

A New Partnership for Freedom

from Rob Eller-Isaacs, Unity Church—Unitarian, Co-Minister

At Usgaon Hill on the outskirts of Bombay sixty girls gather each morning at dawn to chant and meditate and pray. They are all from pre-literate tribal families. Each is the first in her family to go to school. They sit in a single circle, legs crossed beneath them,

And chant "We are not animals. We are human beings." And then they pray in unison:

*This is the dream of my life
May it come true.*

*May the children of human beings
Live with human dignity.*

*May no one sell their bodies
To quell the pangs of hunger,
And may my inner urge
Be ever to destroy oppression.*

*May the flowers yet to bloom
Not be trampled underfoot.
May every breath I take
Help new flowers to bloom.*

*May I never be weak, vulnerable
And powerless.*

*May I find within myself
The strength to contain storms.*

*The night that has just passed
Was the longest and darkest night.
Let the emerging rays
Live forever in the huts of the poor.*

*May those who have no food
And no dignity, be my inspiration.
May every step I take today
Be in the service of God.*

*This is my prayer.
May it come true.*

*May the children of human beings
Live with human dignity.*

The girls then stand and holding hands sing, "we shall overcome, we shall

overcome, oh deep in my heart I know that we shall overcome, someday." When Janne and I attended morning prayers we were included in that sacred circle. And as we sang we wept.

The prayer was written by Vivek Pandit who, with his wife and partner, Vidyullata, founded Vidhayak Sansad, an Indian organization devoted to freeing slaves, organizing unions and advocating for the poorest of the poor. Since its founding in the early 1980's Vidhayak Sansad has received funding from the Holdeen Trust, a Unitarian Universalist foundation dedicated to fostering positive, systemic social change in India. I have rarely been as proud to be a Unitarian Universalist as I was when visiting Holdeen funded programs in India. While many agencies are drawn to specific projects the Holdeen Trust primarily funds long-term community organizing. Our money is making a pivotal difference in people's lives. It's very impressive indeed.

Vivek is an organizer, an educator and a true visionary. We invited him to come to the Twin Cities in the hope that we might forge a new community outreach partnership between Vidhayak Sansad and Unity Church. There are a variety of ways we might become involved. The girls at Osgaon Hill need teachers, Vivek wants to connect with experts in alternative fuels research in support of an agricultural initiative already underway, as well as to establish a theological dialog focused on how best to instill a commitment to intellectual freedom among newly liberated people.



Holdeen Director, Kathy Shreedhar helps the girls at the daily flag raising ceremony.

Already planned during his visit are: a forum entitled "Undoing Bonded Labor in India" from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday November 7, in the Freeman Commons at the Humphrey Institute; a visit with staff at the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, a theological conversation from 7:00-9:00 p.m. on Thursday evening, November 8, at Unity Church and a Morgan Forum from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on Saturday morning, November 10. Vivek will also participate in the services on Sunday, November 11. We have so much to learn. Please plan to join us.



Cross-cultural influences can really make a difference!

JUST WORDS / WHEEL OF LIFE

Just Words

Have you ever wondered, when you saw a layperson participating in the service what in the world they were doing there? If you turned to your order of service you found out that they were listed as a worship associate. Which leads to the next question: what is a worship associate?

A worship associate is a member of the congregation who works with the presiding minister in Sunday services. That's what you see on Sunday morning. If you attend regularly you recognize that generally the worship associate shares in the readings and delivers the call to worship. They occasionally lead the unison or responsive reading. They also have been known to preach homilies or share statements of faith.

What I want you to know about is the more involved role they play in conceiving and crafting the worship experience here at Unity. The role the worship associate plays is much more creative and collaborative than most people realize. The planning process begins each quarter when the worship associate coordinators meet with the ministers and the interns. At this meeting overarching themes are selected for a particular time frame. For instance, we began this church year with the theme "dimensions of faith." The themes for the season are then taken to a meeting attended by all of the worship associates. The themes are presented and then a carefully designed conversation ensues. The conversation begins with how things are going at the church, what seem to be the pressing issues in individual's lives and in the life of our congregation, neighborhood, and nation. What is the state of the world as we know it? Then we have a far-reaching and often, deep conversation about the stated themes. Then suggestions are made for specific topics for particular services. Ruth Palmer and Kerri Meyer usually attend the worship associate meetings so that they weave the themes into the musical selections and the religious education program. When the topics are selected and a calendar is created, each worship associate signs up for a service or two.

Closer to the time of the service, the worship associate contacts the presiding minister and they have an initial meeting. The goal of this meeting is to dig deeply into the topic. It is an exchange of ideas. Following this meeting, the presiding minister and worship associate both research, read and ruminate. Readings are found, some used, many tucked away to use at another time. Sometimes the worship associate acts as a research assistant, pointing to remarkable resources. Other times a quiet but penetrating conversation creates its own reservoir of ideas. Usually the worship associate and minister meet again to clarify decisions and finalize the order of worship. Who would have guessed that well-crafted worship would require so many meetings?

The Worship Associates program was originally created by the Worship Committee at the Oakland Unitarian Church, along with Rob and me in 1986. It has since been replicated in hundreds of Unitarian Universalist congregations. The program provides an invitation to be actively involved in the service, but on a deeper level it is an invitation into the ministry of crafting and creating worship. The ancient roots of the word worship mean to shape things of worth. I believe that is what those who become worship associates are invited to do. To help in shaping things of worth. The program is of great value to the ministers and we're told it has been transformative for many of the worship associates. It's one of the many ways we make shared ministry a reality here at Unity Church.

— *Janne Eller-Isaacs*

The Wheel of Life

In Memoriam —

Daphne Jean Berdahl

June 14, 1964 —
October 5, 2007

In Celebration —

Samuel Wolcott Peterson

Owen Stanford Peterson

born October 17, 2007
twin sons of
Jessica and Guy Peterson

In Remembrance —

David Kjerland

brother of Linda Kjerland

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION

Sunday services are held at 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 4:30 p.m. except where noted. Worship leaders are assisted on Sundays by Worship Associates and Sunday Welcome Teams. Sermon podcasts and archives are available on line at www.unityunitarian.org

November Worship Calendar

November 4: "Identity and Violence" — Rob Eller-Isaacs

To miniaturize another human being is a violent act. When we make assumptions about others on the basis of some singular aspect of their identity we diminish and marginalize them. Rob and Worship Associate Mary Baremore will wrestle with this all-too-human tendency. The services will include a celebration of Unity becoming an official "Welcoming Congregation."

