

Sacrifice

Each month worship, religious education, community outreach ministry, covenant groups and Wellspring Wednesday programs will offer opportunities to contemplate, consider, contend with and discuss an intergenerational curriculum based on monthly themes. Our hope is that this approach will bind us more closely together and inform our lives in effective and positive ways. October's theme is...Sacrifice

It's hard to find the right path to approach the theme of sacrifice. My 21st century sensibilities will not allow me to follow Abraham to the mountaintop with his fire and knife in hand as he prepared, on God's command, to sacrifice his own son Isaac.

If I am to gain entry into the biblical concept of sacrifice at all, I must back up in Abraham's story to an earlier moment when God instructed him to pack up, leave his home and kin and travel to an unknown land. For in this command, I begin to understand the mythic nature of Abraham's covenant with his God, a covenant that demanded faith in the larger, often unseen narrative in which the Israelites lived. And it is in the context of this covenant that the Judaic practice of sacrifice was defined.

Biblical sacrifices were understood as a connection between heaven and earth, a human effort to give back a portion of the gift of life granted by God. However, the Latin root of the word reminds us that "sacrifice" is not so much about giving something up as it is about making something sacred (*sacre*: sacred + *facere*: to make). And what gives a sacrifice the power to make something sacred, for the ancient Israelites as well as for many of us today, is its service of a higher purpose or a greater good.

So it is that while the bible includes many instructions on proper burnt sacrifices, a few passages stand out as overriding these with a greater command from God. "For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice," says one such passage, "the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings." This "steadfast love" and "knowledge of God" called the Israelites into relationship with a greater purpose, with a longer arc of meaning. "To love," we are reminded by a more contemporary writer, "is to know the sacrifices which eternity exacts from life."

My paternal grandparents both emigrated from Germany. Each arrived alone, a teenager carrying a single suitcase. Each, like Abraham, left behind family, homeland, first language and the familiarity that now fills my own life as the air that I breathe and the inheritance my grandparents passed on to me. Their story is but one of millions around the world replete with evidence of immigrants' great sacrifices, of all that they relinquish in the pursuit of a future unseen and possibilities unproven. The immigrant story is not just about material loss but, perhaps more significantly, about the larger sacrifice of certainty that occurs when stepping onto the shifting ground of unfamiliar culture, language, customs and rules.

The immigrant's experience, then, illuminates one of the key points of sacrifice, which is the demand that we leave our known world behind. That we willingly accept the uncertainty that comes from stepping forward out of hope and faith – as we do in steadfast love – not mindlessly but with our minds and hearts and lives hitched to something bigger.

This is no small matter for us in the 21st century. As Margaret Mead observed, the accelerating pace of change has essentially made immigrants of us all, new arrivals in a world that is neither the one we were born into, nor even the one we inhabited ten years ago. So if the larger test of a sacrifice is that we are commanded to leave behind our own certainty and the comfort of knowing, there is great relevance for us today. Not just technologically but environmentally and in a global realignment toward equality, we are being asked to step into a larger stream with currents not of our own making. To learn new languages and customs in the journey toward justice. To offer our lives up to new ways and new

rules on the path toward peace.

"Even though you offer your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them," God says in another prophetic passage. "But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

Immigrants one and all, may we learn to sacrifice the sure ground of the injustices we know too well and risk uncertain terrain as we travel toward the new land of beloved community.

— Karen Hering,
Assistant Literary Minister

Worship Theme Resources

FILMS

Rope — A 1948 Arthur Hitchcock film about two young men who try to carry out the perfect murder. Brandon Shaw and Phillip Morgan think themselves above the fray. They believe that ordinary morality does not apply to them. For them, the taking of life is the prerogative of the elite.

Glory (1989) — Robert Gould Shaw was a Unitarian who was born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts in 1837. He died in 1863 in South Carolina after leading the 54th Regiment, one of the first regiment of black soldiers, in a on Fort Wagner on the 18th of July. Matthew Broderick, Denzel Washington and Morgan Freeman star in this truly inspiring dramatization of a powerful moment in American history.

Stranger Than Fiction (2006) — Harold Crick doesn't want to die. Crunching numbers for the IRS and strictly regimenting his personal life has not fulfilled his goals for joy and happiness. When Harold finds himself trapped within the story of his own life, he seeks the most unlikely mode of escape.

JUST WORDS / WHEEL OF LIFE

Just Words

When marriage became legalized in Iowa I was approached by a member of the church about the possibility of going down to Iowa to be legally married. We talked about it after a service one day and decided to reach out to all the same sex couples in the church. As a result, 15 couples gathered for a meeting to discuss the possibility. We talked logistics, we talked legalities, we talked the role of the church building, and we discussed the effort to legalize marriage around the country and in Minnesota in particular. We discussed the legal rights that I enjoy as a married heterosexual that go beyond marriage rights and are so significant and need to be part of the ongoing conversation. We talked about family support and the children's responses to the possibility of traveling to Iowa. From this meeting an idea was hatched. We would travel to Des Moines, Iowa, in late August. We would go to the State House first and then to the First Unitarian Church of Des Moines. Rob and I would officiate at a legally binding ceremony for all the couples who wished to participate. I contacted all the same sex couples again so everyone knew they were invited to participate. In the end, nine couples chose to travel to Iowa with family and friends.

