

This Week at Unity Church

April 13-19, 2014

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.

Blooming Plant Pick Up

If you ordered a plant from the Partner Church Team Blooming Plant Sale, please pick it up after the service today in the main lobby.

Palm Sunday: Above Every Name Welcomes Unity Church TODAY! • 1:00-3:00 p.m. • Sanctuary

Our community partner church, Above Every Name, invites the members and friends of Unity Church to worship together with their congregation for a special Palm Sunday service. This collaboration grows out of "Beloved Conversations" and invites us into deeper relationship with others in our community.

May Means Project Home

Unity Church will once again host families from the Family Place who are in transition and need a safe and nurturing place to spend the night. For 31 nights in May, five volunteers (three from 5:30-8:30 p.m. and two from 8:00 p.m.-7:00 a.m. — you will get a chance to sleep!) are needed to welcome parents and their children. For more information please visit the sign-up table in the Parish Hall after services or sign up online at <http://bit.ly/ProjectHome2014>.

Green Gardens Quilt Show in the Parish Hall

Evergreen Quilters continues to celebrate Spring with its month-long art show/silent auction/raffle *Green Gardens* in the Parish Hall. The show hangs through 12:30 p.m. on Sunday April 27. Each of the beautiful quilts hanging on the walls is available for silent bids to help the group raise funds. Take heart! your generous bid might be the highest on Sunday, April 27, when the show ends, and you could be the happy owner of the quilts you love. This year, Evergreen Quilters is happy to offer some hand-made quilted items for immediate sale. Consider buying raffle tickets and you may be the winner of the bright, cheerful, environmentally-friendly larger quilt *Community Gardens*. All proceeds are donated to three local non-profit organizations: Sharing Korner Food Shelf, The Family Place (a day shelter), and Jeremiah Program, a transitional housing program. **You're also invited to attend Evergreen Quilters reception for the Green Gardens show on Friday, April 18, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Meet the artists, bid on the quilts, and buy raffle tickets. See you there!**

Maudy Thursday Worship

Thursday, April 17 • 7:00 p.m. • Ames Chapel

Please join us for a service of ritual and community, sharing in traditional holy week practices of Eucharist and Foot Washing. In the Memorialist tradition, we join to remember the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, which include welcoming all people to a meal of love, giving thanks for the gifts of life, and serving each other in humility.

Elders Circle Group

Tuesday, April 22 • 1:00-2:30 p.m. • Center Room

The Elders Circle is a group of church elders (self-identified) who get together monthly for fellowship, reflection, and fun. This month, elders will consider events and turning points in their lives and make a visual representation in order to understand where they have come from, where they are now, and where they are going. Mining the stories of a lifetime will give us a chance to gather our most important moments into a story we can share with loved ones!

You are invited! Coming of Age 2014

The entire congregation is warmly invited to witness the Coming of Age of this year's ninth grade class on Saturday, April 26, at 2:30 p.m. (please note the change in time from previous years), in the Sanctuary. Come and listen in amazement as our young people share their personal credos, bravely laying the beliefs of their hearts and minds out for all to hear.

Tours of *The Sacred* benefit Unity Church!

Carreen Heegaard, Unity Church member and docent at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, is offering special tours of the current MIA exhibit, *The Sacred*. All funds raised support Unity Church pilgrimages to places like Bolivia, Boston, and Transylvania. Tours will be approximately one hour and a \$10 donation per person is requested. Carreen's goal is to raise a minimum of \$1000 towards Unity's pilgrimage efforts. More information about the exhibit is online at www.new.artsmia.org/sacred. Contact Carreen Heegaard at cpheegaard@gmail.com or 651-698-0194 for more information or to schedule a tour.

Friends • Fun • Crafts • Art • Singing • Games

CHALICE CAMP Week 1: July 7-11 • Week 2: July 21-25

Details at: <http://www.unityunitarian.org/chalice-camp.html>

ARTS CAMP Week 1: June 23-27 • Week 2: July 14-18

Details at: <http://www.unityunitarian.org/arts-camp.html>

This Week in Religious Education

Religious Education enrollment for 2014-15 begins. Mark your calendar and plan on attending one of these sessions:

- Sunday, April 13 • 1:00-2:00 p.m. • Ames Chapel
- Wednesday, April 16 • 7:15-8:30 p.m. • Sanctuary
- Tuesday, April 22 • 7:00-8:00 p.m. • Sanctuary
- Saturday, April 26 • 10:00-11:00 a.m. • Sanctuary

Details at www.unityunitarian.org/2014-15-re-registration.html

Spirit Play (ages 3-6): Today children wonder together about the growth of a seed into a plant and flower, asking questions you can explore together at home: How does a seed know which kind of plant to be? Have we felt ourselves growing? Does the Spirit of Love and Mystery that some people call God help the seed to grow into a plant?

Workshop Rotation (grades 1-6): Classes continue to explore the theme of "Endings."

Junior High (grades 6-8): Classes continue today, with High Feasts & Holy Days II, UU history and Identity, and Religions of Star Trek (this class meets in Robbins Parlor).

Coming of Age is our signature spiritual growth and enrichment program for 9th graders. Last regular class meets today to conclude classroom learning and to finalize Credos. Please also remember today's ceremony rehearsal at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. COA Sunday is April 27!

Our Whole Lives is a signature sexuality and spirituality program for grades 7-9, with the final upcoming class on April 16, with concluding celebrations to the yearlong learning.

Tower Club: High School youth continue their annual Book Sale. Buy books and support their work in this fundraiser!