We begin a new series of services on the theme of "engaged partnership." Unity already maintains three international partnerships, with Mano-a-Mano in Bolivia, with the village of N'cheynacheyna in Malawi and with our sister church in Homoródszentpeter in Transylvania. We celebrate our neighbors all around the world and ask ourselves how we can keep these relationships creative and engaged.

November 11: "New Partnerships for Freedom" — Vivek Pandit

We welcome Vivek Pandit, freedom fighter, community organizer and the visionary founder of Vidhayak Sansad, an organization at work freeing slaves in India. Vivek, who is in Saint Paul to explore partnership possibilities with Unity Church, asks us to contemplate the following question. How can liberal religion help newly liberated people to achieve inner freedom? Breaking physical chains is easy when compared to confronting the oppression of self-doubt.

November 18: "Deep Thanksgiving" — Rob Eller-Isaacs and Janne Eller-Isaacs

The story of the first Thanksgiving may well be mostly myth. We know how quickly gratitude gave way to conquest. But seeds of possibility and hope were planted with the corn when spring finally arrived after that terrible first winter. For years now we've been planting seeds of hope in Transylvania. We've exchanged visits, struggled for mutual respect and gained far more than we could ever have imagined as genuine, lasting friendships have taken root. Rob and Janne will be joined by Worship Associate, Sharon Hogenson in a service for the entire church family. This is Partner Church Sunday. Please see page four for more information.

November 25: "Joy in Integrity" — Matt Alspaugh

In a quest for efficiency, order and even survival, we compartmentalize our lives, separating work from family, from church, from leisure. We know that some boundaries are necessary, but when do we go too far? What is the spiritual cost to such dis-integration? Hallman Intern Matt Alspaugh and Worship Associate Neely Crane-Smith will explore finding a joyful middle ground.

Offering Recipients

At its October meeting the Generosity Ministry Team decided to establish relief collections when local and state emergencies occur. One hundred percent of the money collected in these emergency collections will go directly to targeted disaster relief. Two Sunday plates with a combined total of \$3,291.08 have been given to MN Helps for flood relief in southeastern Minnesota. The November plate recipients are:

November 4:

Guadalupe Alternative Programs

Guadalupe Alternative Programs provides a compassionate, respectful and nurturing educational environment that helps young people overcome the barriers of poverty, racism and self-destructive behavior. Founded by Sister M. Giovanni Gourhan in 1967, Guadalupe Alternative Programs works with students who are not well-served by mainstream educational institutions. The school encompasses both alternative junior and senior high schools, adult and bilingual education and youth employment and job training services.

November 11: Alternatives to Violence

The Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) is a series of experiential workshops in non-violent conflict resolution. AVP is offered locally, nationally and internationally. AVP in Minnesota serves prison, community, and school populations. AVP is distinguished by its all-volunteer facilitation and participation. Unity Church member Donna Gustafson is a long-term AVP facilitator.

November 18: Partner Church Program

The Partner Church program fosters relationships between UU churches in the U.S. and Romania.

November 25: Open Arms of MN

Open Arms delivers healthy meals for individuals and their children living with HIV/AIDS, MS, ALS and breast cancer. Open Arms serves over 350 individuals daily (75% of clients live on less than \$10,000 yearly.) Open Arms also maintains a partnership with an HIV/AIDS center in South Africa.

Welcoming Congregation Celebration!

Join us on November 4, at all three of our services, as we celebrate Unity Church officially becoming a Welcoming Congregation!



PARTNER CHURCH NEWS / PANCAKE BREAKFASTS

Partner Church Sunday

November 18, 2007

Along with many other UU congregations around the United States, Unity Church has a partner church in Transylvania, a region of Romania. At the end of the Communist era in Romania, members of the UUA realized that we could and should reach out to fellow Unitarians who have been an oppressed minority in that country. Beginning in the mid-16th century, Unitarianism took root in Transylvania. In 1568, King John Sigismund, the only Unitarian king, established religious tolerance for the first time in Europe.

Our partner in Transylvania is the village of Homoródszentpeter. Nearly every year since 2001, members of our congregation have traveled to the village, and in 2002, 2004, and 2006, Unity hosted visits by villagers and the minister, Kinga, and her husband.

Partner Church Sunday is a time to acknowledge and learn from this important international outreach ministry.

Save the Date!

Dinner in the Court of John Sigismund*

An Evening of History... Romance... Music... Dance

January 19, 2008 • 6:30 p.m.

Unity Church—Unitarian

\$35 per person. Tickets go on sale November 18, Partner Church Sunday. Enter the Raffle to win two free tickets!! Proceeds will support our Partner Church in Transylvania.

*Transylvania, now part of Romania, was an independent country from 1543 to 1691. In 1561, John Sigismund became its king, the first and only Unitarian king in history. Frail, artistic, an accomplished linguist and superior monarch, he issued the Act of Religious Toleration and Freedom of Conscience in 1568.



Monthly Pancake Breakfasts!

Did you miss the wonderful pancake breakfast at church on October 13, hosted by the choir? Don't worry, we'll be having monthly pancake breakfasts for the rest of the year!

Our next pancake breakfast is Saturday, November 3, from 8:30 until 10:00 a.m. and will be hosted by Interweave. Interweave is the bisexual, gay, lesbian, transgender, questioning and allies concern group at Unity Church. Can't make it? Pancake breakfasts are scheduled for the following Saturdays from 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Mark your calendar:

December 8
January 12
February 9
March 1
April 12
May 10
June 14



Are you, or a church group you're a part of interested in serving pancakes and hosting a breakfast? Please contact Justin Schroeder at the Church Office.

commUNITY

commUNITY is the church newsletter of Unity Church—Unitarian. It is published monthly, except the month of July. Deadlines are the 14th of each month. Subscriptions are free to those who make pledges to Unity Church and are available to others for \$30/year.

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FROM OUR INTERNS

Practice

by Matt Alspaugh, Hallman Ministerial Intern



As I write this, I'm recalling what a rich week this was at Unity Church, with stimulating presentations on vastly different topics by Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt and Ruth Hayden. Rev. McNatt, who served as a chaplain after the World Trade Center attack, spoke about Trauma Response Ministry, and during that talk she emphasized the need for preparation and practice. She described an experience during her ministerial internship (and I take note), when her minister had the congregation practice fire drills. Part of practicing for a fire emergency was unlearning natural responses, such as running downstairs to the classrooms to escort your own children to safety, and learning new responses, like meeting your kids at a safe assembly point outside. Rev. McNatt learned the value of this practice when a fire occurred during a Sunday service that she was leading, and the church emptied safely.

Ruth Hayden, the nationally known financial consultant and educator spoke to us about articulating your values so that those values can drive goals, which can then drive your money habits. Ms. Hayden's workbook (still available in the Bookstall) expands these concepts to help develop sound money practices, such as separating wants from needs, and sticking to a budget and saving plan. With practice, you unlearn childhood ideas about money, and replace that learning with something that supports your values. This new learning must be continuously practiced, because in times of stress it is easy to slip back to the old habits.

