

This Week at Unity Church

July 23-29, 2017

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.

Finding Yourself at Unity: An Inquirers Series

Topic: Membership 101 & Congregational Life

Finding Yourself at Unity meets on Sunday mornings, from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., in the Ames Chapel. Designed for visitors, new members, and inquirers, this eight-week series is offered continuously through the year. Drop in any time and pick up classes you miss in future rounds of the series. Childcare is available in the nursery.

Today! Pancake Brunch following the service!

Join us for a pancake brunch after worship.

Zen Meditation

Find renewal and grounding on Tuesday evenings, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., in the Ames Chapel. Special topic for exploration this Tuesday, July 25: Anger and its destructive force in our lives. Instruction is offered on the first Tuesday of each month (August 1) beginning at 5:00 p.m. Contact Ken Ford at kenfaure@gmail.com if you plan to come for instruction.

PD&Q Railroad Welcomes Visitors July 30

Weather permitting, Dutton and Caroline Foster will open their backyard railroad for Unity folks from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 30. Dutton runs G scale trains through a varied landscape of towns and countryside, bridges and mountains. It's a fun yard to visit for kids and adults alike. Dutton and Caroline live at 1882 Goodrich Avenue, a block west of Fairview at the southwest corner of Howell Street.

Habitat for Humanity: There is still time to participate!

The Unity Church Affordable Housing Outreach Ministry Team is co-sponsoring a Habitat for Humanity build as an interfaith partner in Faith Builders. A Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity "green" build integrates building practices that reduce detrimental impacts on the natural environment. Volunteer opportunities include construction work, crew leader, and lunch helper. Work weeks are July 24-August 4, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The location will be a two story new build at is 1105 Third Street, St. Paul Park. Contact Chuck Griggs at griggscb@msn.com or 612-408- 0486 with questions. Sign up is also available online at <http://bit.ly/faithbuilders2017>.

Summer of Justice

The Center for Justice and Law at Hamline University is pleased to announce the "Summer of Justice," a series of three discussion-based sessions centered on issues of race, criminal justice, and equity in society today. Each session offers participants a chance to learn more about the topic and to contribute ideas for actions we can take moving forward. Events will be held on the Hamline University campus, from 6:30-9:00 p.m., on the dates indicated. These events are free, but you must register for each session you wish to attend.

Mass Incarceration:

Tuesday, July 25: <http://bit.ly/misummer2017>

School to Prison Pipeline

Tuesday, August 22: <http://bit.ly/sppsummer2017>

Food Shelf Collection

Bring non-perishable food, hygiene items, and pet food and supplies to Unity Church and help people in need in our community through Evergreen Quilters' partnership with Hallie Q. Brown Food Shelf. Wicker collection trunks are located at the Portland and Holly entrances.

Understanding Detention and Deportation

Wednesday, August 2 • 7:00 p.m. • Sanctuary at Unity Church

Virgil Wiebe is the Robins Kaplan Director of Clinical Education and a Professor of Law at the University of St. Thomas, where he leads the immigration clinic. He has been practicing immigration law since 1995. Virgil will address the topic of deportation and explore questions including: How does someone become subject to deportation? What are the various legal methods for removing someone from the United States, and how can they be challenged? How do the criminal justice and immigration systems interact? What are the differing roles of law enforcement, immigration authorities, and the courts? What has been the role of prosecutorial discretion in this system, and how has it changed under the current administration? Virgil will answer these questions and more! This event is organized by the St. Paul Sanctuary Congregations Coalition, in partnership with ISAIAH.

Interfaith Alliance for Gun Safety

Faith communities, working together, are the most powerful force for change in Minnesota. Learn to speak with confidence about gun violence and help organize to work for sensible gun policy. An Interfaith Alliance Organize to Mobilize workshop will be held on Tuesday, August 8, from 7:00-8:30 p.m., at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer (285 Dale St. N. St. Paul). This workshop is free but registration is requested. Register online at <http://bit.ly/iaorganize>. Questions? Contact Sue Conner at 651-271-9844.

Textile Arts Group

During the summer, Unity's Textile Arts Group will meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. (August 3 and 17). Bring your knitting, crocheting, embroidery, needlepoint, and cross stitch for an evening of fellowship and service. All ages and levels of experience are welcome!

Unity Book Club

Second Tuesday of the month, from 7:00-8:30 p.m., in the Robbins Parlor. Contact Jack Hawthorne at jack.hawthorne@comcast.net. All are welcome, even if you haven't read the book! On August 8 the group will discuss *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel.

Unity Church Summer Film Series on Race

Join Unity Church members and friends for the final film of this three-part series on race. Popcorn will be served and there will be time for conversation following the film.

Friday, August 11, 7:00 p.m.: *I Am Not Your Negro*

I Am Not Your Negro is a documentary film based on James Baldwin's unfinished manuscript, *Remember This House*. The film explores the history of racism in the United States through Baldwin's reminiscences of civil rights leaders Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

This Week in Religious Education

Summer in the Garden during the 10:00 a.m. service continues throughout summer. Great for children ages 4-12. Please meet in our lovely outdoor garden, next to the Sanctuary. No registration is necessary but drop-in capacity will be limited by the number of adult volunteers present. If you would like to help, please contact Anna Newton (asnewton3@gmail.com). Nursery care for younger children continues throughout summer.