To take a pilgrimage is to travel with intention and purpose. It is travel that often takes one on familiar roads but things are altered, changed. Most of us had traveled to Iowa down 35 numerous times before. But crossing the border into Iowa this time was full of significance and meaning. We cheered. Kerri Meyer made up a song. We sang songs that were related to Iowa. We sang songs of liberation and love. The kids played games and took pictures. Not everyone knew each other, so each couple introduced themselves and their children to the others on the bus. Of the nine couples who traveled to Iowa, seven had had ceremonies of union or non-legally binding weddings previously. The length of their relationships spanned ten to twenty-seven years. There were thirteen children who came to witness their parents getting married.

Most every couple debated about dropping out of the bus trip over the summer. In the book *The Hero's Journey*, Joseph Campbell writes that we often stumble onto a significant journey not consciously knowing that we are moving toward a sacred threshold. The trip to Iowa felt like that. The couples who took the trip had been together a long time. Their commitment to one another was unquestioned. They were in most cases already married. But nonetheless, the trip had a power and resonance that surprised most of us.

The Des Moines congregation offered us unexpected and gracious hospitality. Again to paraphrase Joseph Campbell, on the hero's journey allies emerge often from unexpected places, often disguised as strangers. We arrived at the Des Moines church greeted by strangers. We left feeling that we had been embraced by new friends. We arrived at Unity Church singing "We're Gonna Keep on Moving Forward," and this is true. We will continue to work for equal rights for the GLBTQ community here in Minnesota.

We are standing on the side of love and that felt absolutely true on a Saturday in late August. It is a day I will never forget. I know that our love will win out in the end as the world slowly but unmistakably bends toward justice.

— Janne Eller-Isaacs

The Wheel of Life

In Celebration

Phoebe Joy Jannusch-Legas

born September 13, 2009
daughter of

Sara Jannusch and Matt Legas

Rachel Maia Neely

born August 30, 2009

daughter of Shannon and Bill Neely

Gracie Mae Ye-Jin Lee Sagstetter

born September 12, 2008, in
Bucheon, South Korea and joined
parents John Sagstetter and Helene
Douville and big brothers Will and
Leo on August 6, 2009

Briana Amani Shortridge

born May 11, 2009

daughter of Julie Shortridge and sister
of Liliana Kumani

Celie Song Walters

born September 10, 2007, in China
daughter of Rebecca and Jay Walters

Bennett Steven McCarl

and

Jaeden Andrew McCarl

born August 21, 2009
twin sons of Heather and Mary
McCarl and little brothers of Logan

In Memoriam

John (Jack) Lindsay Hill

December 14, 1909 –
August 30, 2009

A memorial service will be held
Saturday, October 17, at 2:00 p.m.
at Unity Church—Unitarian

Invitation to the Ordination of Justin Schroeder

Justin Schroeder invites you to attend his ordination and installation at First Universalist Church on Sunday, October 25, at 2:00 p.m. Directions are available at www.firstuniv.org.



OCTOBER SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION

Sunday 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 on line at www.unityunitarian.org.

Worship Calendar

October 4

***What's Love Got to Do with It?* — Janne Eller-Isaacs**

What does sacrifice mean in a liberal religious context? As its meaning becomes more elusive in today's post-modern world, is it possible that it is exactly what we need now? Janne and Worship Associate Hal Freshley will explore its meaning and its relevance for today and for us.

October 11

***We're Here to Recruit You* — Rob Eller-Isaacs**

San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk used to begin every speech by saying, "My name is Harvey Milk, and I'm here to recruit you." He was asking us all to come out; all of us, gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgendered, queer and each and every ally, all of us together have a right to live open and authentic lives. Come celebrate National Coming Out Day as Rob and Worship Associate Amy Kujawski bring us a service on sexuality and sacrifice.

October 18

***When the Sacrifice Is Easy: An Athletic/Theological Distillation* — Leon Dunkley**

After scoring a run in the sixth to tie the game, the Indians forged ahead with two runs in the seventh. Luis Valbuena singled to start and moved to second on a sacrifice bunt. With two outs, Brantley sneaked a single through the right side of the infield... The Twins lost that game, 3-1. Cleveland taught us about what sacrifice really means. Sometimes, we think of it as an act of losing, as surrender, as a penalty for a mistake or worse. Sacrifice is also a means of getting the runner home.

October 25 • Celebration Sunday!

***A Hyphen's Progress: A Journey of Identity, Faith, and Belonging* — Rev. Abhi Janamanchi**

We are all sojourners, strangers, on a quest to find deeper meaning and connection in life. We are all strangers but we are all brothers and sisters. The service will explore the soul's work of finding a true religious home. Rob and Janne will welcome our distinguished guest.



Rev. Abhi Janamanchi has been serving the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater, Florida since 1999. He is a native of India and a third-generation member of the Brahmo Samaj, a Unitarian-Hindu reform movement. Abhi is a member of the International Advisory Council to the UUA President. He and his wife, Lalitha, have two sons, Abhimanyu and Yashasvi.

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 4 • 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Unity Church Courtyard

The Blessing of the Animals is an intergenerational service celebrating the many ways animals contribute to our lives, in reading, song, and a special blessing ritual. We invite you to bring a leashed or contained pet (or a picture of an animal or pet) to our courtyard at 1:00 p.m. The Blessing of the Animals service will be led by Rev. Janne Eller Isaacs, Hallman Ministerial Intern Lissa Gundlach and Director of Youth and Campus Ministries Luke Stevens-Royer. Please contact Lissa Gundlach for more information.