Just as in preparing for a fire emergency, or in changing money habits, spiritual practice can be a method of unlearning old beliefs and habits, and replacing them with new and more workable ones. This takes effort and time; it requires more than simply saying, "I don't believe that anymore, I now believe this".

When my stepmother died, and a close relative talked of her having "gone to heaven with the angels." I was surprised to hear such language from a non-churchgoing humanist agnostic. Only later did I begin to understand her comments were not unusual. In a time of loss and grief, people often reach back to their childhood religious training, good or bad, for a way to cope. If my relative had taken time to construct a new religious belief system, she might have had an easier time coping with her loss. The unlearning and new learning provided by spiritual practice can be very helpful in such situations.

In our families and in the church community, spiritual practices can give us strength during times of crisis. A practice of prayer or meditation can help us be calmer and more compassionate as we deal with difficult people at work or school. In small groups at church we often agree on behavioral covenants, concerning things like how we speak to each other and group confidentiality. We might light a chalice or have a brief reading before getting into the heat of a discussion. These little practices can help turn disagreements and conflicts into understanding and creative ideas. Over time, our practice molds the habits of our hearts, so that in the end we decide without choosing and act without doing, moving with the effortless grace of the spirit.

Samhain

by Jacqueline Duhart, Community Ministerial Intern



Samhain is the word for November in the Gaelic languages. In Gaelic culture, The Festival of Samhain is a celebration of the end of harvest season and is widely recognized as the Celtic New Year.

In Celtic folklore, the Samhain celebration has survived not only as a harvest festival but also as a festival that recognizes and celebrates the lives of loved ones who have died. This celebration has been adapted by various cultures, religions and spiritual paths and is known by many names, Late Harvest, Blood Harvest, Ancestor Night, Feast of the Dead, and Nos Galen Gaeoff to name a few.

In my family of origin, November marked the beginning of my most favorite time in the wheel of the year. On the first of November, without fail, my beloved grandmother would place in the center of the kitchen table the most spectacular cornucopia. As a child I had no way of knowing that the cornucopia, or Horn of Plenty, was a symbol of abundance dating back to the 5th century BC, born from a story in Greek Mythology. But every November, for all of my childhood this oddly shaped basket magically appeared and ritualized the unfolding of my family's simple lives and simple living. Simple lives, but juicy in love and rituals and memories. This horn shaped brown basket was sweetly adorned with recycled ribbons and it overflowed with odd shaped nuts, fruits, squashes and various hard candies. Its constant presence in our overcrowded kitchen added elegant grace to our family meals, dignified my struggles with math homework, framed the passionate arguments between my grandparents and honored the tender stories that my grandmother told about family members I never had the privilege of meeting in person.

As I guardedly share this memory I am reminded that it is my grandmother's storytelling that preserves my family's tradition of the Festival of Samhain in my aging body. Journeying to that place in me where the HOLY always hangs out I can resurrect smells of sweet potato pies, tangy mustard greens and oven hot buttermilk cornbread, sautéed with dim recollections of my Grandpa Charlie and my Aunt Mattie, my cousin Jeanette, Uncle Rooster and yes, my very regal Aunt Magnolia. All of this and oh so much more spills out of the catacombs of my childhood soul during the month of November. All I have to do is imagine a simple, funny shaped brown basket, adorned with recycled ribbon.

My maternal grandmother's name is Maggie. I miss her deeply. She died three years ago during the first week of my first year in seminary. That day will never be forgotten and I am not sure that I have quite forgiven her for leaving me. Come November first I will honor the turning of the year, all of my ancestors and their rich legacy, by gently placing a cornucopia at the center of my kitchen table, a luscious symbol of abundance. At this writing I am not sure what other features my cornucopia will have. I can tell you that I am grateful for this opportunity to carry on my grandmother's art of storytelling...I am thankful that as in life she continues to feed my hungry soul.

ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Your Money Life - Workshop Series

In *Your Money Life: The "Make-It-Work" Workbook*, financial consultant, Ruth Hayden, makes the sometimes murky money world accessible. We are offering workshops, facilitated by Unity Church members and staff, using Hayden's workbook as a guide. If you would like to attend, sign up and purchase your workbook (\$10 each) at the Pledge Table in the Parish Hall following each service or contact the church office. The three-part series is offered:

Saturdays, November 3, 10 and 17 • 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Awareness Melts Walls

from Tom Esch, Unity Church Member

- Do you enjoy participating in small groups?
- Would you like to grow your inner awareness?
- Do you believe that your individual troubles and conflicts are seldom "just" yours?
- Do you sometimes feel you get stuck in a certain perspective or mood?

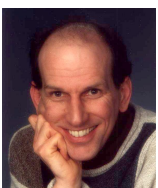
If you answered yes to at least two of these questions you may enjoy participating in facilitated groups with Tom Esch.

What will we be doing?

We will be practicing "group process," in the Process Work model, with a selected topic or with issues and concerns the group has when we gather. The aim of the practice is to build community through deep democracy and to deepen awareness both individual and communal, by a structured and organic process of unfolding our thoughts and feelings related to the given topic.

Process work is based in Jungian psychology, Taoism and quantum physics. It is an effective method for depolarizing a polarized situation. It is also a way to become more flexible with our own perception of ourselves, others and the world. Group process is great training for teachers, facilitators, salespeople, therapists, healers, organizers, and activists.

Sessions will be held: November 17, 2:00-5:00 p.m. and December 1, 2:00-5:00 p.m. Please contact Tom Esch at 612-724-3930 or awarenessmeltswalls@msn.com for more information.



Tom Esch is a former priest, presently disguised as a telemarketer, selling diamond blades to construction workers. He is also a facilitator of personal and organizational change. Tom has been a student of Process Work for nine years and is presently seeking a master's in "Conflict Facilitation and Organizational Change," based at the Process Work Institute in Portland, OR.

Have Yourself a UU Christmas!

Save the Date! Saturday, December 8

Many of us are ambivalent about Christmas. We do family Christmas rituals and "Christmas lite" religious rituals. We feel pulled into hyper-consumption, over-indulgent parenting, and frenetic living during the Holidays. Some of us cope by becoming Christmas cynics, while others go with the flow but wonder if there could be more. What would it take for UU families to reclaim the Christmas season in a world starved for spiritual depth, balanced living, and human connection? Could we really make Christmas our own? Come and share your struggles and your best wisdom. The Christmas Reclamation Project starts on December 8!