This Week at Unity Church

Sunday, July 23

Afterthoughts	11:15 a.m., Gannett Room
Pancake Brunch	11:15 a.m., Parish Hall
Finding Yourself at Unity	11:15 a.m., Ames Chapel
Above Every Name Worship Service	1:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Monday, July 24

Men's Retirement Group	1:00 p.m., Gannett Room
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Tuesday, July 25

Sangha Meditation Group	5:30 p.m., Ames Chapel
Topic: Anger and its destructive force in our lives	
Living with Grief Group	7:00 p.m., Gannett Room

Thursday, July 27

Women in Retirement: The Choice Years	1:00 p.m., Center Room
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July Parish Hall Artist

July artist, Claudia Posner, explains in her artist statement: "A source of inspiration has been my interest in imagery that can calm and communicate hope. I have always found arrangements of repetitive shapes meditative and shooting... they symbolize spiritual awakening; a necessity during our trying global times."

UU History Book Club

Interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalist history with other UUs? Unity's UU History Book Club invites you to join them on the third Wednesday of the month, at 7:00 p.m., for reflection and great conversation. Questions? Please email Krista Hanson at klfhanson@yahoo.com.

Wednesday, August 16, 7:00 p.m.

Email Krista Hanson at klfhanson@yahoo.com for location.

Thoreau as Spiritual Guide: A Companion to Walden for Personal Reflection and Discussion by Barry Maxwell Andrews

<http://bit.ly/thoreauasspiritualguide>

Make a Difference: Volunteer with Obama Elementary

Did you know that over forty men and women from Unity Church spend time each year making a difference for the children at Obama Elementary, the school across the street from the church? The Evergreen Quilters and the Art Team support the school with donations for particular projects. There are also a number of Unity Church people who spend time at the school working at one-time social events, volunteering regularly as classroom assistants, shelving books in the library, and as tutors in reading or math. As we get closer to the start of the school year we invite you to consider how you might help in strengthening excellence at the school, perhaps in one of the areas mentioned above. Fall is a good time to jump in! If you'd like to know more, please contact Marty Rossmann at rossm001@umn.edu or Nancy Heege at nancyheege@cs.com. And if you are not able to give time, watch for an opportunity to contribute financially during one of the Sunday offerings early this fall. Then give generously! Your contributions will be put to very good use!

Sunday Welcome Teams

Welcome Team volunteers greet members and visitors as they arrive to church on Sundays, welcome them to Religious Education and to worship, pass out orders of service, ring the church bell, collect and count the offertory, and assist with serving coffee after the service. Welcome Team members are asked to serve at one service once per month. Interested? Contact Madeline Summers at madeline@unityunitarian.org to learn more.

Sunday, July 30 • 10:00 a.m.

Faith as Mixtape

Worship Associates Heidi Huelster and Kevin Ward will lead the service and explore how we experience and use music to make meaning out of our lives.

Our Ministry of Generosity

Each Sunday, thirty percent of the offering goes to support the operating budget at Unity Church and seventy percent is given to a chosen community non-profit recipient. Please make checks payable to Unity Church. On July 16, \$1,115.75 was collected in the Sunday offering. Faith Builders Habitat for Humanity will receive a donation of \$781.03. Information about today's offering recipient, Pawsitivity, is available in your order of worship. On July 30 the offering recipient is 9 Books Kenya.

Learn About Unity's Emergency Action Plan

Unity's Emergency Preparedness Team (EPT) has developed an Emergency Action Plan which offers guidelines and procedures in the event of an emergency. The EPT has been providing training and drills to enhance "situational awareness" and the initial audience has been staff, front desk volunteers, and building tenants. The EPT is offering two trainings in August that are geared toward Welcome Teams, and are also open to the congregation in general. **Please join the team in the Robbins Parlor on either Saturday, August 19, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., or Wednesday, August 23, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. to learn about Unity's Emergency Action Plan.**

Mentoring at Unity: A Path to Deeper Connection

Unity's new mentor program is now available to visitors and new members! What can a mentor offer? A mentor is available as a guide and a resource in the congregation. They pledge to meet at least once a month face to face, and be available for ongoing questions and advice. Each mentor/mentee team can decide what is most helpful — to have a buddy with whom to attend services and events, a partner with whom to discuss Unitarian Universalism and each other's spiritual journeys, and more. Each pair makes a commitment to work together for at least six months. If you have questions, or would like to request a mentor, please stop by the Welcome Table in the Parish Hall or email Rev. Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org.

Sing in a Unity Church Choir!

Here at Unity Church we have a vital choral program and invite you to consider singing with one of the choirs this year! Questions? Please contact Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministries, at ruth@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x118. First rehearsals for this church year are as follows:

- **Children's Choir** (grades 1-5): Sunday, September 10, 10:15-11:00 a.m., Robbins Parlor, Kathleen Radspinner, director (kathleenr395@gmail.com)
- **Unity Choir** (high school, adult): Thursday, September 7, 7:30-9:15 p.m., Parish Hall, Ruth Palmer, director
- **Unity Singers** (auditioned membership): Tuesday, September 5, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Parish Hall, Ruth Palmer, director
- **Women's Ensemble**: Sunday, September 10, 10:15-10:45 a.m., Foote Room, Ruth Palmer, director

Merging of Waters Worship Service

Be sure to collect water from your journeys (or backyard!) this summer for our annual Merging of Waters ritual service which will be held on Sunday, September 10.