

This Week at Unity Church

February 19-25, 2012

Welcome visitors! After the service today, please stop by the Welcome Table in the Parish Hall to introduce yourself and learn more about Unity Church.

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, February 20, in honor of Presidents' Day.

2012 Unity Tomorrow Capital Campaign Update Capital Campaign (as of 2/16/12): \$5,432,505

The *Unity Tomorrow* Capital Campaign Team is gearing up to introduce an exciting matching gift program in March. Watch for details in the March issue of *commUNITY* and be sure to check the website at www.unitytomorrow.org for more information about how to make or increase your commitment and view images of the renovation plans.

Concerts with a Cause

Come and hear wonderful musicians who are donating their time with all proceeds benefiting Unity's efforts to defeat the 2012 Minnesota Marriage Amendment. A suggested donation of \$10.00 is appreciated however all concerts are free and open to the public.

TODAY! • 3:00 p.m. Waltz Your Way Through Winter

Featuring our Unity Vocal Quartet and the amazing four-hands piano team Kathy Kraulik and Ruth Palmer.

Sunday, March 4 • 3:00 p.m.: Piano Recital

Featuring Catherine Kautsky, Professor of Music; Chair, Keyboard Department, Lawrence University, Appleton, WI. The featured work on this program will be *De Profundis*, written in 1992 by composer Frederi Rzewski. The text is Oscar Wilde's *De Profundis*, the letter Wilde wrote decrying his imprisonment for homosexuality and extolling the rebirth he hoped to experience as a result of it. Rzewski chooses excerpts from the letter and sets them with precisely the flamboyance due the author. To say that the pianist speaks while playing is to grossly understate the situation!

Elders' Circle: "The Big Questions"

Tuesday, February 21 • 1:00-2:30 p.m.

The Elders' Circle is a group of church elders (self-identified) who gather monthly for fellowship, learning, and fun. This month, we're going to look at the five "Big Questions" from Unity's Religious Education program. For more info, or to inquire about a ride, contact Ministerial Intern Jim Foti by e-mail at jim@unityunitarian.org or by phone at 651-228-1456 x212.

Multigenerational D&D Tournament

Saturday, February 25 • Noon-3:00 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon Dungeons and Dragons tournament. Pizza lunch and play will start at noon and conclude at 3:00. All players, ages 10 and up welcome! Never played before? We'll teach you how. Experienced Dungeon Masters will lead the games. Contact Christy Randall at christy@unityunitarian.org to RSVP.

Women's Ensemble

Calling all women interested in singing together, adding your voices to our services and finding a musical ensemble experience. We are finally going to launch this group at our 4:30 p.m. service on Sunday, February 26. Meet in Robbins Parlor at 3:30 p.m. for a concentrated 45-minute rehearsal sure to generate fun and singing. Contact Ruth Palmer at ruth@unityunitarian.org to sign up.

Parish Hall Artists Reception • All are welcome!

A reception for Jimmy Reagan, one of the February Parish Hall Artists, will be held on Tuesday, February 28, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

THREE: 2012 CHILDREN'S MUSICAL

March 1, 7:00 p.m. • March 2, 7:00 p.m. • March 3, 5:00 p.m.

Tickets are on sale in the Parish Hall following all three services.

Camp UniStar Potluck and New Camper Information

Saturday, March 10 • 4:30-9:00 p.m. • First Unitarian Society

A sure cure for March cabin fever! Come meet old camper friends, enjoy a potluck dinner, meet program leaders, learn about new camper opportunities, and enjoy some music! Registration for Camp UniStar is now available online at <http://www.campunistar.org/registration/>. The deadline for priority registration is February 21.

Unsure about the marriage amendment?

Are you undecided about the upcoming Minnesota Marriage Amendment? Would you like to talk about this issue with other members and friends of Unity Church? A discussion group is forming. Contact Rachel Lonberg, Hallman Ministerial Intern, at rachel@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456x129 for details.

Unity Tomorrow Review and Comment Session

Sunday, March 12 • 12:30 p.m. • Sanctuary

Come for an update on the *Unity Tomorrow* facilities planning process with time for learning, questions, and comments. All are welcome and childcare will be provided.

Committed Couples Class

Led by Janne and Rob Eller-Isaacs

Tuesdays, March 27-May 8, from 7:00-9:15 p.m.

The committed couple's class is intended to promote healthy and productive conversations about relationships. Topics include finances, spirituality, the impact of family of origin issues, parenting, intimacy and conflict. If you have questions, please contact Janne Eller-Isaacs at janne@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x106. Registration is free for pledging members of Unity Church and \$110 for non-pledging couples. To register please contact Julie Handberg by email at julieh@unityunitarian.org or by phone at 651-228-1456 x110. Contact Christy Randall by email at christy@unityunitarian.org at the Church Office by Sunday, March 18, to request childcare.

Partner Church Team Plant Sale

Order plants following services on Sunday March 11, 18 and 25

Purchase beautiful blooming plants to have in your home for Easter! The plants will be available for pick-up on Palm Sunday, April 1.

This Week in Religious Education

No Religious Education classes today! Nursery care (6 months – 3 years) will be available in the Yellow Hallway of the basement and supervised activities (age 4 and up) are offered in the Art Room. Regular R.E. classes will resume next week.

The R.E. Music class is in need of the following items with which to create musical instruments:

- Cardboard tubes and canisters
- Plastic eggs
- Baby food jars

Items can be dropped off in the R.E. office at any time. Thanks!

