Finding Yourself at Unity: An Inquirers Series
Topic: Q & A with Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs
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 throughout the year. Drop in any time and pick up classes you miss in future rounds of the series. Childcare is available in the nursery.

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.
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

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.

Summer of Justice: School to Prison Pipeline
The Center for Justice and Law at Hamline University is hosting a series of 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. The final event will be held on the Hamline University campus, from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Free; registration is required.

An Evening with Safety Pin Box
Thursday, August 24 • 7:00 p.m. • First Universalist Church
3400 Dupont Avenue South, Minneapolis
Join Safety Pin Box Co-Founder and activist, Leslie Mac, and Safety Pin Box Live Director, Paige Ingram, for a fireside-style discussion moderated by Black Lives of UU Executive Director, Lenã K. Gardner. These incredible women will discuss what it means to be a Black Woman doing liberation work in 2017 and how white people do or do not fit into the work of fighting oppression. Event details and tickets are available online at https://www.safetypinbox.com/minneapolis/. Safety Pin Box is a monthly subscription box for white people striving to be allies in the fight for Black Liberation. Safety Pin Box offers memberships as a way to not only financially supporting Black femme freedom fighters, but also to complete measurable tasks in the fight against white supremacy.

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.

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!

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.

Important Updates and Reminders
The final R.E. Enrollment Session before classes begin on Sunday, September 17, will be held on Wednesday, September 6, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall. Childcare is provided. Questions for Coming of Age and Our Whole Lives can be sent to drew@unityunitarian.org.

2017-18 Coming of Age begins Sunday, September 10, at 3:30 p.m. COA registration closed in June, and most mentors are now on board for another amazing year of Unity’s signature 9th grade class. Ceremony and celebrations will be on April 28 and 29. Mark your calendar! If any families have not registered, please email drew@unityunitarian.org, ASAP.

If your 8th grader is considering participating in Our Whole Lives this year, please send a note to drew@unityunitarian.org. You must attend a registration session either Thursday, August 24, 7:00-8:30 p.m., or Wednesday, September 6, 7:00-8:30 p.m., or be given a waiver for recent attendance.

As part of Unity’s expanding commitment to racial justice, all teachers and volunteers are asked to participate in a day-long Intercultural Competence Training on Saturday, September 9, from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (tentative). Childcare and lunch provided.

Religious Education teachers new to their program area, or anyone needing basic orientation to their volunteer roles, please plan on attending one of the orientation sessions scheduled for Wednesday, September 6, 7:30-9:00 p.m., and Wednesday, September 13, 7:15-8:45 p.m. (Sanctuary). Watch for invitation to RSVP online.
This Week at Unity Church

Sunday, August 13
Aftersthoughts 11:15 a.m., Gannett Room
Finding Yourself at Unity 11:15 a.m., Ames Chapel
Above Every Name Worship Service 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Tuesday, August 15
Sangha Meditation Group 5:30 p.m., Ames Chapel
Living with Grief Group 7:00 p.m., Gannett Room

Wednesday, August 16
Board of Trustees 7:00 p.m., Anderson Library

Thursday, August 17
Pastoral Care Team 9:00 a.m., Anderson Library
Caregivers Support Group Noon, Anderson Library
Textile Arts Group 7:00 p.m., DeCramer Room

Saturday, August 19
Emergency Action Plan Training 9:00 a.m., Robbins Parlor

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.

Dine with Nine Begins this Fall
Are you interested in getting to know more people at Unity Church? Do you enjoy great food and lively conversation? Would you like to extend the hospitality of our community to both new and long term members alike? Beginning in October, small groups of Unity Church members and friends will gather in each other homes once a month for food and fellowship. Visit the Dine with Nine table in the Parish Hall this September to learn more. Sign up to participate online at www.unityunitarian.org/dine-with-nine.html, or by email to Teresa Wernecke at teresa475@gmail.com. Please include your contact information and let us know if you would like to sign up for a family or adult only group or whether you have particular location or transportation needs. We look forward to another great year!

Artists of All Kinds, Writers of All Kinds:
We need your gifts & talents! Join the nine-year literary & art tradition: submit to Cairns.

Cairns Vol. 9, 2017
The Unity Church Journal of the Arts
Deadline Sept. 25, 2017
For more information & to submit, go to the Unity website: Unityunitarian.org — Service & Learning — Cairns Arts Journal

SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday, November 4, 2017
Unity Church Silent and Live Auction