

HOPE

The life of a congregation is a rich community tapestry of people, programs, ministries and worship. We lift up the patterns of this tapestry at Unity Church with the threads of monthly themes woven through our worship and programming. These themes deepen our understanding of our own faith and strengthen our bonds with one another in religious community.

This month's theme article is being written on Friday, April 13, as we watch the skies to see if it's true that the spring that we crave (and saw some hints of) is about to be snatched out of our hearts by the incoming winter storm. It is perhaps a cruel irony that this month's theme is "hope," and that for the last several weeks in our services and in casual conversation, the theme of hope for spring has been ever present. Surely, by the time we read this, spring will have arrived.

Hope indeed.

The poet Emily Dickinson writes that "hope is the thing with feathers" but if that's the case, surely that thing with feathers has already departed for warmer climes, or perhaps hasn't yet returned. Boris Novak, also a poet, has a different take on hope, saying "Between hope and despair/ choose hope:/ it will be harder to bear." In saying so, Novak illuminates a difficult facet of hope, at least difficult for those of us who pride ourselves on our essential rectitude: hope often doesn't make logical, rational sense. Despair is clear, there's a cause and effect to it, but hope? Not so much. Hope asks that despite all reasons to the contrary, we "make a little birdhouse in our souls," invite in that thing with feathers, and in the face of potential, even likely heartbreak, hold hope anyway. Like prayer, we engage the spiritual muscle of hope not because it will or won't change the world, but so that we are ourselves not changed by the world whose change we hope for.

Yet hope is not just about a desired change "out there." In fact, hope is such an essential part of human dignity that we can forget it's here, inside us, all the time. Our lives our temporal, and some say that what makes human beings unique is that we're aware of our temporality. Some even go so far

as to suggest that it is our awareness of eventual death that gives rise to religion. Hope sits underneath all of that. Knowing that our lives will end, knowing that tomorrow is not a given, most of us still tend to live moment to moment as if tomorrow is a certainty. Against all claims of rationality, we embody hope for tomorrow. To be human is to be a creature of hope.

This dimension of hope changes as we age. If you talk with elders in our community, what you'll hear is that hope is critical to living a good life, that hope is part of our essential dignity as human beings, but that equally, hope needs to be contained as one ages. The unbridled hope of youth becomes tempered by the awareness that death is drawing near. As such, hope is not abandoned, but is instead invited into a somewhat more bounded place.

Meditation on hope at the end of life naturally invites us to consider hope in the early years of life. It is not unreasonable to say that children are in many ways the embodiment of gratitude and hope. That for our children, gratitude and hope weave in and out of each other. It's as if our breath prayer, "breathe in peace / breathe out love" is for them a prayer of "breathe in gratitude / breathe out hope." In a way, this dynamic of gratitude and hope is an expression of the dynamism that we call life itself.

And. It is possible that we are being entirely too *hopeful* about hope. What we also know from our own lives is that we lose hope, and that in fact some of us wonder if loss of hope is itself developmental. We know that this world will throw some curve balls our way. We know that even if things will ultimately be "ok," everything won't always work out for us. Life will include a measure of disappointment, of loss, and of failure. Our hopes will not be borne

out. Sometimes, on the eve of baseball season, we get an April snowstorm that leaves us with over a foot of snow.

Perhaps we then conclude that blind hope can only lead to heartbreak; that in our "wiser" middle years, we know better than to engage in hope, or at least that we know hope must be tempered by reason. So we take our chains of reason, and rationality, and make sure that hope is firmly hitched to reality. Hope might be the thing with feathers, but we make sure it won't fly away out of our control.

These are difficult times in our country, and the audacity of hope we once asserted may be faded like an old bumper sticker. Yet maybe we have been too hasty. What if it is time to set hope free and practice again the unbridled embodied hope of our younger years? As the poet Seamus Heaney writes "once in a lifetime, the longed-for tidal wave of justice can rise up, and hope and history rhyme." Together, perhaps we can make it so.

*Hallman Ministerial Intern Arif Mamdani
with this month's theme team:*

*Drew Danielson, Janne Eller-Isaacs,
Lisa Friedman, KP Hong, Andrea Johnson*

HOPE THEME RESOURCES

FOR FAMILIES

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

BOOKS

Sing for your Life: A Story of Race, Music, and Family by Daniel Bergner

Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War by Artemis Joukowsky

Darkness Visible: A Memoir of Madness by William Styron

MOVIE

Isle of Dogs (2018)

www.imdb.com/title/tt5104604/

Just Words



The book *Sing For Your Life* chronicles the life of opera singer Ryan Speedo Green. Ryan grew up in tremendous poverty in a house filled with violence. Outside of home, Ryan mimicked the kind of violence he knew and by the fourth grade was placed in a class of hopeless cases. The gifted teacher assigned to the class didn't experience them as hopeless. On the first day when Ryan threw his desk at her, she told him that he would be studying from the floor. She refused to give up on her students and required

each of them to memorize Martin Luther King, Jr's, "I have a dream" speech. She recognized how bright Ryan was and encouraged him to keep learning. By the time he was 12, he was placed in a juvenile detention center. It was a horrifying experience and once he got out, he vowed he would never go back. He decided to change his life. As a very large and strong teen, he figured his ticket out would be football. His coach encouraged him to take choir for an easy credit. He did and soon found that he loved to sing. Music transformed his life.

I tell you about Ryan because I was fascinated by the instructors and mentors who could hear what potential lay in Ryan's voice. Like the wine rater, Robert Parker, who has the uncanny ability to simultaneously taste the present and the future arc of a particular wine, these experts could hear the potential growth and transformation of his voice. So along with Ryan, they devoted themselves to bringing that transformation into being. Ryan is now a primary singer with the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

I like to think of religious communities in the same way — that all of us are called to mentor and encourage the real potential and gifts that everyone possesses to emerge. Being and becoming take time. Authenticity takes time and form. It always takes longer to see and hear with the heart, but the song heard is lasting and precious. The word person comes from the Greek *per son* which means "the sound that passes through." For something is always going through, moving into something else. May we continue to be a community where voices are found and nurtured. And may those voices, once found, be courageously prophetic, encouraged by the power of a supportive community.

Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs

UUA General Assembly JUNE 20-24, 2018 • Kansas City, MO



General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend! If you are interested in serving as a delegate for Unity Church, please contact Rev. Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x107.

The Wheel of Life

In Memoriam

David Fogelson

September 13, 1926–March 26, 2018

Earl Gustafson

September 27, 1927–April 16, 2018

Bob Temple

December 12, 1928–March 18, 2018

In Celebration

Jessica Clay

Ordained into the
Unitarian Universalist Ministry
April 7, 2018

Adam Arthur Boulay Ali

born one more redeemer

March 25, 2018

to parents

Erica Boulay Ali and Haseeb Ali

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MAY SUNDAY WORSHIP / OFFERING RECIPIENTS

Sunday Worship

Sunday worship services are held at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m., and 4:30 p.m. except where noted. Sermon podcasts and archives are available online at www.unityunitarian.org. Religious Education for children and youth is offered during all services.

Please note! The summer worship schedule of one service at 10:00 a.m. begins on May 27.

