

This Week at Unity Church

February 7–13, 2016

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.

Rainbow Chalice Alliance: Pies for Queer Prom

Unity's Rainbow Chalice Alliance (RCA) annual Pi(e) Day (3/14/16) Bake Sale is here! Order a delicious blueberry, apple, or French silk pie (or one of each!) in the Parish Hall on Sunday, February 7, 14, and 21. Pies will be ready for pick up on March 13. RCA is only able to make 50 pies, so order early! Your pie purchases make it possible for RCA to support Q-Quest (a yearly festival for LGBTQA youth), Queer Prom, and Youth Pride.

Building Support to End Homelessness

The legislative session begins in March and Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative is again asking for our help in urging continued state support to end homelessness in Minnesota. Funding will be needed for housing and renovation projects, homeless youth services, rental assistance, and aid for individuals who have completed prison sentences and are at-risk of homelessness. Stop by Unity's Affordable Housing Team table in the Parish Hall on Sundays during February and learn how you can join this effort.

Go Solar With Us!

Our carbon emissions export suffering to the most vulnerable on the planet. Learn how Unity's new Community Solar Garden can make clean, renewable solar electricity available for your residence with no upfront costs. No solar panels are installed at your residence, so this arrangement works for both renters and homeowners. Stop by the table in the Parish Hall to pick up a brochure or visit the Community Solar Garden webpage at www.unityunitarian.org/solar.html to fill out a subscriber interest form.

The 2016 Unity Church Photo Directories are here!

Pick up your copy in the Parish Hall today. The \$5 fee covers the cost of materials and printing.

Sustainable Living Group

We are a group of people with a deep concern and passion for the environment within our homes, church community, and beyond. We joyfully welcome new participants that are searching for ways to live into their environmental values. Learn about Unity's Community Solar Garden at one of the information sessions today! Our next group meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 9, at 7:00 p.m., in the Gannett Room. On Tuesday, February 23, we will be offering a class helping people to kick-out their toxic cleaning products by making safe and natural cleaning products! Questions? Contact Jessica at jzimm0813@gmail.com.

Worship Associates Sought

Worship associates must be members of the church and make a commitment to serve for two years, beginning in April. Worship associates are expected to attend three group meetings and develop themes and topics for Sunday services. The next meetings are scheduled for April 9, September 17, 2016, and January 14, 2017. If you are interested in serving as a worship associate, please contact Neil Bray at neilclaxtonbray@yahoo.com or Helen Pohlig at hmpohlig@msn.com to discuss this opportunity. There will be an application process to fill four available positions.

Chalice Camp at Unity Church!

Three weeks this summer: July 11-15 / July 18-22 / July 25-29
Registration and staff applications coming soon!

Author Karen Branan Reads from Her New Book

The Family Tree: A Lynching in Georgia, a Legacy of Secrets, and My Search for the Truth

Sunday, February 14 • 12:30 p.m. • Unity Church

Investigative reporter Karen Branan applied her truthseeking skills to the legacy of her own people and uncovered a tragic lynching that pitted family relations against each other in the Jim Crow south. What Karen shares gives each of us reason to look into the choices and values that lie behind the stories passed down in our families and hold them to the light for healing. Sponsored by Unity's Library and Bookstall Team

February Parish Hall Art Exhibit

Stuart Loughridge's creative etchings, watercolors and oil paintings are the February exhibit. You'll see his work combines landscape, urbanscape, portraits, and figurative life and myth.

This Week in Religious Education

Today is Story Sunday with grade school (rotation) children and junior high youth in the main sanctuary for worship. Rotation children will be blessed out after the story for all ages, while junior high youth remain for the full service as part of their growing practice of worship. Spirit Play children should go directly to their classrooms.

NO R.E. classes next Sunday, February 14 (Presidents' Day weekend). Please use next Sunday as an opportunity to experience worship together with your children in the sanctuary, or have children (typically grades 1-5) join in community activities downstairs. Nursery is available for our youngest children.

Spirit Play (ages 3-6): Children in Spirit Play today hear the story of Universalist minister, Olympia Brown, the first woman fully ordained by a denomination and an important leader for women's suffrage. Who are our church ministers and leaders? What does our tradition have to say about the role of women in ministry? Please wonder with your children.

Workshop Rotation (grades 1-6): Children begin Story Sundays in the main sanctuary with their families and friends. Then in classrooms downstairs, they begin a new unit exploring "Sacred Community." The first Sunday of each new unit brings focus to community, with Journey Guides helping children learn from one another and teachers getting to know children.

Junior High (grades 6-8): Youth are in the sanctuary for full worship today, in place of regular classes. As part of their Junior High RE learning, youth step into a growing practice of worship that is at the center of congregational life.

Coming of Age class meets today to continue exploring this unit's focus on "The Sacred." COA is a signature spiritual growth and enrichment program typically for 9th graders. Reminder of upcoming overnight retreat February 19.

Our Whole Lives meets this Wednesday, February 10, with focus on "STI/sexual decisions." OWL is a sexuality and spirituality program for grades 7-9.