*The Congregation of
Unity Church-Unitarian
requests the honor of your presence
at the Ordination of*

Jacqueline Duhart

*into the
Unitarian Universalist Ministry*

*Sunday, November 1, 2009
at 2:00 p.m.*

*The sermon will be offered by
The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNarr
of the Universalist Church of New York.*

Reception to follow in the Parish Hall.

*Clergy and Religious Educators
are invited to robe and process.
Please gather by 1:30 p.m. in the Center Room.*

Turn to page 10 for information about the weekly offering recipients.

PLEDGE DRIVE 2010 / FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Pledge Drive 2010 Conversations, Part 2 Meaningful Moments

from Marianne Davis, Pledge Team with
Chris Crosby-Schmidt and Lia Rivamonte

What are the most meaningful moments in our lives?

I know our photo albums are filled with pictures of places we've been, and we think back with pride on accomplishments we've made. But when I think of what makes up the real stuff of life, I think of shared moments. Whether they are dinner parties with friends, heated arguments about things that matter deeply to me, or spending quality time with one of my nephews, for me meaningful moments are often shared with others, in conversation.

Throughout the month of October, members of Unity Church are meeting with other congregants to have a conversation. It's a conversation about what Unity Church means to you, about church life, and yes, about your pledge for the coming year. It's a conversation about faith and values, and about how we express those values.

At Unity Church we talk a lot about "radical hospitality." It's one of our goals, and I feel passionately that Unity Church has the ability to transform individuals and society. So think of this month's conversation as a meaningful moment, putting us on the path to an even brighter, more exciting future.

2010 Pledge Drive!

This fall we are conducting an "Every Member Canvass" for our 2010 Operating Fund and we need your participation! Over 130 people have agreed to be Canvass Leaders and make visits to the homes of Unity Church members and friends during the month of October. This short (less than an hour) visit will be a chance to share stories about what you love about Unity Church and to make your pledge. If you have not yet signed up for a visit, either at church or via e-mail, a canvass leader will be contacting you to set up a time.

- October 1–31: Canvass visits to every household in the church! (You will receive a call to confirm your visit.)
- Sunday, November 8: Commitment Sunday – close the Pledge Drive
- Saturday, November 21: 139th Annual Meeting of the Congregation where we will be asked to approve the 2010 Budget

About the Flu: Let's Stay Healthy

Whether the outbreak of H1N1 flu becomes widespread or not, there are things each of us can do to help each other stay healthy within our church community. The website Flu.gov, which is managed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, makes the following recommendations (with the writer's revisions being Unity Church applicable):

1. Maintain a healthy lifestyle.
2. Wash your hands frequently.
3. Avoid touching your nose, mouth and eyes.
4. Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, or cough and sneeze into your elbow.
5. Keep frequently touched common surfaces clean.
6. Do not use the church staff's phones, desks, or other work tools and equipment.
7. Don't spread the flu! If you are sick with flu-like illness, stay home. If you are a parent with a sick child, keep that child at home. The Centers for Disease Control recommends that you stay home if you are sick with a flu-like illness until 24 hours after you are free of fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or more).
8. Get vaccinated against both the seasonal flu and the 2009 H1N1 flu, unless you have been advised not to.

Unity staff has been encouraged to follow these 8 steps, as well as our two groups of office tenants. Containers of hand-sanitizer are placed throughout the church or attached to walls. Pump some into your hand and rub it over both hand surfaces until they are dry. The phones for public use—in the kitchen, Copy Room and at the front desk—each have a container of sanitizing wipes close by. Please wipe the phone surfaces and especially the handset before using it.

The H1N1 virus is new. Research shows that it can live on hard surfaces outside its host from 2 to 8 hours. Our Facilities staff is being ever-vigilant in its effort to clean commonly-used surfaces, but there's just so much they can do. To keep our beloved community healthy, it's up to each of us to prevent getting the flu or, if we get it, to not share it with others in the church.

Wear Your Nametag on Sundays!

Our current nametag trays have reached their capacity. We know that many nametags are not being used, or that some people with a nametag have left Unity Church without notifying the Church Office.

To make space in the trays, we will make a notation on the backs of those nametags used on the four Sundays in October 2009. Then after Sunday, October 25, we will remove nametags not being used. To retain your nametag you need to use it at least once on a Sunday in October and then place it in one of the Nametag Return baskets.

If you wear your nametag and later discover that it is missing, please call or e-mail Julie Handberg in the Church Office and a new nametag will be made.

WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY / HALLMAN MINISTERIAL INTERN

Wellspring Wednesday

October will be full of surprises.

Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

The cost for dinner is: \$6/adult, \$4/child ages 5 to 12, \$2/child ages 2 to 4, and \$18/family, and can be paid by cash or check. (Children under the age of 24 months are free.)

Programs at 7:00 p.m.

October 7 — Eleazar Fernandez

Our first guest will be Eleazar Fernandez. Dr. Fernandez is an ordained minister and a theologian at United Theological Seminary here in St. Paul. His project is one of reimagination. We can, through the powers of mind and spirit, recreate ourselves anew, freer from constraining prejudice.

His book, *Reimagining the Human*, is a theological journey through and beyond the collective evils that human systems can create. Join us for a fascinating journey!

Dinner: TBA

October 14 — Sara Ford

Sara Ford is the author of *Apparently I Know Who Satan Is: My Fight Against Maturity and other Irritating Social Norms*. Both humorous and insightful, Sara will be speaking to us about her book.