May 6: Arthur Foote Music Sunday

Unity's annual music Sunday features Unity Choir; Unity Singers; Women's Ensemble; Children's Choir; and Laura Sewell, cello.

May 13: Raising Kids Who Care

What gives rise to compassion? The images are everywhere. Compassion is born of brokenness. Hope takes hold first in broken hearts. And so this Mother's Day, on the verge of the start of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, we're going to sing and celebrate the blues, not out of melancholy, but with that deep resilience that every mother needs to know. Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs and worship associate Kevin Ward will lead the service. Music by the great guitarist Dean McGraw, along with a few of his friends.

May 20: Flower Communion Family Sunday

Join the whole church family and **bring a flower to place on the Flower Communion arch** as we celebrate the resilience and diversity of the Beloved Community. This uniquely Unitarian Universalist ritual recalls the life and ministry of Norbert Čapek who defied the Nazis and died a martyr at Dachau. The 9:00 and 4:30 services will include a ceremony of dedication for older children. Please contact Michelle Hill at michelle@unityunitarian.org if you would like your child to participate (see page 14).

On Family Sundays, children experience the entire worship together with their families in the Sanctuary. A children's message and activity books related to the stories and sermon help children to engage in the experience of worship. Regular religious education programming does not take place on Family Sundays; however, the nursery is open for children under five years of age.

May 27: "...for Peace and a New Hope"

One service only at 10:00 a.m.

Archibald Macleish asks "Whether our lives and deaths were for peace and a new hope or for nothing we cannot say; it is you who must say this." Each year on the Sunday before Memorial Day we invite the congregation to honor those who have died and those whose lives have been forever changed by war. Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs and a worship associate drawn from among our many veterans will offer a poignant, powerful service to close our series on hope.

Offering Recipients

Each Sunday, thirty percent of the offering goes to support the Community Outreach Ministry at Unity Church and seventy percent is given to a chosen community non-profit recipient. Please make checks payable to Unity Church.

May 6: Arthur Foote Music Sunday

Arthur Foote was minister at Unity Church from 1945-1970. Upon his death in 1999 the Arthur Foote Music Fund was created as a permanent endowment to provide an annual music Sunday in his memory. Currently the endowment supports a portion of Foote Music Sunday expenses. Your gifts to grow this endowment are gratefully accepted!

May 13: CLF Prison Ministry

The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) is a Unitarian Universalist congregation without walls. Its prison ministry brings hope and inspiration to over 700 inmates nationwide through its pen pal matches, reading materials, pastoral care, and UU classes. Today's collection will be used to send CLF print materials to prison congregants. Unity Church members Hannah Eller-Isaacs; Pastor Danny Givens, Jr.; and Erin Cerny are actively involved in the CLF Prison Ministry.

May 20: Youth Performance Company

Youth Performance Company (YPC) is a youth-inspired theater company that fuels the creativity of young actors, singers, writers, and dancers. Participants are coached to become youth performance leaders, using their talents to celebrate cultural identity within the context of today's multicultural society. Today's collection will be used to underwrite both transportation costs for schools attending YPC productions and tuition for students of limited resources to participate in YPC summer programs. Unity's Chris and Vicki Griese are enthusiastic supporters of YPC.

May 27: Unity Church Chalice Camp

Chalice Camp is designed to provide a unique opportunity for children in grades one through eight to deepen their connections to Unity Church, Unitarian Universalism, and the wider community. Camp this summer will include worship, small and large group activities, and time for fun. This offering will support scholarship opportunities for church families. Unity Church member Hannah Eller-Isaacs is Chalice Camp Director.

Nominate an Offering Recipient

Each Sunday, seventy percent of our collective offering is given to small community organizations whose values we share and mission we support. Anyone can nominate any organization! Complete the nomination form at www.unityunitarian.org/generosity-ministry.html.

All nominations are considered!

Hope: It Takes Practice

From Justin Cummins, Chair, Board of Trustees



Hope is a powerful word, in part because it can hold different meanings and, therefore, offer potentially different ways to experience and interpret the world. One of the most salient understandings of hope distinguishes hope from optimism. This is not to say that such a concept of hope is necessarily negative, spiraling down into a doom-and-gloom view of the world. Instead, this idea of hope is as much about action in the world as it is about an internal mindset. In other words, this notion of hope focuses on living in the world as we want the world to be — not necessarily as the world currently is. In short, hope is an act — even a practice — of faith.

For the past many months, the Board has been engaged in the faith practice of reviewing and rearticulating Unity's Core Values, Mission, and Ends Statements by participating in and observing dozens of small-group discussions with hundreds of congregants and others who see Unity Church as a vital instrument for helping to create the Beloved Community — that is, a truly peaceful, just, and inclusive world transformed by the larger love. The Core Values being developed through this sustained engagement state who we are and also who we want to become more fully as a religious community. The updated Mission will describe the essence of what we do and also what we seek to do more effectively in the world, consistent with the Core Values. The new Ends Statements resulting from the many months of work and reflection by the Board — after carefully listening to and considering the experiences and dreams of hundreds of congregants and other moral owners of Unity Church — will express our collective vision for the future in specific ways that shape and energize the life of our religious community and beyond. The revitalized Core Values, Mission, and Ends Statements will be finalized and shared with the congregation this fall.

The numerous participants in the process of reinvigorating the Core Values, Mission, and Ends Statements know that the path forward still remains less than clear for a number of reasons. The ambiguity and uncertainty we face, however, should not deter us from proceeding with courage, authenticity, and humility to make the new Ends Statements real. To paraphrase renowned popular education innovators, Myles Horton and Paulo Freire, we make the path by walking it. Put another way, our journey on the path together is a continuing act of faith and, ultimately, both the expression and realization of hope.

Join the Heritage Society

Legacy giving is an intentional act that leaves a lasting legacy in your name and sustains the powerful work of this church for generations to come.

A legacy gift is a designation from your estate to a charitable organization. There are many gift possibilities including bequests, life insurance, gift annuities, and retirement plans. Each type of gift allows flexibility, though some requirements apply, and you always retain the right to amend your estate plans.

By making a legacy gift to Unity Church, you will be joining over 200 others who have committed to supporting the church into the future. Our annual Heritage Society Dinner on May 18 is the church's way of thanking those individuals who have made legacy gifts (see below).

For more information about legacy gift possibilities, contact Barbara Hubbard at barbarah@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x116.

Heritage Society Dinner

The DNA of Living Faith

Friday, May 18 • Parish Hall

In the end, the center of Unity Church-Unitarian, and that of every other spiritual community, is the human relationships that shape it over time. The legacy of our congregations, as we shape faithful leaders, including ministers, will endure and ripple out into the future. An exploration of what mentorship means, at Unity Church and in Unitarian Universalism.

The Rev. Meg Riley is senior minister at the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF), which has as its unique global outreach mission



"Keeping the flame of Unitarian Universalism burning bright for all who yearn for its warmth and light."

How are things at Unity Church?

Complete the Congregational Survey and let us know!

If you haven't noticed, there is a *lot* going on at Unity Church... with a *lot* more to come.