This Week at Unity Church

Sunday, April 13

High School Used Book Sale	8:00 a.m., Upper level
Afterthoughts	10:15 a.m., Crothers Room
Children's Choir Rehearsal	10:15 a.m., Ames Chapel
Women's Ensemble Rehearsal	10:15 a.m., Choir Room
Project Homoe Team	10:15 a.m., DeCramer Room
Rainbow Chalice Alliance	12:30 p.m., Crothers Room
R.E. 2014-15 Enrollment Session	1:00 p.m., Ames Chapel
Palm Sunday Service with AEN	1:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Soup Supper	5:45 p.m., Parish Hall

Monday, April 14

Job Transitions Group	9:00 a.m., Anderson Library
Unitots Playgroup	9:30 a.m., Nursery

Tuesday, April 15

Sangha Meditation Group	5:30 p.m., Ames Chapel
Living with Grief Group	7:00 p.m., Gannett Room
Spiritual Practices Covenant Group	7:00 p.m., DeCramer Room
Unity Singers Rehearsal	7:30 p.m., Foote Room

Wednesday, April 16

Wellspring Wednesday	(see box below)
Religious Education Ministry Team	7:00 p.m., Gannett Room
R.E. 2014-15 Enrollment Session	7:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Tween Youth Group	7:00 p.m., Jr. High Room
Board of Trustees	7:15 p.m., Robbins Parlor

Thursday, April 17

Pastoral Care Team	9:00 a.m., Anderson Library
Project Home Training	10:15 a.m., COA/OWL Room
Caregivers Support Group	Noon, Anderson Library
Racial and Restorative Justice Team	6:00 p.m., Robbins Parlor
Maundy Thursday Service	7:00 p.m., Ames Chapel
Unity Choir Rehearsal	7:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Friday, April 18

Evergeen Quilters Reception	6:00 p.m., Parish Hall
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Saturday, April 19

Spaulding and Morgan Wedding	1:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Parents Night Out	6:00 p.m., Lower level

Wellspring Wednesday, April 16

6:00 p.m. Dinner: *pizza, salad, dessert.* Cost: \$7/adult, \$4/child (age 5-12), \$2/child (age 2-4), \$20/family

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

7:10 p.m. Programs and Childcare

Changing Religious Landscape of America — Dr. Mark Berkson

In this presentation, we will explore topics including religious diversity in America; trends regarding religious affiliation (e.g., which denominations are growing, which are declining, and how views about religious affiliation itself are changing); and how religions that enter America transform our culture and are, in turn, transformed in America. Dr. Berkson is professor and chair in the Department of Religion at Hamline University.

Chanting Sacred Songs of Devotion — Rev. Alan Pritz

Chanting is not like ordinary songs or hymns. Simply versed and repetitive — like melodic affirmation — it is a tool used to focus the mind and open the heart. Each time a chant is sung the singer should release more of their intellect and move deeper into the heart and God-centered focus. These chants, sung in English, are primarily from the spiritual tradition of Paramhansa Yogananda and represent devotional yearning of the soul for Spirit. After a period of devotional chanting, a guided meditation will lead participants inside the sanctuary of their soul for deeper inner communion with Spirit. Rev. Pritz is the founding president of Meditation & Interfaith Spiritual Service.

Upcoming Worship Service: April 20

9:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. • 4:30 p.m.

Easter Family Sunday • *Practice Resurrection*

Rev. Lisa Friedman, Jennifer Nordstrom, Rev. K.P. Hong

The ancient story of the life and death of Jesus still speaks to us today — new beginnings emerge with fresh possibilities, even in those moments when it seems that all is tragically lost. As a whole church family, we will celebrate the wondrous power of resurrection and new beginnings in our lives. Musician: Greg Milliren, flute.

On Family Sundays, children experience the entire worship together with their families in the Sanctuary. A children's message and activity books related to the stories and sermon help children to engage in the experience of worship. The nursery is open for children under three years of age.

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 April 6 Unity Church collected \$1,668.59 in the Sunday offering. The Middle School Scholarship Fund will receive a donation of \$1,168.01. Information about today's offering recipient, Project Home, can be found in the order of service. The offering recipient on April 20 is Mano a Mano International Partners.

Arthur Foote Music Weekend Events

SATURDAY, MAY 3

12:00-2:00 p.m.: Workshop presented by Dr. Arthur Jones, The Spirituals Project: The mission of the Spirituals Project is to preserve and revitalize the music and teachings of the sacred songs called "spirituals," created and first sung by enslaved Africans in America in the 18th and 19th centuries. The Spirituals Project is a broad-based initiative to explore the many, varied dimensions of African American spirituals as art form, tradition and tool; and to invite all people to experience the joy and power of this dynamic music and gift from African Americans to the world.

2:00-3:00 p.m.: Music presentation and community-sing

SUNDAY, MAY 4

Worship Services at 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 4:30 p.m.: Music presented by Unity's Children's Choir, Unity's Women's Ensemble, Unity Singers, Unity Choir; Laura Sewell, cello; Unity Percussion Ensemble; and special guest, Dr. Arthur Jones, The Spirituals Project

Book Reading by Local Author Judith Sullivan

Monday, May 5 • 7:00 p.m. • Common Good Books

38 South Snelling Avenue, St Paul

The Terrifying Wind: Seeking Shelter Following the Death of a Child by Judith Sullivan is a haunting and honest account of how one family survived a horrible assault to its psyche. Anyone who has lost a child or a loved one will find hope at the end of the storm. Anyone who has felt helpless watching a friend struggle to cope with such a loss will find a practical guide on how to become a life supporter to someone whose life has been turned upside down.

Save the Date: Saturday, May 10

10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. • Unity Church

Writing Green: Nature Poetry and Ecology with Thomas R. Smith

Enjoy, discuss, and create poems celebrating and advocating for the natural world. Cost: \$59 for Unity Members, \$79 for non-members. Register online at <http://bit.ly/WritingGreen>.