Dinner: Roasted veggie madness with harissa, couscous, green salad with goat cheese, rotisserie chicken for the kids, apple crisp

October 21 — Movie Night on the Theme of Sacrifice

Stranger Than Fiction (2006)

Harold Crick doesn't want to die. Crunching numbers for the IRS and strictly regimenting his personal life has not fulfilled his goals for joy and happiness. When Harold finds himself trapped within the story of his own life, he seeks the most unlikely mode of escape. He contacts the author and is met with great surprises. Join us as we review section of the film and talk about their meanings in our lives.

Dinner: TBA

October 28 — Keep your eyes peeled for the possibility of a forum on health care!

Dinner: Harry Potter Reprise — Hippogryph legs, Hog Warts, Professor Sprout Salad, Butter Beer, Cauldron Cake Pumpkin Bars

From Lissa Gundlach Hallman Ministerial Intern



The leaves began to change early — around Labor Day as I recall — a bright yellow here and there, a fierce red streak where bright green once was. I remember protesting those leaves heartily. Now October, there's no doubt fall has come to the Twin Cities. There's something quite nostalgic about this season, which I am at first reluctant to embrace and then revel in. I was born in the summertime, and live for its colorful bounty, long days and warmth. October at first seems to me the decay of all that beauty. I almost refuse to acknowledge the dying of the summer harvest, turning away from the withering bareness of the garden—the grotesqueness of tomatoes left clinging to their stalks to rot. I am lonely in the quiet of the evening without the sound of crickets to keep me company.

Mary Oliver writes in her poem *Fall Song*,

I try to remember when time's measure
painfully chafes, for instance when autumn
flares out at the last, boisterous and like us longing
to stay — how everything lives, shifting
from one bright vision to another, forever
in these momentary pastures.

I find the poet's words on our resistance to time's unrelenting cycle comforting. Year after year, season after season I remain hesitant to embrace change, longing to stay in that "bright vision." After I have fully mourned one season's end, I ever so slowly begin to see the new season's gifts first obscured to me. I begin to delight in the autumn harvest, root vegetables and squashes not as flashy as their summer sisters but heartier. I relish the bright flourishing of the leaves before they too become brittle and dry. A quiet warmth sets in as the earth begins its rest for the winter, inviting us to do the same. Unity bustles as people turn inward to the life of the spirit, gathering for worship, food, and fellowship. This time of year brings a reminder of life's transitions, of all the small losses we experience each year in hopes to be born anew as the earth awakens again. As we begin our journey from fall into winter, with faith that summer will indeed come again, I offer thanks for being; thanks for being here; thanks for being here together.

Sanctuary Sound Team Needs You

Unity Church needs a few good people to monitor the sound system during Sunday worship. The system is uncomplicated and you will receive training. Your commitment will be for 1-1/2 hours, one Sunday a month. You can still participate in the worship service. To volunteer, please contact Julie Handberg at the Church Office

COMMUNITY / FELLOWSHIP / LEARNING

Unity Women's Full Moon Ritual

from Becca Pournoor and Suzanne Burr

The first full moon ritual will take place on the Blood Moon on Sunday, October 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the Center Room. Each month we will gather under the full moon: Monday, November 2; Wednesday, December 2; Thursday, December 31; Saturday, January 30, 2010 (The full day **Gathering Retreat** followed by a Full Moon dance! Mark your calendar!); Sunday, February 28; Tuesday, March 30; Wednesday, April 28; Thursday, May 27.

Elders Circle Group Conversations

Thursday, October 8 • 1:00-2:30 p.m. • Second Thursday of every month

Elders Circle Group conversations will begin Thursday, October 8, meeting from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in the Center Room. Hallman Ministerial Intern Lissa Gundlach will convene. October's discussion will be based on October's worship theme: *sacrifice*. Bring your ideas about other issues and themes of interest and relevance to your life for Elders Circle Groups throughout the year. Please contact Lissa at the Church Office with any questions or concerns.



Second Saturday Pancake Breakfast!

Saturday, October 10, 2009 • 8:30-10:00 a.m.

You'll enjoy local sausage, OJ, all you can eat pancakes, and lots of lingering and good conversation. The cost is \$3 per person or \$10 per family. **Bring a friend!**

Job Transition Networking Group

The Job Transition Networking Group was created in February to offer support, encouragement, information, and skill-building resources to Unity Church members recently (and a few not-so-recently) laid off in the current economic recession. We have attempted to focus on both the immediate job search process and the larger picture of how we can redefine ourselves if we should choose to make a career change.

We meet every Monday morning from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The sessions typically include time to share how job search or career change efforts have gone the previous week, and what opportunities or challenges are expected in the coming week. In addition, we have had speakers to address issues such as how to assess our strengths/ talents and how to market ourselves in the job search.

We invite you to learn more by following our updates in This Week at Unity, or stop by whenever we have a table in the Parish Hall. Also feel free to contact Ron Prieve at rprieve@msn.com or Wendy Frieze at wendyfrieze@mac.com for further information.

New Caregivers Group Beginning!