The Board of Trustees works with the congregation to review what has happened the past year, and map out our shared goals for the future. The Congregational Survey is one very important tool that the Board uses to gauge progress in both areas. So it's critical that we hear from you.

On May 5 you will receive an e-mail link to the survey. There will also be stations set up at church to make it as easy as possible for you to complete the survey.

All church members, friends, and high school youth are encouraged to complete the survey. Of course, doughnuts will be involved, as well as some other surprises! We look forward to hearing from you!



2017-18 MINISTERIAL INTERNS

Hallman Ministerial Intern: Arif Mamdani



Last month, I opened the theme column with a Buddhist story about impermanence. The “punch line” of the story was this: “I know this glass is already broken, so I love it immensely.” Ever since I wrote that article, that notion of seeing the world around us as being in some sense “already broken” has stayed with me as an incredibly helpful and dare I say salvific concept, and I want to share a bit more about why.

Like many of us, I worry some, and sometimes more than some, about making a mistake. This is particularly true when it comes to the justice work that I’m involved in. As someone whose call to ministry flows from working for justice, as someone who has spent and continues to spend a lot of time in justice related work, I therefore get to spend a fair bit of time worrying about making a mistake.

This worry has taken different forms over the years. Early in my work life, I worried that I was young and didn’t know anything, and that people around the tables I was at would see my youth and lack of experience and disregard my contributions. Later in life, it was concern that my analysis of racism or capitalism or the prison industrial complex, etc., wasn’t sufficiently radical and that I’d say or do something that showed me to be insufficiently “woke.” These days, I often worry that my deeply rooted patriarchal tendencies will shine through my sincere and diligent efforts to keep them in check.

So what does this have to do with a story about a broken glass? Everything!

When we know that everything is, in some sense, already broken, I think we can experience a great liberation. I’m already not as woke as I wish as I was. I’m already more patriarchal, or have more internalized whiteness than I wish I did. I don’t need to wait for folks to find out I’m not what I wish I was because it’s already broken. The mask I wear? Already broken. The campaign I’m trying to help get off the ground? Already broken. The community that I wish were more multicultural? Already broken.

When things are already broken, we don’t worry about fixing them, because we understand that the essential nature of everything is to fall apart. When we appreciate this truth, we are liberated from worries about breaking things and can instead focus on (to quote Rev. Ashley Horan) doing the best that we can, with what we have, where we are.

The world may already be broken, but we can work to love it immensely.

Ministerial Intern: Andrea Johnson



In seminary I studied UU minister and abolitionist Theodore Parker who is known as the original author of the following quote: “I do not pretend to understand the moral universe, the arc is a long one, my eye reaches but little ways. I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by the experience of sight; I can divine it by conscience. But from what I see I am sure it bends towards justice.”

I grew up believing that I could absolutely count on this hopeful statement to hold true in the end. In fact I think this is what the word God used to symbolize for me: *an all-good force that bent the universe towards justice*. But when a fellow UU student challenged my belief by asking: **“Andrea, do you really think the universe bends towards justice...Where is the liberation for oppressed black and brown people?”** it felt like an arrow popping a balloon filled with what I have now come to understand as wishful thinking and uncritical optimism. As I began to unpack the history of racism and white supremacy in America, the facts far outweighed my naïve understanding about the shape of the universe. History is far too complex and ambiguous to have a shape or an arc. Coming from a place of privilege the shape I perceived of course looked like progress where every generation in my family has been more “successful” than the one before and we never acknowledged the fact that this progress rested on my Swedish and Norwegian ancestors farming on stolen land.

So where do I find hope now that my eyes have been opened to more truth, and the darkness of this present era of American history can seem unbearable? My faith and this church. I find it hopeful to be a part of a community where we name what is real, where we know how to be present to each other and our outrage, heartbreak, and grief. Unity Church is a place where we not only commit and re-commit ourselves to racial justice and healing but also envision and imagine a more inclusive, multi-cultural future. Results from the Ends renewal workshops, Mapping Our Future, prove it!

My faith develops into hope when it causes not rest, but unrest, not patience but impatience. It does not calm the unquiet heart, but is itself this unquiet heart in all of us. Those who hope can no longer put up with reality as it is, but begin to suffer under it and with will and determination contradict it. Perhaps hope comes from looking back and seeing when we have bent the arc. Hope comes from looking forward and knowing we can harness the collective power of the community around us and hope comes from looking deeply and knowing we can change and grow.

ROBIN DIANGELO and RESMAA MENAKEM

Experiencing the Racial Body and Mind • Turn to page 9 for details.

WELCOME WORDS / FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Welcome Words



Rev. Lisa Friedman, Minister of Congregational and Community Engagement

As a teenager, I had these words from Albert Schweitzer on my wall: "At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by the spark of another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us." I think of Schweitzer's wisdom each week as we light Unity's chalice together. This is one of the central tasks of the church — to rekindle the spark of hope and connection for one another. By doing so, we keep a larger love and a greater hope alive and active in a world that has great need of them. The longing to belong to a community of hope is one of the reasons that people set out to find a spiritual home. If you are on that search and would like to connect, I invite you to reach out to me or one of our senior co-ministers. Our doors are open and we would love to hear your story. May we each find ways in this harsh spring to honor the spark of each other's humanity. See you in church!

Pathway to Membership Classes

Sign up for Pathway to Membership classes at the Welcome Table on Sundays or contact Rev. Lisa Friedman, Minister of Congregational and Community Engagement, at lisa@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x107. She is also happy to meet with you personally to answer questions and to welcome you into the congregation. Childcare is available by request at least one week in advance.

Finding Yourself at Unity: A Deeper Inquiry

Finding Yourself at Unity is offered on a regular basis on Sundays, from 10:15-11:15 a.m., in the Ames Chapel. These sessions can be attended in the order that works for you and will offer participants the opportunity to share part of their religious journey, to take a more in depth look at the history of Unity Church, to discuss the expectations and benefits of membership, and get to know the programs and ministries of the congregation. Childcare is available in the nursery.

May 6: No class on Foote Music Sunday

May 13: Pastoral Care

May 20: Building Tour

May 27: No class for Memorial Day weekend

Committing to Unity: Joining Unity Church

**Saturday, May 5 • 9:30-11:30 a.m. ~ also offered ~
Wednesday, June 6 • 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

This class explores the deeper meanings and expectations of membership and shared ministry. It offers time to reflect on the meaning of generosity and finding the place where the world's needs meet the gifts you have to offer. The class concludes with a celebration ceremony as participants sign the membership book.

Fellowship Groups

Groups are open to all members and friends of Unity Church.

Afterthoughts: This group meets after the 9:00 a.m. service. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528.

Caregivers Group: An informal support group for caregivers. Third Thursday of the month (May 17) from noon–2:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at janne@unityunitarian.org

Elders Circle: Meets the third Tuesday of the month (May 8) from 1:00-3:00 p.m., in the Center Room.

Evergreen Quilters: Second Tuesday of the month (May 8) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and fourth Saturday of the month (May 26) from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Contact: Peggy Wright at 651-698-2760

Kung Fu: Saturday mornings in the Body Room from 10:00 a.m.-noon. Recommended for ages 15 and older. Contact Bryan Kujawski at barney.kujawski@gmail.com

LGBTQ+ Group: First Sunday of the month (May 6) from 12:30-2:00 p.m. and the third Sunday of the month (May 20) from 6:30-8:00 p.m. All are welcome!