This Week at Unity Church

Sunday, February 19

Children's Choir Rehearsal	10:00 a.m., Foote Room
Afterthoughts	10:15 a.m., Gannett Room
Lectio Divina	10:15 a.m., Ames Chapel
Welcome to Unity	12:15 p.m., Center Room
Children's Musical Parent Meeting	1:30 p.m., Anderson Library
Children's Musical Rehearsal	1:30 p.m., Foote Room
Concert with a Cause	3:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Soup Supper	5:45 p.m., Parish Hall
Tower Club	6:00 p.m., Foote Room

Monday, February 20

Presidents' Day Church Office Closed

Tuesday, February 21

Elders Circle Group	1:00 p.m., Center Room
Skeletons in our UU Closet	2:00 p.m., Robbins Parlor
Unity Sangha Meditation Group	5:30 p.m., Ames Chapel
Clarity, Force & Grace Writing Class	7:00 p.m., Anderson Library
Skeletons in our UU Closet	7:00 p.m., Robbins Parlor
Children's Musical Rehearsal	7:00 p.m., Music Room
Living with Grief Group	7:00 p.m., Gannett Room
Unity Singers Rehearsal	7:30 p.m., Foote Room

Wednesday, February 22

Wellspring Group	7:00 p.m., Robbins Parlor
Former Wellspring Group	7:00 p.m., Spirit Play West
Rainbow Chalice Alliance Ministry Team	7:10 p.m., Parents Room
OWL	7:15 p.m., COA-OWL Room
Wellspring Wednesday	See box below

Thursday, February 23

Defeat the MN Marriage Amendment (Representatives)	6:30 p.m., Robbins Parlor
Children's Musical Rehearsal	7:00 p.m., Foote Room
Unity Choir Rehearsal	7:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Friday, February 24

Unitots	9:00 a.m., Nursery
COA Overnight	5:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Saturday, February 25

Evergreen Quilters	10:00 a.m., Foote Room
Dungeons and Dragons Tournament	noon, Foote Room
Teachers' Night Out	6:00 p.m., Yellow Hallway

Wellspring Wednesday: February 22

6:00 p.m. Dinner: TBA

\$7/adult, \$4/child ages 5 to 12, \$2/child ages 2 to 4, \$20/family

6:45 p.m. Worship service in the Ames Chapel

7:10 p.m. Programs: childcare is available in the Parish Hall

The Hamlet Seminars are back by popular demand! This is a study of Act One of Shakespeare's most popular play. King Hamlet has been killed and all of Denmark is convulsed in grief. Claudius, brother to the king, marries his brother's wife and assumes the throne. Hamlet is inconsolable, heart-broken and bereft until he is visited by the Ghost, his father, who reaches back from death to tell his story. Join us for a fascinating conversation!

The Great College Search: Parents and students currently involved in the "college search" are invited to attend this meeting.

Our Whole Lives Parents' Group

Yoga: \$10/class or \$50/6 classes

Tween Youth Social Justice

Upcoming Worship Service • February 26, 2012

9:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. • 4:30 p.m.

When the Bush is Not Burning — Rachel Lonberg

The holy is easy to sense in burning bushes and epiphanies. Join Hallman Ministerial Intern Rachel Lonberg and worship associate Dutton Foster as they explore how we recognize divine presence in the other 99% of our lives. Musicians at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.: Unity Singers. Musicians at 4:30 p.m.: Women's Ensemble; Teresa Tierney, soprano.

Our Ministry of Generosity

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

Please make checks payable to Unity Church.

On February 5 Unity Church collected \$2,448.90 in the Sunday offering. Hubbs Center will receive a donation of \$1,714.23. On February 12 Unity Church collected \$1,849.83 in the Sunday offering. The Trans Youth Support Network will receive a donation of \$1,294.88.

Today's offering will support the Balazs Scholar Program that brings a Unitarian Transylvanian minister to study in the U.S. at the Starr King School for the Ministry by providing fundraising, administrative assistance and tuition to each new scholar. This year's scholar, Rev. Zoltan Kopandi-Benczedi, is today's pulpit guest.

The offering recipient on February 26 is the Frogtown's Tree Frogs. Saint Paul's Frogtown neighborhood has fewer trees than any other neighborhood in the city, a deficit that a group of determined residents calling themselves the "Tree Frogs" are tackling. Over the winter, Tree Frogs will learn how to identify signs of Emerald Ash Borer, an insect that is threatening more of the city's trees. In April 2012, the Tree Frogs will install a "pop up" tree nursery on a vacant lot, bringing in dozens of fruit and shade trees in one day to build an instant park. Tree Frog Park will serve as an outdoor classroom for learning about trees and how to care for them. At the end of the summer, the trees will be distributed to homes throughout the neighborhood. This offering will support the purchase of trees, mulch and water to beautify Frogtown streets and homes. Unity member Patricia Ohmans is a Tree Frog.

Notice: Cairns Correction

The printing of the first order of *Cairns* Vol. 3 was defective but the problem has now been corrected. We apologize, especially to the artists whose work was not well represented due to the error. If you purchased a copy of *Cairns* Vol. 3 before February 10, 2012, then you are entitled to an exchange. Please bring your flawed copies to the Bookstall and exchange them for new and improved copies.

How Best to Talk About Why Marriage Matters

The national conversation about marriage and same-sex relationships has arrived in Minnesota. This November, voters will decide if discrimination should be written into our state constitution. Join us for a short, accessible training on how best to talk about why marriage matters to LGBT Minnesotans – and to us all. We'll explore ways to move conversations in helpful directions, and have time to practice together. This training will take place on Wednesday, February 29, from 7:10 to 8:30 p.m. in the Foote Room. This is an open event for all.

Prairie Star District Annual Conference 2012

Lessons from War and Peace: Stories of Hope, Faith, and Courage

Bloomington, Minnesota • April 13-15, 2012

<http://www.psduua.org/AnnualConference2012>