Are you a part time or full time care taker of loved ones in your life? Do you need support in order to keep giving at the level you are giving to family members with special needs? Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs and longtime member of the Pastoral Care team, Cynthia Orange, will be offering an informal support group for caregivers on the third Thursday of every month, beginning October 15, from 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Men's Retreat

Join us for the 2009 Men's Retreat on November 7 and 8 just across the river at Camp St. Croix in Hudson, Wisconsin. The community and the strong support, the honesty and the fires of connection, the sunrise and eagles along the river are all calling for our return. It is time for us to get ready to answer. Save the dates!

Part 1 of Unitarian

Universalist History

Liberal Religious Thought: Early Christian and European Roots

Five Tuesdays: October 6, 13, 20, 27; November 4

7:00-8:30 p.m. • Unity Church

Join Hallman Ministerial Intern Lissa Gundlach for the first of a three-part series exploring theological and philosophical themes in the history of our faith tradition. The first five-session course will cover the development of Unitarianism and liberal religious thought, from early Christian times through the 19th century. The course will look at liberal religion throughout the Western European Renaissance, Enlightenment and Romantic periods, as well as Eastern European Unitarianism in Poland and Transylvania.

Please contact Lissa Gundlach at the Church Office to reserve a space in the class and a reading packet!

Love and Death

Six Tuesdays: October 27; November 3, 10, 17, 24; December 1

7:00-9:00 p.m. • Unity Church

Forrest Church is a well known leader in Unitarian Universalism and has provided a steady and strong voice in liberal religion. When given a terminal diagnosis a year and a half ago he turned his attention to writing his last book, *Love and Death: My Journey through the Valley of the Shadow*.

This class will be a way to penetrate the deep meaning to the journey Forrest outlines in his book with a focus on: ancestors and teachers; life lines and life skills; being at home with ourselves; God and the universe; living the odds and finishing the ends; thoughtful wishes for a humble God and life and love, before and after death. Janne Eller-Isaacs will facilitate the class. Please contact Martha Tilton at the Church Office to reserve a space in the course.

LITERARY MINISTRY / UNITY LIBRARIES

Open Page: reflecting with pens in hand

These guided writing sessions, led by Assistant Literary Minister Karen Hering, are invitations to the creative spirit, opportunities to correspond with “the still, small voice within.” No writing experience is required — only an empty page and an open heart and mind. Registration is not necessary, but if you plan to attend your e-mail or phone RSVP will assist in determining handout quantities. Contact karen@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456, ext. 128.

Sunday, October 4 • 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Reflection Topic: *Pilgrims and Pilgrimage*

“The geographical pilgrimage is the symbolic acting out of an inner journey,” said Thomas Merton. This guided writing session will explore the inner and outer aspects of pilgrimage.

Wednesday, October 28 • 7:15–8:30 p.m.

Reflection Topic: *Sacrifice*

“The law of every living thing is growth,” writes Susan Griffin, “through love, through willing sacrifice, or both.” This guided writing session asks, what sacrifices are required of us today? What do we do with that which we value most, and how does that influence our lives?

Sunday, November 1 • 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Reflection Topic: *Incarnation*

Looking ahead to December’s seasonal focus on incarnation, this guided writing session considers how the old stories and our own contemporary experience together illuminate our understanding of this embodied life – with its beauty and its brokenness and blessings.

Lectio Divina: a practice of spiritual reading

It is difficult to get the news from poems yet men die miserably every day for lack of what is found there. — William Carlos Williams

Sunday, October 25 • 12:15 – 1:00 p.m.

Come and listen for “what is found there” in a brief reflective session, using the Benedictine practice of “*lectio divina*” or holy reading. We’ll meditate on poems and readings related to October’s theme of *sacrifice*.

Poetic Tools for Change

Sunday, October 4 • 10:15 a.m.

An informational session on the upcoming Nicaraguan Literary Tour

If you’re interested in the Nicaraguan literary tour co-sponsored by Unity Church and scheduled for February 16–24, come to this informational session to learn more. The nine-day tour is organized by the Center for Global Education at Augsburg College and co-sponsored by Unity Church. For information contact Karen Hering at karen@unityunitarian.org or visit <http://www.augsburg.edu/global/itsdocs/10hiy-nica.pdf>.

Meditations and Resources

In addition to the programs listed on this page, Unity’s literary ministry provides meditations on each month’s worship theme, shared in worship and in this newsletter; these are available on-line at <http://www.unityunitarian.org/MonthlyThemeResources.htm>. If you would like to receive periodic e-mail notifications of upcoming literary programs and invitations for member writings, please contact Assistant Literary Minister Karen Hering at karen@unityunitarian.org. These programs are supported by a grant from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism.



What’s New at Unity Libraries?

Anderson Adult Library ♦ Bookstall
Whitman Children’s Library
Bookmobile ♦ Literary Journal

The Unity Library Team Presents Sara Ford, Author

Apparently I Know Who Satan Is: My Fight Against Maturity and Other Irritating Social Norms

Wednesday October 14 • 7:10 p.m.

Come hear Unity’s own Sara Ford read from her collection of humorous essays. Whether focused on the author’s life as a lefty in the South or as a lesbian parent and teacher in the North, the stories demonstrate irrefutably that we grow up to find that life is every bit as strange as we were originally led to believe. Book signing follows. Available now in the Bookstall.

Attention Unity Writers and Artists!

Share your literary or artistic gifts and submit your work for the Unity literary journal review by October 12, 2009. EVERYONE is welcome; ALL work is valued.

For more information: Click on the “Literary Journal” link on Unity’s home page, contact the LJ Committee at literaryjournal@unityunitarian.org, or look in the “Literary Journal” mailbox in the copy room.