Living With Grief Group: For people living with grief and loss. Third Tuesday of the month (May 15) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at janne@unityunitarian.org

Men's Retirement Group: Monday, May 7 and 21, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact: Phil Morton at 952-934-3578

New Look at the Bible: Second Thursday of the month (May 10) at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528

Textile Arts Group: Meets the first and third Thursdays of each month (May 3 and 17), from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Bring your knitting, embroidery, needlepoint, etc. Contact: Linda Mandeville at lindamandeville41@gmail.com

Unity Book Club: Second Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Contact Jack Hawthorne at jack.hawthorne@comcast.net.

May 8: *Firebrand and the First Lady, Portrait of a Friendship* by Patricia Bell-Scott.

June 12: *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline.

Women In Retirement: This group meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month (May 10 and 24), from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org

Young Adult Group (ages 18-35, approximately) is open to all newcomers. Meetings are held every other Thursday, 7:30-9:00 p.m. (May 10 and 24) Email kp@unityunitarian.org to be added to the email list.

Zen Meditation: Find renewal and grounding. Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m., in the Ames Chapel. Instruction offered on May 1 at 5:00 p.m. Contact KP Hong at kp@unityunitarian.org.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Unitarian Universalist History 101

May 6, 13, and 20 • 12:30-1:30 p.m. • Robbins Parlor

This class is an introduction to concepts and people from our history. Each session will focus on compelling stories and some of the people who embodied our faith at different key moments in time. How does history translate into our own lives and spiritual practice? Topics will include:

May 6: A Question of Resilience & Courage

May 13: A Question of Identity

May 20: A Question of Calling

Youth Late-Night LGBTQ+ Celebration

Friday, May 11 • 6:00-10:00 p.m. • Unity Church

Join us for a queer/trans web series, music, snacks, and a super chill time. Everyone welcome; queer, trans, and questioning youth encouraged to come. Intended for ages 13-17. Email Ray Hommeyer at ray@unityunitarian.org with questions, allergy/accessibility info, and to sign up.

Racial Justice Movie Night

The Tulsa Race War of 1921

Friday, May 11 • 7:00 p.m. • Robbins Parlor

Join Unity Church members and friends for an ongoing film series to further our growth in the understanding and challenging of white supremacy and structural racism. Popcorn will be served and there will be time for conversation. We will watch a documentary that tells the horrific and little-known story of the destruction of the Greenwood District in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Known as "The Black Wall Street," it was one of the most vibrant, successful, black communities in the U.S. until strident prejudice set the town on fire. The conversation will focus on the role Unitarians have played both in the causes of the Greenwood War and what reconciliation has been pursued.

Unity's First Queer Retreat

Saturday, May 12 • 4:00-9:00 p.m. • Unity Church

For all those who identify under the queer and/or trans umbrella — especially for people who don't fit into the gender binary. Optional offerings include meditation, dance, art, and community building. There will be food and space to relax. We are asking for a suggested donation, but no queer and trans folk will be turned away! Sign up online at www.unityunitarian.org/lgbtq.html by Friday, May 4. Questions? Contact Ray Hommeyer at ray@unityunitarian.org.

Mentoring at Unity

Unity Church has a mentor program available to all visitors and new members. A mentor serves as a guide and a resource in the congregation. They pledge to meet at least once a month face to face, and be available for ongoing questions and advice for at least six months. If you have questions, or would like to request a mentor, please stop by the Welcome Table in the Parish Hall on Sundays or contact Rev. Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x107.

Unity Church Database Update

Martha Tilton, Coordinator of Communications

In December 2017, Unity Church began the process of converting our database to the newest option offered by our church management software, Shelby Systems. Unity has had a long relationship with Shelby, first adopting their DOS database system back in 1990, then moving to the Windows based version we are currently using, and now, finally, moving all of our data to their newest online cloud based tool.

This new service, ShelbyNext, will offer staff the ability to better manage church membership information and groups; streamline programming, pastoral care follow up, communications, and finances; and provide a more robust resource calendar that will be available on our website. ShelbyNext will offer church members the opportunity to manage (with some limitations) their own membership profile, communicate with the members of groups they are in, and access a secure online directory. There will also be the opportunity to implement text options for giving and communication.

Staff is currently being trained and a final conversion to the new database will happen in the coming months. Watch for updates and opportunities to learn about all the possibilities this database will offer the congregation as we expand our shared ministry and deepen connections with one another.

Open Page Writing Session

Led by Consulting Literary Minister Karen Hering, Open Page writing session participants us stories, poetry, history, images and objects to reflect on the monthly theme.

Choosing Hope

Wednesday, May 16 • 7:00-8:30 p.m. • Anderson library

"Hope is not merely an emotion that comes and goes. It is a virtue, resulting from a conscious, deliberate choice and long practice," says writer Mary McDermott Shideler. Where do we find hope in the world today, and how might we choose it and practice it? Email karen@unityunitarian.org if you plan to attend.

Grand Old Day

On Sunday, June 3, street parking will be limited due to the Grand Old Day street festival. Unity's parking lots will be managed by volunteers so that worshippers can park while fair-goers contribute money toward Unity's Habitat for Humanity build. Share the news with your neighbors that they can park with us and support a great cause! If you are interested in volunteering for a parking shift, please email Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org.

Boston Pilgrimage: October 17-22, 2018

Janne and Rob will lead a pilgrimage to the Unitarian Universalist homelands of New England. Explore the historical roots of our faith and our democracy and walk the paths that our religious ancestors walked. Interested? Email Song at song@unityunitarian.org. The trip will cost between \$1400-\$1800, exclusive of airfare.

SUMMER AT UNITY CHURCH

Summer Fun at Unity Church!



CHALICE CAMP 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Week 1: July 9-13 • Week 2: July 16-20

Chalice Camp is celebrating our 10 year anniversary! We are so excited to be offering two weeks of Chalice Camp, each with a different curriculum, and both with the same fun you have come to expect. The first week will focus on Unitarian Universalist history and how we are living out our values in the present. The second week we will dive into an exploration of our own identities and our community. Chalice Camp runs Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., and is open to all kids and youth entering grades K-8 in the fall of 2018. The cost for Chalice Camp is \$200/week/child. Full and partial scholarships are available.

NEW THIS YEAR: CHALICE KIDS!

Week 1: July 23-27 • Week 2: July 30-August 3

Introducing Chalice Kids! Chalice Kids is a drop in program for kids entering kindergarten through sixth grade. Programming will also be provided for junior high youth through our partnership with Drew Danielson. Parents can choose to send their kid(s) for just a few hours, or all week. Chalice Camp staff will provide programming where we will build community, explore our neighborhood, and so much more! Chalice Kids will be available Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. The cost for Chalice Kids is \$10/hour for the first child, and \$5/hour for each additional child. Full and partial scholarships are available.

www.unityunitarian.org/chalice-camp.html

Summer CSA at Unity Church

Turnip Rock Farm and Cosmic Wheel Creamery in Clear Lake, Wisconsin, have shares available and Unity Church will be a drop site this season. Turnip Rock CSA offers Certified Organic vegetables, 100% grass-fed farmstead cheeses, and pastured pork, beef, and lamb. Medium and large organic veggie shares, cheese shares, meat shares, season extension, and more! Each element of Turnip Rock Farm comes together to create a whole-farm ecosystem that results in diverse offerings for CSA members.