William J. Doherty is an educator, researcher, therapist, speaker, author, consultant, and community organizer. He is Professor and Director of the Marriage and Family Therapy Program in the Department of Family Social Science, College of Education and Human Development, at the University of Minnesota, where he is also an adjunct Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health.

Into and out of the Quagmire: A Vietnam Veteran's Story

Veterans Day • Sunday, November 11 • 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Arthur Foote Room, Unity Church

Light Lunch Provided

Have you ever wondered why a nineteen-year-old kid who spent his four high school years living in a Catholic seminary while preparing for the priesthood and then two years at Kent State University studying architecture would then join the Marines and turn down options to avoid combat in Vietnam? Have you ever wondered what the poison of war does to such an individual when he gets home? Have you ever considered what it feels like to come home from war and have someone ask you if you killed children, especially considering if the honest answer—the one you can't face—is "yes?" Can you imagine how a veteran's Post Traumatic Stress Disorder affects the spouse and family or how our current conflicts affect all veterans no matter where and when they served? Have you thought about what you should tell children about military service and war, or about peaceful alternatives?



*Our speaker, long-time Unity member, Michael Orange, has lived these questions and many more. His Veterans Day presentation will shed light on the plight of the common soldier, offering his own experiences as an example. His message is universal and also applies to the men and women serving in our current conflicts and their families. Michael is the author of *Fire in the Hole: A Mortarman in Vietnam* (Writers Club Press).*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY PROGRAM

Donations for Clients of the Center for Victims of Torture

The Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) Ministry Team will be collecting the following items through the end of November. Please bring items to Pat Haff, at the church office.

- Personal hygiene products
- Basic food items
- Soap
- One pound bags of rice
- Shampoo
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Deodorant
- Cans of sardines & tuna
- Laundry detergent – small boxes
- Other portable food
- Lotion
- Toothpaste & toothbrushes
- Razors & shaving cream
- Face towels & washcloths

These items are given regularly to CVT clients who have recently arrived in Minnesota from places like Burma, Somalia, and Iraq. Many CVT clients live in temporary housing and are in need of these basic items. Contact Jen Vanek at 612-722-4190 or jenifer.vanek@gmail.com if you have any questions.

What is CVT? Founded in 1985, the Center for Victims of Torture exists to heal the wounds of government-sponsored torture on individuals, their families and their communities, and to stop its practice.

As many as 30,000 torture survivors are living in the state of Minnesota. These individuals were brutalized by repressive regimes abroad because of what they believed, what they said or did, or what they represented. CVT has pioneered a comprehensive assessment and care program that is unique in this country and is implemented both here and abroad. In recent years, CVT has expanded its services to include research, training and public policy initiatives in order to develop strategies for preventing and abolishing torture worldwide.



November 2007 Evergreen Foodshelf Items

November Evergreen Foodshelf items are canned tuna or meat, Hamburger Helper, rice, and dried beans. Remember that these items are only suggestions and any non-perishable item can be donated any month. Donations may be left at the barrels at the Holly and Portland Avenue entrances at any time.

The Formation of a Racial Justice Community Outreach Ministry Team

An information meeting to form a racial justice community outreach ministry team will take place on Sunday, November 18, at 10:00 a.m. in the Gannett Room. All are invited. For more information, contact Pat Haff or Matt Alspaugh at the Church Office.

Green: The New Red, White, and Blue

Tuesday, November 27 • 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

View an important video essay by journalist Thomas Friedman of *The New York Times* about our choices in the age of climate change, *Green: The New Red, White, and Blue*. Getting Americans to focus on greater energy efficiency and conservation, says Friedman, is not only the right thing to do—it is also a national security imperative, the most tough-minded, geostrategic, pro-growth, and patriotic thing we can do. Join Unity's Green Sanctuary Team to view this film and discuss Friedman's conclusions.

Sustainable Agriculture Ministry Team Kick-Off Meeting

Sunday, November 11 • 10:00 a.m.

Each time we eat a meal we are voting for the kind of world we want. A commitment to living according to principles that support sustainability can provide us both physical and spiritual nourishment. The Sustainable Agriculture Community Outreach Team supports our congregation and our community partners in creating opportunities for making sustainable choices. Everyone is welcome, please join us!



FROM THE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY TEAM

November Whole Farm Orders

Buy meat, cheese, produce and much more from local, sustainable farms and pick it up right at Unity Church from Whole Farm Cooperative. For this month's pickup, place an order with Whole Farm at wholefarmcoop.com or 320-732-3023 by Friday, November 16.

Orders will be delivered to Unity Church on Wednesday, November 21. Invoices are enclosed with your order. Pay by sending a check for the invoice amount directly to Whole Farm.

SAMUEL MORGAN COMMUNITY FORUM

Vivek Pandit: Anti-Slavery Activism in India

Vivek Pandit will be the featured speaker at a Samuel Morgan Forum on Saturday, November 10, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Unity Church. Vivek and his wife, Vidyullata Pandit, were awarded the international Anti-Slavery Award in 1999 for their outstanding contribution to securing freedom for over 1,500 bonded laborers in parts of Maharashtra State, India. For over 25 years, the two organizations they founded—one a non-governmental organization, Vidhayak Sansad, and the other Shramajeevi Sanghatana, a struggle union, have worked together to not only free bonded laborers but have initiated rehabilitation efforts and union representation to ensure that not one of them has slipped back into slavery. Even though the Pandits and their supporters are committed to a nonviolent struggle, they often went to jail and were repeatedly threatened and physically beaten for challenging the powerful upper caste landowners. Much of their organizing work has been in mass protests of state and national governments, holding them accountable to the constitution of India.

The Shramajeevi Sanghatana has grown to become the organized voice of the marginalized and oppressed in more than five hundred rural villages with a membership of more than fifteen thousand laborers. One of the other slavery-like practices the organization has completely eradicated is the auctioning of women in some communities. It has also organized around the payment of statutory minimum and equal wages for men and women. Together the two organizations have developed a model primary school for migrant child laborers at brick kiln sites (now serving thousands and thousands of children) and fought for the right to universal primary education for all children. Vidhayak Sansad has been an innovator in local leadership development with the use of participatory learning techniques, appropriate for people of all educational backgrounds and literacy levels. By universalizing the concepts of exploitation and unity, these activist organizations have built an understanding of and solidarity with other oppressed people in the world including African Americans and the struggle against apartheid in South Africa.

Their most recent focus has been the growth, development and marketing of Jatropha, a crop that grows wildly in the Indian countryside and may become a key source of future bio-energy.

Join us for this informative and interactive Saturday morning forum, where participants will have the opportunity to engage in small group discussions related to selected topics from Vivek Pandit's presentation. Light refreshments will be served.