Check Out New Books

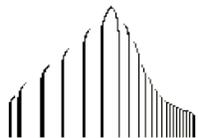
An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith by Barbara Brown Taylor, 283 T

Making the Good Life Last: Four Keys to Sustainable Living by Michael A Schuler, 640 S

Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder by Richard Louv, 155.4 L

True Green Kids: 100 Things You Can Do to Save the Planet by Kim Mckay, Children–Environment

PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP / YOUTH MINISTRY



Pathway to Membership at Unity Church

Welcome to Unity

This class is geared to newcomers, visitors, and those seeking to learn more about Unitarian Universalists and Unity Church. Upcoming *Welcome to Unity* classes:

Wednesday, October 7
7:10 – 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 8
12:15–2:00 p.m. includes lunch

Finding Yourself at Unity

Finding Yourself at Unity includes Unitarian Universalist and Unity Church history (including a tour of the church), opportunities to share parts of your religious journey, and discussion of the expectations and benefits of membership. Upcoming *Finding Yourself at Unity* classes:

Tuesday, October 6, 13, and 20
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Light supper provided all three nights

Saturday, November 7
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Includes a potluck lunch

Committing to Unity

Committing to Unity is designed for those who are ready to make the membership commitment. This class explores the deeper meanings and expectations of membership and shared ministry. Upcoming *Committing to Unity* classes:

Tuesday, November 10
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 14, 2010
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

To sign up for a Pathway to Membership class, please contact Leon Dunkley at the Church Office.

“Farewell and thanks!” “Hello and welcome!” Transitions in our Youth Ministry’s leadership

With deep gratitude and a pang of grief, the church has accepted Joseph Laferla’s resignation from his staff position as Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. For three years, his vision and commitment have shaped our life with the youth among us and his loving care has held them while they’ve grown. While his moving on is a loss to the congregation, he has left the church with a heap of gifts that will bless us well into the future. In order to preserve continuity in the leadership of the program at this very important “start-up” time in the church’s life, the Executive Team approved the immediate hire of Luke Stevens-Royer, a church member and seminarian with years of youth ministry experience. I’m confident that even with the luxury of time for an extensive search, Luke would have been among our best and final candidates. The teens of the church have already deemed him “a really cool guy.” We greet him enthusiastically and welcome his skills and gifts! Below are notes of farewell from Joseph and introduction from Luke, though we know it’s not really ‘goodbye’ and we’ve already said ‘hello!’ ***In faith, Kerri***

Last month’s worship theme of “vocation” stirred something within me. I realized that while I loved my three-year tenure as Unity’s Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, I was being called to live more of my life with my wife and daughter. This September I resigned from the church staff so that I can provide full-time day care to our toddler Nina.

Working at Unity is unlike any “work” I know of. The work is meaningful. Big ideas and great poetry and fabulous people abound. I already miss it dearly. But while I’m leaving the staff, I’m not really going anywhere. Unity is still my church. It is a part of my past—I grew up here and we were married here—and it will be a big part of my future. See you in the pews! ~***Joseph***



Hello! My name is Luke Stevens-Royer, and I am excited to be at Unity! I am now starting as the Coordinator of Youth and Campus Ministry, and I look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead! I believe youth have open minds and hearts to help build beloved community, and have much to offer for not only the life of the church, but also the life of the world.

I come from Mankato, raised in a Lutheran family, and I found a passion for ministry and the church at a young age. I started on track for ministry in the Lutheran Church (ELCA). I graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College with a major in Religion and minor in Vocal Music. Studying Religion expanded my religious and world view and broadened my perspectives on spirituality and the world. I studied for a year at a Lutheran seminary, during which I found a UU fellowship and embraced it, and was embraced by it.

I then transferred to United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, where I am now starting my second year in the Masters of Divinity program. My supportive and inspiring wife, Jenna, and I have been together since high school, as best friends and companions, and now live in St. Paul where Jenna teaches 3rd grade and we spoil our springer spaniel Lily and our cat Ashbury.

I am thrilled to be part of the ministry created at Unity Church, and I look forward to creating relationships with the youth and their families, in a community where all are loved and affirmed, challenged and supported, and nurtured to be their true selves.

Peace, Luke

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Celebrate with Mano a Mano

Tuesday, October 6 • 5:30–8:30 p.m.

Neighborhood House at Wellstone Center • 179 East Robie Street in Saint Paul

All Unity members and friends are warmly invited to attend the first annual “Weaving a Tapestry of Hope” community gathering celebrating Mano a Mano’s 15-year anniversary and milestone dedication of its 100th community health care clinic in rural Bolivia. This special evening features a traditional Bolivian dinner, opportunities to meet guests from Bolivia, program updates, door prizes, and Bolivian dance. Please RSVP to Nate at nate@manoamano.org or 651-457-3141. A \$20 donation is suggested.

More than 60 Unity members and friends have traveled with Mano a Mano to Bolivia, and Unity’s Mano a Mano Community Outreach Team coordinates year-round support of the organization’s work. For more information about Mano a Mano and this celebration, visit www.manoamano.org.