Visit www.turniprock.com for details about share options and to sign-up.



Summer Sundays

From May 27 through September 2 there is just one service each week at 10:00 a.m. Lay-led worship services begin July 8. Summer Sundays in the Garden (a program for children and youth held during worship) also begins on May 27.

Summer Musicians

Summer is a great time to share your musical gifts with Unity Church members and friends. If you are interested in participating as a musician during a summer service, contact Kathleen Bartholomay at kathleenbartholomay297@gmail.com or 651-343-4764.

Flowers for Summer Worship

If you would like to bring flowers from your garden for a summer service, please contact Martha Tilton at 651-228-1456 x105 or martha@unityunitarian.org for available dates (June 18-September 3) and details.

Summer Sundays in the Garden Religious Education steps into our Summer Sundays in the Garden program, weekly at 10:00 a.m., from May 27 to September 2.

Typically for children ages 4-12, and no registration is necessary but drop-in capacity will be limited by number of adult volunteers. Regular nursery is offered throughout summer. There are still openings for volunteers to assist, no prerequisite garden experience necessary; just a desire to share and learn with children. Want to help plant and care for our garden? Email KP Hong at kp@unityunitarian.org.

Watch for other fun events!

- March in the Pride Parade!
- Volunteer with St. Paul Freedom School!
- Eat pancakes on Sundays!
- Take me out to the ball game: Unity Church goes to a St. Paul Saints game!

ROBIN DIANGELO RESMAA MENAKEM

Experiencing the Racial Body and Mind

Friday, June 15, 7:00–9:00 PM

Saturday, June 16, 9:30 AM–3:30 PM

Unity Church–Unitarian

Resmaa Menakem and Robin DiAngelo will co-lead this rare opportunity to address both sides of the “dance” of racism.

Dr. DiAngelo will describe the way race shapes the lives of White people, explain what makes racism so hard for White people to see, and identify common White racial patterns that prevent us from moving towards greater racial equity. Weaving information, analysis, stories, images, and familiar examples, she will provide the framework needed to develop white racial literacy. Developing racial literacy is a foundational step, but we won’t address racism through an intellectual understanding alone.

Racism is also about the body. The body is where we live, where we fear, hope, and react; where we constrict and relax; and where we fight, flee, or freeze. The body is where we store the lessons of racism. Resmaa Menakem, a social worker specializing in trauma, will explore the inherited trauma of white supremacy. This trauma doesn’t just affect African American and other bodies of color; White American bodies suffer their own historical trauma as well. We all need to recognize this trauma, metabolize it, work through it, and grow up out of it. Only in this way will we at last heal our bodies, our families, and the social body of our nation. The process differs for people of Color and White people, but all of us need to heal our racialized trauma —and, with the right guidance, all of us can.

Together Resmaa and Robin will connect the mind and the body within the system of white supremacy and offer a map for healing.

Register online at www.unityunitarian.org

Cost: \$50-\$150 sliding scale fee, lunch included.



Robin DiAngelo is a two-time winner of the Student’s Choice Award for Educator of the Year from the University of Washington. Her scholarship is in White Racial Identity and Race Relations. In addition to her academic work, Dr. DiAngelo was appointed to co-design the City of Seattle’s Race and Social Justice Initiative Training. She has numerous publications and books including, *White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*. www.robindiangelo.com



Resmaa Menakem is an expert on conflict and violence. He has served as director of counseling services for the Tubman Family Alliance; as behavioral health director for African American Family Services in Minneapolis; and as a Cultural Somatics consultant for the Minneapolis Police Department. As a Community Care Counselor, he managed the wellness and counseling services for civilians on fifty-three U.S. military bases in Afghanistan. Resmaa currently teaches workshops on Cultural Somatics for audiences of African Americans, European Americans, and police officers. He is also a therapist in private practice in Minneapolis. His current book, *My Grandmother’s Hands*, is the 2018 Unity Church Congregation Book Read. www.resmaa.com

WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY

Wellspring Wednesday is a multi-generational opportunity to gather midweek at church for food, fellowship, and fun. Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m., followed by worship in the Ames Chapel at 6:45 p.m., and an evening of rich programming beginning at 7:10 p.m. Childcare is available and you do not have to sign up in advance. The cost for dinner is \$7/adult, \$4/child ages 5 to 12, \$2/child ages 2 to 4, and \$20/family. Children under the age two are free. Email Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org for financial assistance to help cover the cost of dinner.

MAY 2

Dinner: TBD

Jose Santos

Jose Santos is an associate professor of anthropology at Metro State University. He led a compelling session at the Men's Retreat in February and we have asked him back to share his ideas, thoughts, and questions with the larger Unity Church community. His field of study — male culture around the world and in the U.S. — is particularly relevant in light of the #MeToo movement and the questions it has raised about men's attitudes and behavior.

Session 3 • Follow up to Congregational Read: *My Grandmother's Hands*

Arif Mamdani and Janne Eller-Isaacs will lead a program that presents the exercises included in *My Grandmother's Hands*.

New Family Religious Education Orientation

Led by Director of Religious Education KP Hong, this session is for families new to Unity Church who would like to learn more about religious education.

Above Every Name Soul Session

Join Pastor Danny Givens, Jr., and members of Above Every Name for a soulful journey through scripture in the Bible.

Embodied Spiritual Practice: Yoga

Led by Yogi Gabe, classes this month will be rooted in Somayoga (a combination of classic yoga asana/postures and somatic movement). We will be exploring the wisdom of the Yoga Sutras of Patanjali as they enlighten our practice and guide us toward our dharma (individual purpose) and the purpose of life.

Go: Learn and Play the Chinese Board Game

Join Unity Church member Bob Ruud for an evening of learning and playing the Chinese Board game, Go. Anyone above the age of 10 is welcome to play.

Tween Group: Grades 5-7

Meet at 7:15 p.m. (after chapel) in the junior high rooms, lower level.

MAY 9

Dinner: BBQ pulled chicken, coleslaw, baked beans, pickles, chips, and lemon cookies

All Church Talent Show

Do you have a talent or hobby you'd like to share with the congregation? Join us for our annual picnic followed by the Unity Talent Show. We'll enjoy music, dance, jokes, readings and more... it's a fun evening for all ages! Performers of every age are welcome and acts should be appropriate for a family event. Sign up for a slot at the Welcome Table in the Parish Hall or online at www.unityunitarian.org/talent-show.html.

Session 4 • Follow up to Congregational Read: *My Grandmother's Hands*

Above Every Name Soul Session: A Soulful Journey through Scripture

Go: Learn and Play the Chinese Board Game

Tween Group: Grades 5-7

MAY 9 IS THE LAST WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR!