Scheduled Programming with Vivek Pandit

All events are free and open to the public.

Forum: *Undoing Bonded Labor in India*

Wednesday, November 7, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Freeman Commons at the Humphrey Institute

A Theological Conversation

Thursday, November 8, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Unity Church—Unitarian

Samuel Morgan Community Forum

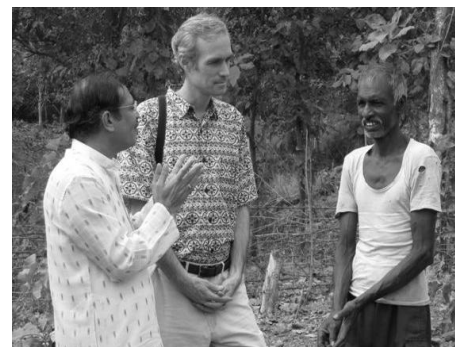
Saturday, November 10, from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Unity Church—Unitarian

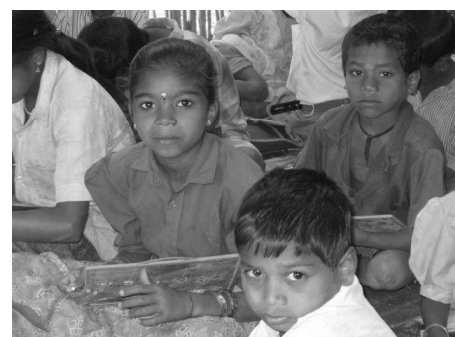
Worship Services: *New Partnership for Freedom*

Sunday, November 11, services at: 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Unity Church—Unitarian



Vivek Pandit and UUSC's Mark McPeak talk with a forest dweller growing jatropha for bio-diesel.



Brick kiln child laborers take time off from school sponsored by Vidhayak Sansad.



I was born into slavery. Now I head a union of 160,000 former slaves!

SUNDAY SOUP SUPPERS / PARISH HALL ART

Why Chili?

from Richard Wolfram, Lingering Ministry Team

People come on Sundays to hear a good sermon.

But as co-founder of the Lingering Ministry Team, I know there is more to offer. I invite those of you who come for the 4:30 service to linger for conversation and reflection after the service. This is a great time to reflect on what others may have said from the pulpit. But is also a perfect time to hear yourself say something that you might never have heard yourself say before. Your sensors are open to all kinds of possibilities. Let me tell you how this started for me.

Almost thirty years ago, as a single parent, dating for the first time in many years, I was working very hard on a relationship that was going nowhere. I was struggling with feelings that I had never had before. In moments of passion, I found myself saying things that I thought were true. In moments of passion my friend tried very hard to believe me.

My friend, Elaine, eventually declared, "You're an extrovert!!!" Being shy and always a quiet, totally introverted kind of guy, I was astonished to hear her say anything of the sort. She went on to declare: "You say things out-loud just to hear what they sound like. You're an extrovert!!!" It was an 'Ah-ha !!' sort of moment for me. I was finally listening to myself. I never knew that before.

A revelation can occur sitting across the table from a total stranger. You may not have anything more in common than a bowl of chili. It's the perfect opportunity to take a chance on saying something seemingly out of place and totally outrageous. Even if you don't get to know the other person across from you very well (and that's not the point), you will get to know a little bit more about yourself (and that is the point).

So come for the sermon, but listen to yourself. And come afterward for the chili, but stay for the conversation. Linger and listen.

PS: Chili is served following the 4:30 service on every second Sunday of the month. It is shared by an anonymous donor for you to enjoy.

Sunday Soup (or chili!) Suppers

Congregants at our 4:30 p.m. worship can look forward to a simple but hearty meal of soup (or chili or stew) and bread offered in the Parish Hall every Sunday following the service. Vegetarian options will be available. Donations of \$2-5 are welcome. If you would like to volunteer to help cook, serve, or clean-up for a Sunday Soup Supper, please contact Justin Schroeder in the church office.

November Art

Catherine Luiken

To describe my photography a friend once said "You listen with your eyes." If one listens and is patient in photography, I believe the human spirit can be photographed. I describe my photography as humanistic and use the medium as a voice. I strive to find movement and emotions in every picture. I hope you will find a sense of peace while looking at my photographs and be moved by the Holy Spirit.

Images of Grace & Gratitude

Lorelee Wederstrom

I have taken photos throughout my life and vividly recall my first camera – a brand new Kodak Brownie Instamatic that my parents proudly placed in my hands as they sent me off to my first week of summer camp. I'm sure if I looked long enough I might even find those early black and whites. I don't think I've ever been able to throw a picture away!

It wasn't until more recent years, however, that I began exploring the possibility of using photography as a form of artistic expression. Perhaps it was my entry into the fifth decade of life when I started asking myself whether I had contributed anything of beauty or value to this world. I think it was then that I started looking at my love of photography a little differently. November's showing of "Images of Grace & Gratitude" at Unity Church is a first step in celebrating this new consideration of myself as an artist.

Image making, for me, begins in a very personal moment during which I quite consciously attempt to capture it. I find that it's never about hanging onto something; but more about first, being so totally aware of a moment that brings me great visual joy or beauty; then deeply absorbing that moment; and, finally, experiencing a childlike yearning to share it with others. My intention in taking this first step as an artist is to do simply that.....to share with others, what I have been so fortunate to see and to experience.

Some photographers talk about learning to "see the light"...quite literally. I think it is important to not only see light but to be able to read how it colors and saturates or subdues a subject. I also like to think of image making as a kind of mirror for my inner world.....most often the quality of energy I put into creating an image, will be reflected in the photo I record.

I love taking photos of all things beautiful and joyful. Much of my work comes from my travels which is when I have the most amount of time to take pictures. Artist notes for each image will be available during the November exhibit as well as a deeper annotation on my development as a fine art photographer.

Lorelee Wederstrom has been an active member of Unity Church-Unitarian since 2004. She sings in both the Unity Choir and Unity Singers. For the past ten years, Lorelee has been Director of Facilities and Capital Planning for the University of Minnesota's Academic Health Center.

MEMBERSHIP



Pathway to Membership at Unity Church-Unitarian

from Justin Schroeder, Membership Coordinator

If you have been worshipping with us for a while and are interested in learning more about who we are and what we believe, you're invited to take our **Welcome to Unity** class. This eighty-minute class is a basic overview of Unitarian Universalist history and ideas and will give you a solid grounding as you seek a deeper involvement with Unity Church.

Welcome to Unity is the prerequisite to **Finding Yourself at Unity** and both are required before you become a member.