Mano a Mano Recognizes Unity Church Members



Mano a Mano International Partners, the partner organization of the Unity Church Mano a Mano Community Outreach Ministry Team, has been guided by the powerful premise that groups of committed individuals can reach across national boundaries to make a real difference in the lives of others. At

its volunteer recognition picnic on September 12, Mano a Mano selected two Unity Church members from among its cadre of nearly 200 local volunteers to honor as co-volunteers of the year. Deb Woodburn has spent countless hours creating an easily accessed data base of 15 years worth of photos for use in informational materials. Tom Merritt devotes every Tuesday to picking up donated medical supplies from area hospitals. Congratulations to Deb and Tom for service on behalf of Bolivia’s rural poor.

And another note: Mano a Mano’s next trip to Bolivia for Unity Church members is scheduled for March 17 thru March 27, 2010. Outreach Ministry Team members will share more information soon.

See the New UU Documentary, *Journey to Freedom*

Friday, October 9 • 7:30 p.m.

First Universalist Church • 3400 Dupont Avenue South, Minneapolis

Come see the local premiere of a brand new feature-length documentary, *Journey to Freedom*, which tells the story of humanitarian heroes Martha and Waitstill Sharp, UUs who left their own children behind and risked their lives to rescue others’ children from the Nazis during World War II. After the film, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee President and CEO Charlie Clements will host a discussion and reception. Learn more about the film and see a trailer at <http://journeytofreedomfilm.com/about/index.html> The event is free and open to the public. First Universalist Church will host this event as part of the 2009 Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lectures in Public Ethics. This year’s conference is in Minneapolis at multiple sites and the theme is *Genocide: Past and Present*. Learn more about the conference at www.genocidelectures.org. For more information please contact Chris Bremer at bremner101@yahoo.com.

Partner Church Pilgrimages in 2010

Two pilgrimages to our partner church village in Transylvania are scheduled: in May and in July/August. Watch for details or contact Tom Merritt at 651-429-2621.

FROM THE GREEN SANCTUARY/
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY TEAM

Whole Farm

Buy meat, cheese, produce and much more from local, sustainable farms and pick it up right at Unity Church from Whole Farm Cooperative.



For October pickup, place an order at wholefarmcoop.com or 320-732-3023 by Wednesday, October 14.

Orders will be delivered to Unity Church on Wednesday, October 21. Pay by sending a check, with the invoice enclosed with your order, to Whole Farm.

Evergreen Foodshelf

The third Sunday of every month is Evergreen Food Drive Sunday. All non-perishable food and household items are welcome and needed! Donations can be brought anytime and should be placed in the barrels located at both the Holly and Portland Avenue entrances.



Suggested items for October 18 are shampoo, soap, toothpaste, and toothbrushes. All donations are taken to Sharing Korner Food Shelf.

Unity Church–Unitarian Annual Pilgrimage to New Orleans

Mark Your Calendar!

The third Unity Church Pilgrimage to New Orleans will take place from Saturday, March 6, through Saturday, March 13, 2010. Contact Pat Haff at the Church Office if you would like to learn more about this annual journey.

OFFERING RECIPIENTS / MUSIC MINISTRY

October Offering Recipients

October 4 — Altrusa International Club of St. Paul

Since 1931, this worldwide women's service organization has provided support to community agencies that place a primary emphasis on services for women and children. Some of the groups the St. Paul club has supported are the Dorothy Day Center, International Institute Immigrant Education Program, Center for Victims of Torture, Kenya Safe Water Project, MN Visiting Nurses Agency, a Vietnamese School, MN African Women's Association, Hmong Women's Association, Somali Women's Association and the St. Paul Dept. of Indian Work. Altrusa members give hundreds of volunteer hours to these organizations and all the money they raise goes directly to projects of these non-profit groups. Longtime Unity Church members Olga Zoltai and Mary Anderson are currently or have served as officers for Altrusa.

October 11 — Unity Church Interweave Ministry Team

October 11 is National Coming Out Day so this offering will go to the Unity Church Interweave Ministry Team. This team exists to lead the Unity Church community as it expands and deepens its welcome and support of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer people and allies. The team plans social/fun events for the church community; provides educational opportunities; makes Unity Church's commitment to welcoming all sexualities and gender identifications known through community partnerships and action; creates supportive services for the GLBTQA church community; works with the church staff to deepen the spiritual lives of team members and friends and facilitates the sharing and celebrating of stories for the lives of all genders and all sexualities.

October 18 — Twin Cities Community Voice Mail (TCCVM)

Since it was launched in 1994, TCCVM offers low-income people without phones access to opportunities for success that they otherwise might have missed. The organization is a crucial bridge to independence for phoneless individuals and families who are seeking housing, employment, safety from domestic abuse and access to health care and social services. They partner with more than 370 social service agencies and government programs in the area, including 70 in greater Minnesota. TCCVM empowers both clients and agencies through effective collaboration. To date, TCCVM has served more than 50,000 clients and is part of the national network of community voice mail sites. As an advocate for TCCVM, Unity Church member Dick Buggs sees this as a vital community link for phoneless people in our area.