Tower Club: High school youth meet tonight at 6:00 p.m. to prepare care packages for older youth now away at college. Tower Club is a gathering place for 10th-12th graders to enjoy community, faith, food, and fellowship.

This Week at Unity Church

Sunday, February 7

Women's Ensemble	10:00 a.m., Foote Room
Children's Choir Rehearsal	10:15 a.m., Robbins Parlor
Afterthoughts	10:15 a.m., Gannett Room
Soup Supper	5:30 p.m., Parish Hall
Tower Club	6:00 p.m., Center Room

Monday, February 8

Men's Retirement Group	1:00 p.m., Gannett Room
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Tuesday, February 9

Sangha Meditation Group	5:30 p.m., Ames Chapel
Unity Book Club	7:00 p.m., Robbins Parlor
Sustainable Living Group	7:00 p.m., Gannett Room
Evergreen Quilters	7:00 p.m., Anderson Library
Unity Singers Rehearsal	7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Wednesday, February 10

Wellspring Wednesday	See box below
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Thursday, February 11

Women in Retirement: The Choice Years	1:00 p.m., Center Room
A New Look at the Bible	7:00 p.m., Center Room
Unity Choir Rehearsal	7:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Saturday, February 12

Kung Fu	10:00 a.m., Body Room
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Wellspring Wednesday, February 10

6:00 p.m. *Dinner menu: Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, salad, dessert. Gluten-free and vegan options available.*

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

Transformational Moments in Unitarian Universalism:

A Celebration of UU Heritage Week

In every movement, there are threshold moments that define the future. Join the ministers of Unity Church to hear some of these pivotal stories and to reflect on some of the thresholds we are facing today.

Naming the Holy: Writing about God with Rev. Karen Hering

Open Page Writing Session

Free; RSVP required to karen@unityunitarian.org

"God is a pure no-thing, concealed in now and here," wrote the 17th century mystic and poet Angelus Silesius. This writing session is an invitation into "now and here" to encounter and reflect on the Holy, known by many names and beyond all naming. 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. No writing experience is necessary.

Embodied Spiritual Practice: Therapeutic Yoga with Elen Bahr

This practice is great for those with chronic tightness, chronic pain, or who simply want to move their bodies more freely. The 75 minute-long practice takes place lying on the floor, with slow, subtle movements and gentle breathing. We find this practice is best for adults, not youth. Wear loose, comfortable clothing. Bring a yoga mat and blanket, if possible.

Play Go: The Chinese Board Game

Learn and play Go, the Chinese board game. Anyone above the age of 10 is welcome. Bring your own set if you have one.

Worship Service: Sunday, February 14 • 9:00, 11:00, 4:30

Bring Many Names: Getting God Out of the Box

Our Unitarian and Universalist ancestors were always questioning the prevailing understanding of who or what God was. Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs and worship associate Diane Ross will try to follow this humble tradition and will examine the many ways we can and do approach this thorny issue. Musicians at 9:00/11:00: Unity Choir. Musicians at 4:30: Women's Ensemble.

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 a chosen community non-profit recipient. **Please make checks payable to Unity Church.** On January 24, Unity Church collected \$2945.35 in the Sunday offering. The Link will receive a donation of \$2061.75. Information about today's offering recipient, Flint Child Health & Development Fund, is available in your order of service. The offering recipient on February 14 is People Incorporated, Artability.

The 2016 Unity Congregation
BOOK READ
Book Discussions
• Wednesday Feb. 17 at 7:10 p.m.
• Sunday Feb. 21 at 12:30 p.m.
Available in the Anderson Library and Unity Bookstall.
Sponsored by the Unity Racial and Restorative Justice, Anti-Racism Leadership, and Library and Bookstall Team.

Unity Book Club

Tuesday, February 9 • 7:00-8:30 p.m. • Robbins Parlor

The Unity Book Club will be discussing *The Tiger's Wife* by Tea Obreht during this month's meeting. All are welcome—even if you haven't read the book!

The Mysticism of Music: A retreat into the spirituality of sound

Saturday, February 20 • 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. • Parish Hall

Facilitated by Hallman Ministerial Intern, Shay MacKay

Everyone is invited and welcome to attend this workshop. You do not need to be a musician or a singer. The spirituality of sound is as much about listening as creating, so all you really need is an open mind, an open heart, and a willingness to listen deeply. We will be doing some easy, gentle body movements that will be accessible and adaptable for all physical ability levels. There will be presentations and discussion, but mostly this will be an experiential retreat, exploring music, silence and spirit in a variety of ways. Sign-up for this retreat at the welcome table in the Parish Hall on Sundays or by emailing Shay at shay@unityunitarian.org.

Spring Fundraiser • Save the date: Saturday, April 16!

We are beginning to plan our spring fundraiser with the goal of raising \$20,000 for the 2016 operating budget. This year's "Great Gatherings" silent auction event will feature opportunities to bid on shared experiences offered by church members and friends. We will spice up the fundraiser with a sale of gently-loved jewelry and art. Do you have great ideas and time to help with this endeavor? Contact Barbara Hubbard at barbarah@unityunitarian.org.