ALL CHURCH TALENT SHOW

Wednesday, May 9

7:15 PM

Parish Hall

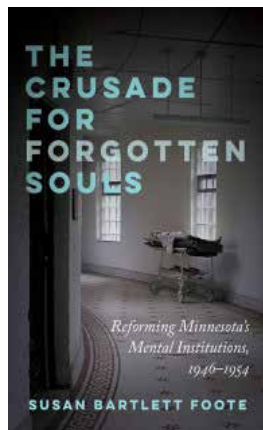
Kids!
Youth!
Adults!
Families!

Sign up online today:
www.unityunitarian.org/talent-show.html



Shelley Butler, Libraries and Bookstall Team

“Science has made progress, but public opinion is still in the Dark Ages,” reported Unity minister and Chairman of the Minnesota Unitarian Conference Committee on Institutions for the Mentally Ill Arthur Foote in a 1947 report to Gov. Luther Youngdahl. But when you read about the conditions in Minnesota state institutions in *The Crusade for Forgotten Souls: Reforming Minnesota’s Mental Institutions, 1946-1954* by Susan Foote, you might think



the abominable treatment itself of mental health patients at the time was still in the Dark Ages. Patients didn’t receive better nor even the same treatment as the livestock housed at Minnesota institutions, the report noted. Horrific abuse and neglect were more common than not.

While many people were essential to the reform movement, it was a Unitarian minister, four women largely lost to history until Susan brought them back to light, and finally, a Republican governor that led efforts against public and political apathy to mental health reform in Minnesota during a time when even family members failed to report abuse of their institutionalized loved ones for fear of being outed as having mental illness in their family.

Come hear Susan speak about our own Unity Church minister, Arthur Foote, who went undercover as an aid in an asylum to uncover the truth and about the ordinary people, like a mental health nurse and a Unity Church parishioner, who were among the major forces in changing attitudes about and care of the mentally ill in Minnesota. It’s a remarkable history told by a passionate and gifted storyteller, Susan Bartlett Foote.

Tuesday, May 15, 7:00 p.m.: Unity’s own Susan Bartlett Foote reads from her important new book, *The Crusade for Forgotten Souls: Reforming Minnesota’s Mental Institutions, 1946-1954*, UM Press, 2018.

The book is available in the Unity Church Bookstall and Anderson Library.

May Parish Hall Artist

Jill Michell

Jill Michell is a painter and teacher. Having previously worked as a studio artist, Michell began to work outdoors in 2014. Immersing herself in the landscape unleashed a new passion for realism that is interpretive, rather than literal or photographic. Her new landscape paintings reflects a deep pleasure in the act of painting.

In winter, when painting out of doors was impractical, she returned to the studio and began digging deeper into the possibilities of this approach to realism. Her studies of geraniums narrowed her focus to natural minutiae.

Jill offers a tribute to her favorite Chinese painter, Qi Baishi. Qi theorized that, “paintings must be something between likeness and unlikeness.” Using heavy ink, bright colors, and vigorous strokes, he created works of a fresh and lively manner that expressed his love of nature and life. Although her technique is quite different, Michell paints with the same spirit in mind.

A reception to open the exhibit will be held in the Parish Hall from 6:30-8:30 p.m., on Friday, May 4.

All are welcome.

Sharing in Art Share

From pictures of favorite dogs to original political cartoons to family portraits, Unity Church members are participating in Art Share with a piece of art they’ve chosen from their collection.

Art Share has three goals:

- To invite sharing of favorite art;
- To get to know Unity Church members; and
- To enrich the focus on art at Unity Church.

Sharing the selected piece is a significant decision. Those who share are grateful when others look at, read about, and connect with the art. A photo is part of the exhibit to help viewers recognize the sharer and make a connection through their art.

Want to spotlight *your* art? Choose from your personal creation, your child’s creation, a piece of ceramic, or art that’s been in your attic or living room. Then, sign up on the bulletin board by the Parish Hall kitchen window. Your piece, along with a statement of why it’s meaningful and a photo of you, will be displayed for two Sundays in the Art Share space in the Parish Hall. When you sign up, a Unity Art Team member will contact you to confirm dates and share details.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Help Restock Hope's Closet at Prior Crossing

Since Summer 2016 Unity Church has been helping stock Hope's Closet at Prior Crossing, where homeless youth moving into a semi-furnished apartment home can "shop" shelves of donated new and gently used household goods. They get to keep these basic supplies when they leave the program. Recently there have been several move outs and new people are coming in. Additional supplies are needed:

- Pillows — must be new!
- Sheets: full/double size sheet sets
- Mattress pads/protectors, full size
- Towels: bath size, hand towels, wash clothes
- Pots and Pans: mid to large size frying pans, mid-size sauce pans with lid
- Sharp knives, silverware, can openers, spatulas, serving spoons, other cooking utensils, baking pans, measuring cups and spoons, mixing bowls
- Dish sets: dinner plates, appetizer plates, bowls — must be microwave safe!
- Cleaning supplies: sponges, dish soap, cleaning spray, laundry soap, toilet cleaner and brush, rolls of toilet paper, paper towels — must be new!
- Broom and dust pan, Swiffer mops (start up packs with mop and cloths)
- Trash cans (tall kitchen size)
- Body wash and shampoo, appropriate for African Americans — must be new!

Donations should be brought to Rev. Lisa Friedman's office throughout May and the Affordable Housing team will deliver them to Hope's Closet. Thank you!

Obama School Ministry Team Update

Nancy Heege, Obama School Ministry Team

The Obama School Ministry Team has accomplished many of the goals we set out for this year. We were able to find classroom tutors for the teachers who requested them. We have provided delicious food for the teachers at their in-service meeting in September and again for their after-school meetings once a month. We've worked to get new signage for the school, provided front entrance aesthetics, and reminder "Scoop the Poop" signs [with baggies] for the dog owners who use the adjacent park. We have a growing crew of library assistants who help in several ways: processing new books into the collection, setting up and staffing the school's Book Fair twice this year, and shelving books returned by the scholars. And, thanks to the generosity of many Unity members and friends, we are providing Cub grocery cards each month for the 75 Obama families who responded to the administration's invitation. A couple of longer-term projects are underway, and we'll be working on those in the fall. There are many ways for Unity members and friends to support the school, some ongoing and some on a one-time basis. Watch this newsletter for more information!



Habitat for Humanity: May 21-25, June 4-8

The Unity Church Affordable Housing Outreach Ministry Team is co-sponsoring a Habitat for Humanity build as an interfaith partner in Faith Builders. This will be new construction in the near East Side area of St. Paul. A Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity "green" build integrates building practices that reduce detrimental impacts on the natural environment, promote healthy indoor air quality for occupants and reduce energy costs while increasing the long-term affordability of homes and improving the neighborhood housing stock. Watch for sign up opportunities in the Parish Hall during May and also online. Work weeks are May 21-25 and June 4-8. You may contact Chuck Griggs at griggscb@msn.com or 612-408-0486 with questions.