October 25 — Emily Program Foundation

The Emily Program Foundation is an organization dedicated to increasing awareness of eating disorders and access to treatment through community support, advocacy, research and education. It was established in 2007 to help lead the conversation on the impact of eating disorders on individuals, families and communities. The agency offers educational events and training to the general public and has provided outreach and information to over 2000 students, teachers and administrators in more than 50 educational settings. They are committed to advocating federal and local legislators to support legislation that helps fight eating disorders. This organization is also involved in collaborative research to understand the development, prevention and best practices in the care of individuals with eating disorders. Unity Church members Elizabeth Wrobel and Sue Babcock are on staff at the Emily Program Foundation.

from Ruth Palmer,
Director of Music Ministries

The proper use of imagination is to give beauty to the world.....The gift of imagination is used to cast over the commonplace workaday world a veil of beauty and make it throb with our esthetic enjoyment. — Liu Yü-T'ang

I write this at the end of a week that held the first rehearsals of Unity Singers and Unity Choir. This is always a powerful experience for me to annually renew my passion for this work, these people, this community, this thing we call "music." As a musician, it is a natural jump for me to relate music to art and to beauty. For me it all swims in that same palpable presence of deep communication, powerful connection, and the meaningful realization of what is best in us. I am constantly reminded by my experience in musical endeavor that it is in that "stretch into our best and beyond" that we find the most intimate and shared communication. It is hard work and there is no shortcut. I know because I've been hunting for one for years, but over and over again I have to practice the same basic skills in order to reach any hope of touching, even briefly, an inarticulate, breath-held moment of awe. And so, we all look forward to creating those possible moments when the Muse might sit with us and quietly grace us with its sacred presence.

Yes, the highest things are beyond words. That is probably why all art aspires to the condition of wordlessness. When literature works on you, it does so in silence, in your dreams, in your wordless moments. Good words enter you and become moods, become the quiet fabric of your being. Like music, like painting, literature, too, wants to transcend its primary condition and become something higher. Art wants to move into silence, into the emotional and spiritual conditions of the world. Statues become melodies, melodies become yearning, yearnings become actions. — Ben Okri, from the book A Way of Being Free

PARISH HALL ART / FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

October Parish Hall Artist

Laurel Gregorian

"For the Beauty of the Earth...."

Through my art, I hope to express my love of life, the land, and our wild, open spaces. I believe we need to preserve what little remains of our wilderness and the diversity of all creatures and people, for it is that which makes life meaningful and interesting. I believe life is a mystery wrapped in many exteriors, lovely and ugly. I prefer to paint the beauty in life and I find it in unexpected places, in a horse's back, weeds or a sky. I love painting what I've seen on my travels, to notice cultural differences, and to find underneath we are all the same. My goal is to give beauty and peace to the beholder. I am showing paintings of trees and fields, some full of flowers, some with hay bales from Minnesota and Iowa. France and Italy are well represented on my website.

I was born in Minneapolis; several of my relatives were or are artists, such as Eugene Larkin who taught at the University of Minnesota for many years; and I have studied art at Rockford College, the University of Minnesota, and have painted with a group led by Mary Degen at Century Community College in White Bear Lake, MN. I also paint with a group at the Lake Elmo Art Center on Monday nights. Feel free to join us there from 6:00–9:00 p.m. and see whatever show is up that month. I have taught Spanish and French, and did exporting for 15 years. I am a member of the UU Church of Minnetonka but have also attended Unity Church.

I have had shows at The Anderson Center, Century College, Robbin Gallery, Gallery 96 in the Library in Shoreview, Roseville Library, Dunn Bros., Chateau St. Croix, Pizza Luce, Lifetime Health and Fitness, Armory show in December, White Bear Lake, Lake Elmo Art Center, and Artists of Minnesota yearly shows around the state where I have won several awards. Please check out my website: www.artid.com/laurel to browse paintings and prints.

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October 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.

Men's Retirement Group

Monday, October 12 and 26 • 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: Leon Dunkley at the Church Office

Unity Singles Group

Watch *This Week at Unity* for scheduled events.
Contact: Bonnie Reiland at bonniereiland@aol.com or Rick Ahern at hern44@hotmail.com

A New Look at the Bible

First Thursday of the month • 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Paul Gade, 651-771-7528

Afterthoughts

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

Unitots!

A group for families with kids through preschool age
Every Friday • 9:30 a.m.
Contact: Michelle Hill

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 • 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Mary Barrett, 651-225-9708

Evergreen Quilt Group

Contact: Michelle Hill at 651-264-0884

Unity Book Club

Second Tuesday of the month • 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Leon Dunkley at the Church Office

Networking Group

Every Monday • 9:30 a.m.
Contact: Wendy Frieze, wendyfrieze@mac.com

www.unityunitarian.org
unity@unityunitarian.org

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Many Paths, One Truth

Exploring and Engaging with Hinduism

with Rev. Abhi Janamanchi

Saturday October 24
 9:00 a.m.—Noon

The Hindu faith is the oldest living faith on earth, with roots reaching back into the prehistory of humankind. It has preserved beliefs and practices from times immemorial and has developed under the influence of many other traditions. Despite its antiquity, the Hindu faith is not a fossilized remnant of an ancient faith but is a vibrant living tradition. Over the centuries, it has undergone many changes, is rapidly adapting to modern times, and is constantly bringing forth new movements and taking new directions. The workshop will explore some of the main tenets, customs, and practices of the Hindu faith and make a case for engaging with American religious pluralism.

Rev. Abhi Janamanchi has been serving the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater, Florida since 1999. He is a native of India and a third-generation member of the Brahma Samaj, a Unitarian-Hindu reform movement. Abhi will be the pulpit guest at Unity Church during all three worship services on Sunday, October 25.



Marathon Alert

It's autumn again and the Twin Cities Marathon will wind its way along Summit Avenue the morning of Sunday, October 4. Many roads will be closed from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please plan alternate routes and allow extra time to reach Unity Church that morning.

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