

This Week at Unity Church

April 20-26, 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.

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 *Green Gardens* show and sale continues throughout April in the Parish Hall. Purchase raffle tickets, bid on silent auction items, and browse our “Buy It Now” table today and next Sunday. All funds raised help organizations that support homeless and hungry people in our area including Sharing Korner Food Shelf, The Family Place (a day shelter for homeless families with children), and Jeremiah House (a transitional housing program for young mothers and their children). The group appreciates your generous support! The winning raffle ticket will be drawn at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 27. Silent Auction bids will close at the same time. Please take a look at the quilted works of art that we’ve created and enjoy our show that celebrates spring.

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!

Young Adult (ages 18-35) Potluck

Tuesday, April 22 • 6:30 p.m. • Center Room

Bring your favorite dish to a relaxed evening of good company and conversation. We will also have time to plan future gatherings. Questions? Contact Rev. Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org.

Ending the Cradle to Prison Pipeline: Housing

Wednesday, April 23 • 7:10-9:00 p.m. • Foote Room

The Racial and Restorative Justice Team presents a panel of three in taking a look at the difficulties met by formerly incarcerated individuals in looking for safe, affordable housing and ways those might be resolved:

- Lionel Buchanan, ex-offender, tenant, and friend of Unity Church
- Eric Lein, landlord and member of Unity Church
- Lyn Burton, president/executive director of Affordable Housing Connections and member of Unity Church

Unity’s Affordable Housing Team, working with community partner Beacon Interfaith Housing to obtain an additional \$100 million in state funds for affordable housing, will offer opportunity for a simple action in response. This is the last program in the series prompted by a congregational read of Michelle Alexander’s book *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*.

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.

Finding Yourself at Unity: A Deeper Exploration

Saturday, May 3 • 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. • Center Room

In this class, we will have an opportunity to share more deeply our religious journey, to take a more in depth look at the history of Unity Church, to discuss the expectations and benefits of membership, and get to know the programs and ministries of the congregation. Please bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch. Email Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org to sign up or stop by the Welcome Table in the Parish Hall after the service.

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.

This Week in Religious Education

Today is a Family Sunday and all children and youth are in the Sanctuary for the full worship service. Activity packets for younger children are available for use during worship, as well as nursery care on the lower level. Classes will resume next Sunday, April 27.

Religious Education Enrollment for 2014-15: To register for next year, please plan on attending one of these sessions:

- 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

Junior High (grades 6-8): In celebration of Coming of Age Sunday on April 27, Junior High youth should plan on attending the COA service at 4:30 p.m.; or if unable, attend 9:00 or 11:00 worship services with an abridged celebration of COA.

Coming of Age is our signature spiritual growth and enrichment program for 9th graders. This year’s class comes to a close with celebrations on Saturday, April 26, at 2:30 p.m., and COA Sunday, April 27, during the 4:30 service. Junior high youth and families are strongly encouraged to attend this service!

Tower Club: Resumes April 27, after completing the annual booksale and now preparing to serve with Project Home.

Last Day of Religious Education

The last Sunday of religious education including a recognition of our dedicated teachers will be held on Sunday, May 11.

This Week at Unity Church

Sunday, April 20

Afterthoughts	10:15 a.m., Gannett Room
Children's Choir Rehearsal	10:15 a.m., Foote Room
Women's Ensemble Rehearsal	10:15 a.m., Choir Room
Soup Supper	5:45 p.m., Parish Hall

Monday, April 21

Job Transitions Group	9:00 a.m., Anderson Library
Unitots Playgroup	9:30 a.m., Nursery
Men's Retirement Group	1:00 p.m., Gannett Room

Tuesday, April 22

Elders Circle	1:00 p.m., Center Room
Sangha Meditation Group	5:30 p.m., Ames Chapel
Young Adult Potluck	6:30 p.m., Center Room
Archive Team	6:30 p.m., Facilities Storage
R.E. 2014-15 Enrollment Session	7:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Unity Singers Rehearsal	7:30 p.m., Foote Room

Wednesday, April 23

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

Thursday, April 24

Women's Retirement Group	1:00 p.m., Center Room
Unity Choir Rehearsal	7:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Friday, April 25

Teachers Night Out	6:00 p.m., Lower level
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Saturday, April 26

Evergreen Quilters	10:00 a.m., Foote Room
R.E. 2014-15 Enrollment Session	10:00 a.m., Ames Chapel
COA Ceremony	2:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Wellspring Wednesday, April 23

6:00 p.m. Dinner: *pulled chicken with choice of BBQ sauce, rice, green beans, black eyed peas, salad and pie.* 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

Open Writing Page Session – Rev. Karen Hering

From Bud to Bloom: Writing about Transformation

Led by Consulting Literary Minister Karen Hering, Open Page writing sessions are opportunities to correspond with the "still, small voice within." Using stories, poetry, images and objects as well as wisdom from religious teachings, science and history, participants reflect on the month's theme in their own words and on their own pages. Sessions are free but RSVP is required to karen@unityunitarian.org.

Ending the Cradle to Prison Pipeline: Housing

The sixth and final program in this series will look at the difficulties formerly incarcerated youth and adults face in finding safe and affordable housing upon re-entry. See reverse side for additional details.

Embodied Spiritual Practice: Singing Meditation — Katy Taylor

Singing Meditation is a participatory singing practice in which we sing simple chants and rounds from different spiritual traditions as a group and then dissolve into silence and allow a time of quiet meditation before the next song is begun. This kind of singing invites us to come home to our embodied selves as we allow the vibrations of sound to quiet our minds, open our hearts, and land us more deeply in our bodies, in the moment.

Tween Youth Group (grades 5-8)

Upcoming Worship Service: April 27

9:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. • 4:30 p.m.

Coming of Age Sunday

What the Test Didn't Ask — Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs

What is the central most important defining aspect of our liberal faith? Religious researchers have been asking that question for centuries. Janne and Unity's Coordinator of Youth and Campus Ministries, Drew Danielson, will grapple with their own answers to this question. This is Coming of Age weekend and the service will include a collage of wisdom from this year's class of ninth graders. Musician: Ellis, voice and guitar.

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 13 Unity Church collected \$2,055.00 in the Sunday offering. Project Home will receive a donation of \$1,438.50. Information about today's offering recipient, Mano a Mano International Partners, can be found in the order of service. The offering recipient on April 27 is Mission Haiti, Inc.

The Spirituals Project: Arthur Foote Music Weekend Events

SATURDAY, MAY 3

The Spirituals Project Workshop • Noon-2:00 p.m. • Sanctuary

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.

Community Sing • 2:00-3:00 p.m. • Sanctuary

SUNDAY, MAY 4

Arthur Foote Music Sunday • 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 4:30 p.m.

Music presented in the Sanctuary by the Children's Choir, Women's Ensemble, Unity Singers, Unity Choir and Unity Percussion Ensemble; Laura Sewell and Teresa and Will Richardson, cello, and Andrea Stern, harp; also welcoming special guest Dr. Arthur Jones, *The Spirituals Project*.

Writing Green

Nature Poetry and Ecology with Thomas R. Smith

Saturday, May 10 • 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. • Unity Church

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

UUA General Assembly: Love Reaches Out

June 25-29, 2014 • Providence, RI • Registration now open!

Congregations from across the country will gather in 2014 to help our association live into a future where *Love Reaches Out* — to share our faith both within and beyond our congregations' walls. Details online registration at uua.org/ga/registration. Contact Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org if you would like to serve as a delegate.

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>