Volunteer: 2018 St. Paul Freedom School

Summertime offers the opportunity to volunteer at the Children's Defense Fund Freedom School, a learning and cultural enrichment program for children in the Promise Neighborhood in St. Paul (held in partnership with the St. Paul Public Schools). Many Unity Church members and friends have helped in summers past by sorting books and teaching reading and math. The term is June 18 to July 27, at the Capitol Hill Magnet location in the Rondo Education Center. You can choose to help the whole term or part of it. For more information contact Jane Thomson thoms028@tc.umn.edu.



Food Shelf Donations

Hallie Q. Brown, the food shelf supported by Unity Church members and friends, distributes 25 pounds of food per month, per qualified family member. Last year they distributed 568,183 pounds, 25 pounds at a time. This year they have served over 19,000 people in the neighborhood. Food shelf collection trunks are located at the Holly and Portland Avenue entrances. Non-perishable food, toiletries, and pet food are all gratefully accepted.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Natural Corridors: Healthy Ecosystems

Kathy Sidles, Sustainable Living Team

I love to walk to Frost Lake Park, and bike down the Bruce Vento Bike the east side of Saint Paul. I collect trash and pull garlic mustard along and in neglected green spaces above the buried Lake Phalen Creek. I count birds and bumblebees as I work and enter data into ebird.org and bumblebeewatch.org. Chimney Swifts nest in apartment chimneys, feeding above Phalen Corridor as the creek bed it used to be, and I count them.

These natural area corridors are important. Birds and plants and insects that are part of a healthy ecosystem need connected habitats full of native plants to thrive. Wildlife genes have to flow for healthy populations.

And yet, according to the Minnesota the Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC), 60 acres of natural areas are being lost in the Metro area each day! These natural spaces are at odds with the needs to accommodate increasing city population. Upcoming plans call for denser industrial, mixed-use, and public transit corridors but this removes green spaces. For example, there is a plan to use the Vento Trail, for the Rush Line bus lanes. And the most strongly affected are often urban areas with high numbers of children, lower incomes, and diverse populations of people.

The problem with places like the Bruce Vento Bike Trail is that they don't meet the criteria of being a regional park. Nor do other natural spaces like railroads or highway roadsides. Each year, there is tax revenue for Minnesota natural areas, with about \$13 million going metro wildlife corridors. But without park status, they are not eligible for this money.

As a community, many things could be done! Ideas like expanding MeCC plans for neighborhoods along river corridors to be "green interpretive desserts." Places like the Bruce Vento Bike Trail could become an official Regional Park, and therefore earn the protection and funding of spaces with this designation. We could improve Railroad corridors as native plant areas.

What can you do as an individual? Adopt a corridor, sign up as a volunteer, support organizations like the Audubon Society. Have your yard become part of the natural corridors for birds and bees by planting native plants that help them to thrive! Participate in our team's plant sale/exchange on May 20 and obtain more native plants.

Connect with Unity's Sustainable Living Team! Our next meeting on Tuesday, May 8, from 7:00-8:30 p.m., is a visioning session and all are welcome. Members Nicole Lynsey and Riley Jaimison have returned from training with Interfaith Power and Light and will help guide us as we assess our "green" priorities and plot a path forward for the group and the church. Please come share your ideas!



A Visit to My Legislators

Easier than going to the dentist!

Hal Freshley, Gun Sense Ministry Team

It was not a difficult decision to put my name on Unity's Gun Sense group list. But I was not sure that I wanted to be a protester either. I could, at least, talk to my state legislators — to see where they stood on the issues. So I looked them up on my iPhone.



I parked my car near Lexington and University and took the Green Line to the Capitol. I had the office number of my State Representative, Sheldon Johnson, and then found his office. Everyone I asked for directions was friendly and helpful. Rep. Johnson was in his office and welcomed me in. As easy as that! We talked for about 15 minutes — during which time he explained that he was not on any of the committees in which gun legislation might be considered, and as no "gun control" legislation was likely to pass out of any committee to the House floor in 2018, he probably would have no opportunity to express his gun regulation views. I thanked him for his time and proceeded to the new Senate Office Building.

I had never been in this new building, and when I again asked for help I was led directly to my State Senator, Fong Hawj's office. He, too, was available to talk to a constituent. Sen. Hawj told me that although he is an ardent hunter, his major concern is the proliferation of firearms in inner-city neighborhoods and especially among teen gang members. However, as with my Representative, he is not presently on any Senate committees that might consider gun regulations in 2018.

I am glad I met them. Before these visits these persons could not have actually represented me. I got a better understanding of their perspectives as well. And it was a great lesson regarding the legislative process and the ability/inability of any one legislator to implement any policy — no matter how they stressed its importance during the election campaign. In a word, the experience was humanizing.

Annual Plant Exchange and Sale: Sunday, May 20

Calling all gardeners (and gardener-wannabes)! We know that when perennials thrive they need to be divided. Bring those extra plants to church on the day of Unity's flower communion! Then, look over our collection and choose something different to take home. We encourage outdoor vegetable varieties, ornamentals, and native plants. No houseplants, please. Label plants with species name and growing information, including soil and sun conditions. We are expanding our outreach to the neighboring community this year, so this is also opportunity to share plants with our church neighbors and beautify the neighborhood. Schedule:

8:00-9:00 a.m.: Plant drop off under the tent in the green space; take a ticket for every plant you bring

10:00-11:00 a.m.: Plant Exchange! Exchange your ticket for first pick of plants

Noon-1:00 p.m.: Plant Sale! Any plants left after 11:00 will be sold for \$1-5, or best offer. Proceeds support Unity's Sustainable Living Team projects.

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Hopeless Children

Drew Danielson, Coordinator of Youth and Campus Ministries

I have a son who has been in Coming of Age this year. I won't say his name so nobody will know who I'm talking about, and he won't be offended when I suggest he might have been the worst Coming of Age I've been involved with in the, oh, about 13 years I've lead COA classes.

The terribleness of this anonymous blondish, green-eyed boy lay primarily in his often expressed attitude that he "just didn't care" about the "stupidest questions in the history of the world." He was wrong about this, of course, and I repeatedly told him so.

"No you *do* care really, you just don't *want* to care because they are pretty hard and you guys have not decided it's OK to admit that you wonder about anything or that cool people can be anything other than ironic." He always took this very well and immediately, thoughtfully, adjusted the attitude.

No, I'm kidding, that never went anywhere.

Before I uninvited all of our family and friends from the COA ceremony, I had to admit he was having a very typical 15-year-old's response to what COA is really asking them — in what do you believe, in what will you put your faith? At an age when their most profound understanding of the world is its perceived "randomness," and the only intelligent reaction to authority and tradition is cynicism. "What do I believe?," or rather "In what do I trust?" are not cool questions.

They are dangerous questions. Faith and belief are liable to result in hope. And hope is a childish, kind of ignorant thing in the eyes of an adolescent. Hope leaves you vulnerable, and for a teenager — for anyone really — vulnerability is not safe and not OK. Too much of what we see and experience around us feels scary and not in keeping with what we thought was true, whether we're freshmen in high school or aging Baby Boomers. For many of the Agers at Unity Church, the added sense that somehow they are supposed to be the next great generation to solve the world's ills is just not the positive, supportive charge we imagine it to be. Isn't it all just hopeless? Why on earth are we telling them to open their hearts? Why are we trying to make them so vulnerable?