Finding Yourself at Unity is offered in two formats: as a full day class and as a three-week series. **Finding Yourself at Unity** deepens the exploration of Unitarian Universalist history, as well as the particular history of Unity Church. Participants have the chance to share and reflect on their own religious journey and the intersection of spiritual growth and social justice. They also meet the ministers and staff of Unity Church and learn about various opportunities for deeper involvement. At the end of the class, participants learn about the benefits, privileges and responsibilities of membership. Some decide they are ready to sign the membership book and join Unity Church, while others continue to worship and attend classes, until they're certain that this is the right place for them.

Technically, membership is as simple as making a financial pledge (as your means allow) and signing the membership book. In reality, it is much more! Membership is a profound statement, a bold declaration. It is an individual proclaiming, "I freely choose this faith community. I believe in the vision and mission of this church and will share my gifts to serve that vision. I am willing to let this faith and these people challenge, change, and shape me – as I challenge, change, and shape them - and together, we move closer to living lives of integrity, service, and joy."

Whether you've been here a month or a year, we welcome you and invite you to deepen your relationship with Unity Church.

Welcome to Unity

Welcome to Unity is offered Wednesdays (dates below) from 7:10 until 8:30 p.m.

November 7
December 5
January 9
February 6
March 5
April 2
May 7

Finding Yourself at Unity

Welcome to Unity is a prerequisite.

Saturday, November 17
9:00 a.m - 4:30 p.m.
Includes a potluck lunch.

Saturday, January 12
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Includes a potluck lunch.

Ingathering of New Members

Ingatherings of New Members are held as part of a regular Sunday service during the formal church year (September through June). People participating in an Ingathering sign the membership book immediately before the service and then are recognized by the congregation during the service. A reception following the Ingathering service provides an opportunity for all congregants to meet and greet the new members and to celebrate their decision to formally join the church.

The next Ingathering of New Members will be held at the 4:30 p.m. service on Sunday, December 2. To be part of this Ingathering, contact Justin Schroeder at the Church Office.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The following people have recently become members of Unity Church. When you see them please be sure to say hello. For more information about joining Unity Church, contact Justin Schroeder, Membership Coordinator, at the Church Office.

Leah and Bill Doherty



Leah and Bill Doherty have been active Unitarian Universalists for 30 years. They live in Roseville and have two grown children and love to travel the world. They are so pleased to join Unity-Unitarian. Leah is a pediatric endocrine nurse specialist who took early retirement from the University of Minnesota three years ago but continues to consult and do training. She has had a jewelry business for the past 11 years, loves to read, craft and play with two beautiful grandchildren. Bill is a professor at the University of Minnesota in the Department of Family Social Science and directs the Families and Democracy Project. He writes and speaks about families and leads community engagement projects in which families organize to help themselves and their communities. Five years ago he founded the Family Chalice project for UU families and hopes to see it flourish at Unity.

Rick Jolley



I live in Shoreview with my wife and fellow Unity member, Jean Olson, and work at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as a hydrogeologist (as does my wife). When I am not working I enjoy listening to music and learning to play jazz guitar but also enjoy studying and reading science and mathematics and taking vacations with Jean. I have been a Unitarian Universalist (or Buddhist) variously since the mid-1980's but am very happy to have found a new spiritual home and community at Unity Church.

Mary and David Kujawski



Although my wife, Mary, and my son, Noah, and I have only been coming here for a short period of time, we feel as if there was an instant connection between us and Unity Church. I am looking forward to being a participating member and am ecstatic to have found such a welcoming, open and loving spiritual community. My main personal interest includes all things "computers."

Beyond that, I enjoy woodworking, watching football, photography and recapturing my youth by playing video games late into the night.

I (Mary) am thrilled to call Unity my new church home! My husband Dave and I live in Woodbury with our son Noah, our golden retriever Libby, and our two cats Charlie and Sophie. I have a bachelor's degree in Secondary English Education and prior to becoming a stay-at-home mom taught at Sylvan Learning Center and for a number of school districts. I now enjoy spending my days with Noah and working hard as "chief household manager." Travel is a huge passion and I also love anything that requires artistic creativity, such as painting, writing poetry and pottery.

Roxane and Dan Lehmann



Roxane is trained as a cognitive psychologist. She recently founded *reframe, inc.*: a practice through which she partners with parents of teens, helping parents awaken their teens' potential and create momentum in the right direction. Dan has worked in agribusiness for over twenty-five years, focusing in planning, finance, info systems, and supply chain. Roxane and Dan have two children: a twenty-one-year-old daughter, Ashton, who is currently a junior at Middlebury College in Vermont and a son, Dent, who would have been twenty-five-years-old.

WELLSPRING WEDNESDAYS

Each week, the entire church community is welcome to congregate on Wednesday evenings for a 'church night' gathering. This is a time for you to engage yourself and your family in this religious community and a time to cultivate the values we believe in. The schedule for Wednesday evenings and the calendar for November events are below. For more information on any of the offerings or to sign up for classes or dinner stop by the Wellspring Wednesday table in the Parish Hall, visit www.unityunitarian.org/WellspringWednesdays or contact the Church Office.

Schedule Every Wednesday:

- 6:00 p.m. • Dinner
- 6:45 p.m. • Worship
- 7:10 p.m. • Classes/Lectures/Workshops

November Wellspring Wednesday Calendar:

November 7

Macaroni and Cheese • Roasted Sweet Potatoes • Hard Rolls with Honey Butter • White Cake and Lemon Curd

Circle Sing Along — Michael Keyes and Don Brunnquell

Welcome to Unity: A Class for Newcomers — Justin Schroeder

Women's Journaling Circle — Rebecca Pournoor

Dharma Talk — Rob Eller-Isaacs

Kundalini Yoga* — Joyce Paxton

Parents of Teens Fellowship Group

November 14

Chicken Garbanzo Bean Stew (or vegetarian) • Apple Fennel Salad • Breadsticks • Iced Molasses Cookies

Women's Journaling Circle — Rebecca Pournoor

The Grinch Goes Green — Green Sanctuary Ministry Team

Kundalini Yoga* — Joyce Paxton

Unity Men

November 28

Fish Chowder or Corn Chowder • Green Salad with Manchego Cheese and Olives • Cornbread with Honey Butter • Chocolate Cake

Center for Victims of Torture Social Justice Night

U-knitarians: Knitting and Crocheting

Mother/Daughter Book Club (Grades 6-8)

Please note! There is no Wellspring Wednesday scheduled for November 21.

Circle Sing Along

November 7

A special addition to Wellspring Wednesday! You choose the song from *Rise Up Singing* and Michael Keyes and Don Brunnquell will play the guitar. This was a big hit at Wellspring Wednesday last year. Please join us!

