I experienced myself on a hike or in my travels. When I draw, I use no measuring instruments or straight edges. I simply let the drawing evolve as I work, losing control of it sometimes, and then reining it back in, until it becomes something that feels real, but could not possibly be real, like a fading memory of a once vivid dream.

# MUSIC MINISTRY / FELLOWSHIP GROUPS



## Music Notes

**Ahmed Anzaldúa, Director of Music Ministries**

I have two harpsichords in my office at Unity. While I'm not an Early Music specialist, I use them when I'm called to play continuo (the "rhythm section" in music of the 17th and 18th centuries) or conduct music from the Baroque period. Harpsichords are finicky instruments that are sensitive to slight changes in temperature and humidity, and they need constant maintenance. Early in 2020, as I saw my concert schedule evaporate and as I realized that the church building would stay closed for much longer than anyone anticipated, I loosened all the strings in both harpsichords, took them apart, and packed them up in corner of my office... they were not going to be played for a while.

In November of this year I'll have the privilege of conducting the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra in a Baroque program made up of music by Johann Sebastian Bach, Manuel de Zumaya, Manuel de Mesa, and Esteban Salas. Since I'll conduct and play continuo simultaneously, as was the practice in the 1700s, I unpacked one of the harpsichords to start preparing during the summer. While the harpsichord was packed many of its wooden and metal components shifted ever so slightly and settled in unfamiliar ways, and now many of the keys just don't work since the precisely-tailored parts don't fit together and interact as they should. After sitting open at room temperature in my office for a week, gradually some of the parts started working again, but some will have to be replaced entirely.

Once the action started to loosen up again, I started work on tuning the strings. Unfortunately, after being completely loose for two years, the strings resist any attempt at tightening them to the correct pitches. I would tune them and they would retain their notes for no more than a few minutes before loosening again. I've been tuning the strings every day for a couple of weeks, tightening them slightly higher than they should be, knowing that they'll loosen up quickly. Of course, the instrument sounds terrible. At first I thought it was hilarious, and shared some recordings of its awful sounds with my friends. However, the hilarity quickly became poignant.

I've been thinking a lot about these strings lately, and feeling real empathy for my little harpsichord. Its strings have become comfortable in their loose state all throughout the pandemic and now, nearly three years later, they're really struggling to hold their shape and make beautiful sounds when tightened. They've got a long road ahead of them before they're playable, and maybe will need to be replaced entirely. A couple have already broken, no longer capable of holding the pitch they used to. It's all just a little too relatable and on the nose for how many of us feel as individuals and as a community. I never thought I'd get this emotional over a bunch of harpsichord strings! That said, three weeks later of patient, repeated maintenance it's finally starting to hold its tuning for more than a day. Now it's possible to recognize a tune played on it! There is hope.

## Fellowship Groups

For more conversation about getting connected, contact Laura Park at [laura@unityunitarian.org](mailto:laura@unityunitarian.org).

**Afterthoughts** offers time immediately following the 9:00 service to discuss the service.

**Caregivers Group** meets on the third Thursday of the month.

**Evergreen Quilters:** This quilting group meets the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00-9:00 p.m. and fourth Saturday of the month.

**Families Living with Mental Health Challenges** meets the first Saturday of each month, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

**Five Animal Kung Fu** meets Saturdays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

**Living With Grief Group** meets on the third Tuesday of the month.

**Men's Breakfast Group** meets monthly on the first Saturday for breakfast from 8:30-10:00 a.m.

**Men's Coffee Group** meets every other Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. for light-hearted conversation.

**Men's Conversation Group** meets Mondays, July 11 and 25, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Men's Retirement Circle:** Monday, July 11 and 18, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

**New Look at the Bible** meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

**Recovery from White Conditioning** meets Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

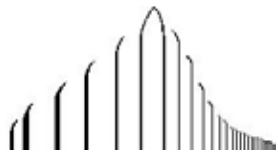
**Textile Arts Group** meets online the first and third Wednesday of each month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Bring your knitting, embroidery, etc.

**Unity Book Club** meets the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00-8:30 p.m. July 12 discussion: *The Grammarians: A Novel* by Cathleen Schine. August 9 discussion: *Men We Reaped* by Jesmyn Ward.

**Women In Retirement** meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

## Merging of Waters Service

Remember to collect water this summer for our annual Merging of Waters ritual service held on Sunday, September 11.



# UNITY CHURCH-UNITARIAN

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## Wellspring Wednesday

Wellspring Wednesday gathers a multigenerational church community to nourish right and holy relationship among us and deepen our life of faith grounded in spiritual practice and antiracist multicultural work. Wellspring Wednesdays will be held once per month during the summer: July 13, and August 17. The evening includes:

- Sharing meaningful time and a meal together (5:45 p.m.) Dinner is prepared and served by our food ministry teams. The cost for dinner is \$8/ adults, \$4/child (ages 5-12), \$2/child (ages 2-4), and \$20/family. If you need financial assistance to help cover the cost of dinner, please email Laura Park at [laura@unityunitarian.org](mailto:laura@unityunitarian.org). If you plan to join us and need a special food preparation, please email [madeline@unityunitarian.org](mailto:madeline@unityunitarian.org). Vegetarian, vegan, gluten free, dairy free options available.
- Brief multigenerational worship in the Ames chapel (6:45 p.m.)
- Opportunities to play, learn, and practice with one another (7:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, July 13

*Dinner: Paella!*

### A Night of Gratitude for Nature

Join the Act for the Earth team to celebrate nature and our actions to protect it. Participate in a meditative walk near the church to bathe our senses in what nature provides. Write gratitude letters to the earth and leaders who have done good work on environmental issues. Create art in small groups to notice and honor our connection to nature. All activities appropriate for people of all ages to do together.

## Take Me Out to the Ballgame

**Thursday, August 18 • 7:00 p.m.  
CHS Field • Tickets \$18**

Join Unity Church congregants and friends to enjoy a St. Paul Saints baseball game at CHS Field. We have pre-purchased a block of seats together at \$18 per ticket. You can purchase your ticket(s) at <https://bit.ly/saints22> or by contacting Laura Park [laura@unityunitarian.org](mailto:laura@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x110. Purchase tickets by July 15. All are welcome!