I'm writing this a week before the COA ceremony. I've been involved in Coming of Age long enough to have belief in our kids, and some faith in this process and all of the support we, all of us, try to give them. I hope they will feel it. I know my son has identified something about his life that he truly believes in and he's written about it.

I hope it's beautiful. I believe it will be.

Tween Late-Night Party

Friday, May 4 • 6:00-10:00 p.m.

Center Room

Come and continue the fun we had at the Tween Party! (Re-match for the Tween mascot?!) Meet in the Center Room for games, snacks, music, and a really great time! Grades 5-7. RSVP and send questions to Ray Hommeyer at ray@unityunitarian.org. Please include allergy/accessibility info.

Youth Late-Night LGBTQ+ Celebration

Friday, May 11 • 6:00-10:00 p.m.

Unity Church

Join us for a queer/trans web series, music, snacks, and a super chill time. Everyone welcome; queer, trans, and questioning youth encouraged to come. Intended for ages 13-17. Email Ray Hommeyer at ray@unityunitarian.org with questions, allergy/accessibility info, and to sign up.

Chalice Camp!

During the month of July

Turn to page 8 for details!

Summer Sundays in the Garden

Religious Education steps into our Summer Sundays in the Garden program, weekly at 10:00 a.m., from May 27 to September 2.

Typically for children ages 4-12, and no registration is necessary but drop-in capacity will be limited by number of adult volunteers. Regular nursery is offered throughout summer. There are still openings for volunteers to assist, no prerequisite garden experience necessary; just a desire to share and learn with children. To sign up and for more information, please see: www.unityunitarian.org/summer-sundays-in-the-garden.html

Dedication of Older Children: May 20

Families who would like their children, ages 4-12, to participate in our annual dedication should contact Michelle Mecey at michelle@unityunitarian.org.

This ritual, held during the 9:00 and 4:30 services on Sunday, May 20, provides the church an opportunity to commit itself to raising up children who have come into our community as "big kids."

The children process to the chancel, receive a chalice and a certificate, and read a responsive litany of dedication with the congregation. This dedication is appropriate for elementary school aged kids in families who have joined Unity Church or who are on the pathway to membership.



MUSIC MINISTRY

Music Notes



Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministries

"... alive to love, we sing as love,
afraid, uncertain, yet our flight begins as song."

— Euan Tait, from *Flight Song*

There I was sitting on a deck last summer, on the edge of Caribou Lake, watching a hummingbird zip past for a quick hello. It was time to begin planning our annual Arthur Foote Music Sunday. I was both delighted with my surroundings and yet in total consternation as to the planning of this Sunday which would begin the theme month of "Hope." The news was filled then (as it continues to be) with incredibly disturbing news and views. Simplistic and purely optimistic choices would just not work. How does one find hope in the midst of so many difficulties? Is it possible? Is it a choice? Is it a practice? Those were the questions floating through my mind when my research returned to the following words of Krista Tippett in her book, *Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living*.

In a century of staggering open questions, hope becomes a calling for those of us who can hold it, for the sake of the world. Hope is distinct, in my mind, from optimism or idealism. It has nothing to do with wishing. It references reality at every turn and reveres truth. It lives open eyed and wholehearted with the darkness that is woven ineluctably into the light of life and sometimes seems to overcome it. Hope, like every virtue, is a choice that becomes a practice that becomes spiritual muscle memory. Hope is a renewable resource for moving through life as it is, not as we wish it to be.

There was the answer! To find music that "references reality," that "lives open eyed and wholehearted with the darkness that is woven ineluctably into the light of life and sometimes seems to overcome it." To allow the music to both hold the difficult and speak to the "renewable resource" we call hope... to "let our flight begin as song."

Hope, like every virtue, is a choice that becomes a practice that becomes spiritual muscle memory. Hope is a renewable resource for moving through life as it is, not as we wish it to be. — Krista Tippett

Hope as Practice

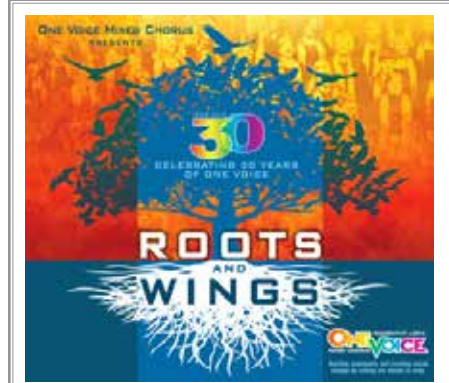
Arthur Foote Music Sunday

May 6, 2018

9:00 AM • 11:00 AM • 4:30 PM

Unity Choir, Unity Singers, Women's Ensemble, Children's Choir
Laura Sewell, cello

Come and join us for a Sunday of music which inspires,
holds moments of difficulty, and lifts us in song!



One Voice Mixed Chorus Roots & Wings

Saturday, June 23 • 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 24 • 3:30 p.m.

Ordway Concert Hall

Tickets: www.ovmc.org

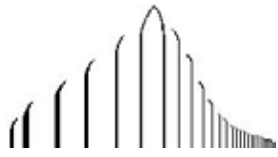
Join One Voice Mixed Chorus on LGBT Pride Weekend to celebrate 30 years of One Voice! *Roots & Wings* reflects on where we have journeyed in our 30 years and honors the resilience of the LGBT and allied community. Drawing from our "roots," One Voice performs audience favorites including *Gay vs Straight Composers* and *The Lesbian Second Date Moving Service!*

From our rich history of commissioning new music, audiences will hear One Voice's first ever commission *One Voice* by Minnesota songwriter Ann Reed, as well as *Our Phoenix* composed by two transgender artists.

Spreading our "wings," the concert showcases our future dreams with Heather Small's *Proud and We Won't Stop Dreaming*. Experience the One Voice story on Pride weekend!

Summer Musicians

Summer is a great time to share your musical gifts with Unity Church members and friends. If you are interested in participating as a musician during a summer service, contact Kathleen Bartholomay at kathleenbartholomay297@gmail.com or 651-343-4764.



UNITY CHURCH-UNITARIAN

Sanctuary Entrance: 733 Portland Avenue • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104
Business Entrance: 732 Holly Avenue • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104
651-228-1456 • fax: 651-228-0927 • www.unityunitarian.org • unity@unityunitarian.org

JUSTIN CUMMINS, CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REV. JANNE ELLER-ISAACS, CO-MINISTER
REV. ROB ELLER-ISAACS, CO-MINISTER
BARBARA HUBBARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
REV. LISA FRIEDMAN, MINISTER OF CONGREGATIONAL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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**TIME SENSITIVE
MATERIAL**

Hope is a choice that becomes spiritual muscle memory, a renewable resource for moving through life as it is, not as we wish it to be.

— Krista Tippett

Arthur Foote Music Sunday

Hope as Practice

May 6, 2018

9:00 AM • 11:00 AM • 4:30 PM

Unity Church-Unitarian, Sanctuary

Unity Choir • Unity Singers • Women's Ensemble
Children's Choir • Laura Sewell, cello