Dharma Talk

Rob Eller-Isaacs

November 7 and December 5

Do you have questions about the dimensions of spiritual maturity? Would you like an opportunity to discuss your own spiritual life? Your struggles? Your aspirations? Teachers in the Buddhist tradition offer reflections on the body of the precepts. They call them Dharma talks. In some ways they can be understood as a shared opportunity for spiritual direction. Rob Eller-Isaacs offers his reflections on theology and practice in an interactive, vibrant conversation to which you are invited.

The Grinch Goes Green

Green Sanctuary Ministry Team

November 14 and December 5

With the winter holiday season approaching, consider this two-part session that centers around gift-giving. Why do you give? What meaning do you place on the "stuff" you receive? What gifts do you remember receiving—and giving? Participate in a discussion about gifts that bring you peace and happiness. The focus is on green giving, with gifts that truly impact the recipient without overtaxing the Earth.

Center for Victims of Torture Intergenerational Social Justice Night

The CVT Ministry Team

November 28

Please join the Unity Church CVT Ministry and Unity's Young Adult Group for an evening of work in support of the Center for Victims of Torture. At this intergenerational event, you'll have an opportunity to learn about the work that CVT does, create a small gift for a CVT client, and support CVT's advocacy work. To learn more about the Center for Victims of Torture, please visit their website at www.cvt.org.

Save the Date and Sign Up Early!

Drop and Shop

December 12

Special night just for children - Sign up by December 9

Parents can enjoy a couple of hours to shop, have a quiet dinner or maybe a walk in the winter air. Drop children off at 6:00 p.m. for pizza, projects, and play, with pickup time by 8:30 p.m. Parents may stay for dinner, but are not required to. Donations to cover the cost of pizza are gratefully accepted. Please contact Christy Randall in the Church Office to sign up.

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Spirit Play Waiting List and Attendance Policies



from Kerri Meyer, Director of Religious Education

Our Spirit Play classes at 9:00 and 11:00 are filled to capacity and are currently closed to new enrollment. This presents a challenge to a growing church, especially considering that the majority of visiting families seeking a church home are motivated by a desire to find quality religious education for their preschool child. In response to this difficult reality, the Religious Education department will be creating a waiting list for Spirit Play classes at both morning services. In January, the R.E. staff will review families' attendance. Families with low, irregular attendance patterns will be contacted about their interest in preserving their child's spot in the Spirit Play classroom. If parents and staff determine that their child's attendance will continue to be infrequent, that registration spot may be given to a new family who is interested in deepening their child's connection to the church.

Registration caps are based on Safe Church policies, which prescribe safe ratios of children to adults and safe capacity limits for each physical classroom space. While attendance may vary, Safe Church policies are based on the actual enrollment (and therefore maximum possible attendance on a given Sunday) in a class. All families should note that the 4:30 service offers the same Spirit Play program as the morning services and has ample space for additional children aged three years through kindergarten. Please contact Kerri Meyer at the church office for more information about this potential solution to our current inability to safely welcome new families with young children into our preschool classrooms.

Guest at Your Table

Beginning Sunday, November 11, Guest at Your Table boxes will be made available to Unity adults and children. These donation boxes allow families to participate in the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's (UUSC) program to raise funds to support the Service Committee's work for social and environmental justice in the world. Literature about the UUSC and suggestions for incorporating the *Guest at Your Table* program into your family's holidays will also be available. Boxes should be returned to the church on January 6, 2008.

Family Sunday

Sunday, November 18 is a Family Sunday in celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday. Children of preschool through high school ages are encouraged to attend worship together with their family. A special story for all ages and an activity packet will help children engage in the service.

No R.E. Thanksgiving Weekend

There will be no R.E. classes on Sunday, November 25. Childcare will be available for infants and toddlers in the church nursery.

Unity Night Out

Saturday, November 10 • 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

To help foster friendships among Unity Church adults, the Ministry with Children and Youth department is sponsoring a series of monthly "nights out" by providing two hours of free childcare to parents. Our only stipulation is that adults take advantage of this opportunity to go to dinner, coffee, or an event with other adults from Unity Church.

Our next Unity Night Out will take place on Saturday, November 10. Unity Church's staff and youth nursery workers will care for children ages 6 months to 12 years here at church from 6:00 until 8:30 p.m. Children should eat dinner before arriving, a light snack will be provided. Pre-Registration is required by Sunday, November 4. Maximum capacity is 25 children so register early. Contact Christy at the Church Office to make a reservation or for more information.

Celebration of New Lives

Families from Unity Church celebrating the arrival of a new baby into their lives are invited to participate in the December 2 Celebration of New Lives at the 11:00 a.m. service.

Interested families should contact Christy at the Church Office to register for this special event marking Unity's commitment to raise each new child as a beloved part of our spiritual community. The deadline to sign up is Sunday, November 25.

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, November 4:

New Workshop Rotation cycle begins: On Being Human

Saturday November 10:

Unity Night Out

Sunday, November 11:

Guest at Your Table begins

Sunday November 18

Family Sunday, Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 25

No R.E., childcare available for kids under 5

Sunday, December 2

Celebration of New Lives - 11:00 service
HS Cookie and Wreath sales begin

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Music Notes

from Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministries

".....be it laughter or tears, feverish passion or religious ecstasy, nothing, in the category of human feelings, is a stranger to music...." — Paul Dukas (composer)



"Emotion is specific, individual, and conscious; music goes deeper than this, to the energies which animate our psychic life, and out of these creates a pattern which has an existence, laws, and human significance of its own. It reproduces for us the most intimate essence, the tempo and the energy of our spiritual being; our tranquility and our restlessness, our animation and our discouragement, our vitality and our weakness – all, in fact, of the fine shades of dynamic variation of our inner life." — Roger Sessions (composer)

"Music is a continual state of becoming." — Aaron Copland (composer)

We have the opportunity on December 8 to experience the emergence of a new dramatic musical work here in our own sanctuary, created by Ruth MacKenzie, Unity member, and performed by musicians all dear to our community and part of our community. Please do not miss what promises to be an extraordinary evening in the musical life of Unity Church.



What Does it Mean to Create?

from Ruth MacKenzie, Theotokos, Creator and Unity Church Member

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good" — Genesis 1:3 NRSV

In the opening narrative of the Judeo-Christian creation story, God is depicted as pure creator. From the chaos of the divine imagination, God brings forth creation, with a word. What does it mean to create with a word? As a white, middle class American, steeped in literary traditions and bombarded everyday with words and the images they conger, I understand "word" to mean a myriad of things: beautiful, riveting, boring, dangerous. This "word" evokes but it cannot create.

Yet, there is another potent and true understanding of "word," one that indeed creates. This is the performative word, a word that by its utterance performs the act. For example, "I promise" is not only a statement but also the act of promising. Promise is created. This is how God creates the world, from the performative act of saying it into being.

I have been an artist my entire working career. I sing songs. I create theatrical works. I compose. Creation has been my life's work. But it is only recently in my studies at United Theological Seminary that I have come to understand this work as profoundly participating in the work of the Holy. When I compose or write narrative and then sing it into being, I am creating worlds. God's word creation is the birthplace of my creation in words and song. When I work with the junior high students in the Youth Ensemble, I am teaching more than music. I am teaching about the relationship between the act of creation and it's relationship to the imago dei, the divine spark housed in the human soul. When we create; be it a twelve bar blues, a friendship, an organization, or a garden, we remember our relationship to the divine: the divine within us and the divine that is beyond us.

Come Be Part of the Carmina Singers!

Carmina Singers is a special project group of musicians open to all members and friends of Unity Church. Members have some choral experience ranging from high school choirs to current membership in such groups as Minnesota Chorale, Mila and Vocal Essence. They meet together for three rehearsals to both discover their choral identity and to learn repertoire very quickly. A great way to satisfy the urge to sing in schedules that do not allow regular commitment! This season we are offering an opportunity for an *SSAA Women's Ensemble*, octet, quartet...who knows? That depends on you. Please contact Ruth Palmer at the Church Office with questions.

Rehearsals are Monday, November 5, 12 and 26 from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Carmina Singers will sing on Sunday, December 9 and 16 at the 4:30 p.m. service.

Theotokos

An Advent concert celebrating the story of Mary, Mother of God

December 8 • 7:30 p.m.
Unity Church

Created by Ruth MacKenzie
Performed by Ruth MacKenzie, Mila Vocal Ensemble and Unity Singers Choir

In the 4th century the Virgin Mary was lifted up as Theotokos, the Mother of God. In the Christian faith story, she represents God's abiding presence in creation, and creation itself as God bearing.

Using Christmas music from around the world, Theotokos retells the story of the Nativity as a renewal of creation: connecting theology, ecology and our everyday lives. Whether a beautiful choral setting of poet Henry David Thoreau's "The Virgin," a plaintive Georgian folk melody dating back 1000 years, or a soaring choral work of the Annunciation by Ruth MacKenzie, Theotokos poses questions of contemporary relevance. How might each of us be God bearers? How might we emulate the story of Mary and be mother to creation?

FELLOWSHIP

Sixth Annual Thanksgiving Potluck

It has been several years since our family hosted the first Unity Church Thanksgiving Potluck, and we have continued the tradition because we always have such interesting conversations and food at these dinners! Board games and musical instruments emerge, and the Foosball table gets a workout. Guests join us for a walk before dessert, or sit by the fire, though one year we went to a movie afterwards! It has become a tradition our family looks forward to, and we invite you to join with us as we celebrate Thanksgiving.

If you wish to join us as a guest or to host a dinner with your own Unity Church guests, sign up at the table in the Parish Hall after services on November 11 or 18, or contact Anna Newton at 651-483-2986. Final meal arrangements will be announced on the evening of the November 19.

Elder Group Gathering *What are You Grateful For?*

Thursday, November 8 • 1:00 p.m.

The mystic Meister Eckhart wrote, "If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, 'thank you,' that would suffice." We'll share those things in our lives for which we are grateful, the nature of gratitude in our lives, and methods we can use to be intentional about cultivating gratitude.

Contact Matt Alspaugh at the Church Office for more information or to RSVP.

Are You Interested in a Unity Church Book Club?

Whether its Margaret Atwood, Khaled Hosseini, Elizabeth Gilbert, Octavia Butler, Don DeLillo, Gabriel García Márquez, John Dominic Crossan, Forrest Church (and his new book, *So Help Me God: The Founding Fathers and the First Great Battle Over Church and State*) or someone else, many of us have a favorite book or author. Gathering to discuss these books can enhance our enjoyment and understanding of them and connect us to one another and our faith.

Therefore, I would like to gather with all who are interested in creating a Unity Book Club. We'll meet sometime in November! Please contact Justin Schroeder, Justin@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x 107 if you're interested in participating.

November Fellowship Group Meetings

All are invited to attend the following groups. For more information, contact the Church Office or the persons listed with each group.

U-Knitarians

...for those who enjoy knitting and crocheting
Fourth Wednesday of each month at Wellspring Wednesdays
Contact: Justin Schroeder at the Church Office

Men's Retirement Group

Monday, November 5 and 19 • 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Contact: Phil Morton, 952-934-3578

Unity Divorce/Transitions Group

Meets every Saturday • 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Contact: Justin Schroeder at the Church Office

Unity Singles Group

Watch *This Week at Unity* for scheduled events.
Contact: Justin Schroeder at the Church Office

A New Look at the Bible

First Thursday of each month • 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Joan Lovrien, 651-739-6958

Afterthoughts

Every Sunday following the 9:00 a.m. service
Contact: Paul Gade, 651-771-7528

Unity Young Adult Group

Second and fourth Sundays of each month following the 4:30 p.m. service. Contact: Joseph LaFerla at the Church Office.

Mother-Daughter Book Club (grades 6-8)

Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of every month as part of Wellspring Wednesday.
Contact: Ginny Allen, 651-645-7176

Unitots!

A group for families with kids through preschool age.
Every Friday • 9:30 a.m.
Contact: Bridget Borell, 651-644-5618

Grandparent Unitots!

A group for grandparents and their grandkids.
Every Monday • 9:30 a.m. Contact: Sue Conner, 651-646-6667

Unity Bridge Club

First Friday of each month at members' homes • 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Mary Barrett, 651-225-9708

Evergreen Quilt Group

Second Tuesday of each month • 7:00 p.m.
Fourth Saturday of each month • 10:30 a.m.
Contact: Michelle Hill at 651-264-0884

Unity Church–Unitarian Presents...
The Samuel Morgan Community Forums

Vivek Pandit: Anti-Slavery Activism in India



Vivek Pandit with one of the 1.5 million jetropha plants his organizations planted this past year.

**Saturday, November 10, 2007
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Unity Church–Unitarian**

Free of charge • All are welcome

Vivek Pandit and his wife, Vidyullata Pandit, were awarded the international Anti-Slavery Award in 1999 for their outstanding contribution to securing freedom for over 1,500 bonded laborers in parts of Maharashtra State, India. For over 25 years, this husband and wife team have touched and changed the lives of thousands of poor people in India.

Please join us at this interactive Saturday morning forum. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in small group discussions related to selected topics from Vivek Pandit's presentation. Light refreshments will be served. To read more about the work of Vivek and Vidyullata Pandit, please see page 8.



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