

This Week at Unity Church

August 21–27, 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.

Finding Yourself at Unity: An Inquirers Series • TODAY!

Today's topic: Religious Education for Children, Youth, and Adults
Finding Yourself at Unity meets on Sunday mornings during the summer, from 11:15-12:15, in the Ames Chapel (just up the staircase from the Parish Hall). Designed for visitors, new members, and inquirers, this eight-week series is offered continuously through the year. It is designed for you to drop in at any time and pick up classes you miss in future rounds of the series. Childcare is available in the nursery.

Volunteer at Obama Elementary this year!

Obama Elementary (located across Holly Avenue from Unity Church) is seeking volunteers to tutor students who are struggling with reading and/or math skills. Volunteers are asked to work 1-5 hours per week. Each individual will be assigned one or two classroom teachers and will, in general, work with the same children one-on-one or in small groups. The Obama Elementary administration is also recruiting for Parent Night volunteers (once/month, early evening), after-school tutors (once/week, early afternoon), and library assistants (based on availability.) Applications can be found at the Volunteer Opportunity Table in the Parish Hall on Sundays during coffee hour or you can request an application by email from madeline@unityunitarian.org.

Unity Singers: Auditions for Soprano and Tenor

Unity Singers, our auditioned 20-voice ensemble, is looking for a soprano and a tenor to join us this season! Unity Singers is based on the ensemble idea of how voices work together, each effecting the sound of the other and the ensemble as a whole. This means you do not have to have what you might call a "solo voice." It is all a matter of how your voice combines with the other voices in the ensemble. Auditions consist of meeting separately with Ruth Palmer and then with your voice section and entire choir. If interested, contact Ruth Palmer at ruth@unityunitarian.org. Final auditions are Tuesday evening, September 6.

Sing in a Unity Church Choir

Contact Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministries, with any questions: 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 11, 10:15–11:00 a.m., Robbins Parlor, Kathleen Radspinner, director (kathleenr395@gmail.com)
- **Unity Choir** (high school, adult): Thursday, September 8, 7:30– 9:15 p.m., Parish Hall, Ruth Palmer, director
- **Unity Singers** (auditioned membership, see above) Tuesday, September 6, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Parish Hall, Ruth Palmer, director
- **Women's Ensemble:** Sunday, September 11, 10:15-10:45 a.m., Foote Room, Ruth Palmer, director

Flowers for Worship

If you would like to provide flowers for Sunday worship, contact Martha Tilton at 651-228-1456 x105 or martha@unityunitarian.org.

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 11. Musical guest: Peter Mayer!

Prior Crossing: Donation Request

Prior Crossing, a new housing facility for homeless youth, will become home to 44 young adults beginning September 1. Many of the houseware items needed by the residents will be provided by Prior Crossing through donations made by community members. Please take a look at the list below and consider making a donation. Items can be new or gently used — except where noted. Donations should be dropped off at the Bookstall, in the Parish Hall, any Sunday during August. To arrange a weekday donation delivery, please contact Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org.

- Full-size sheet sets, full and queen size blankets/comforters
- NEW pillows
- Towels: bath, hand, and washcloths
- Shower curtain liners, shower curtain rings, bath mats
- Microwave-safe dish sets
- Kitchenware: pots and pans, silverware, cooking and serving utensils, measuring cups, mixing bowls, knives, graters, can openers
- Trash can (tall kitchen size is ideal)
- NEW cleaning supplies: sponges, dish soap, cleaning spray, laundry soap, toilet cleaner and brushes
- NEW hygiene products: Soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper
- Financial contributions are also gratefully accepted and checks should be made out to "Unity Church" with "Prior Crossing Supply Closet" in the memo

This Week in Religious Education

Summer Sundays in the Garden is held during the 10:00 a.m. service and continues each week throughout summer. Great for children ages 4-12. Children meet in the outdoor garden, next to the Sanctuary. No registration is necessary but drop-in capacity will be limited by the number of adult volunteers present. Regular nursery care continues throughout summer.

Families who still need to enroll in Religious Education for 2016-17 should attend the enrollment session on Wednesday, September 7, at 7:15 p.m. Childcare is provided. R.E. classes begin September 18.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Orientation

Please choose to attend ONE of these orientation sessions:

- Tuesday, August 30, 7:00–8:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 7, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

At least one parent or guardian must attend orientation in order for a child to participate in OWL. Orientation includes viewing class materials and experiencing parts of the curriculum. OWL is open to 7-9th graders, with 8th graders receiving preference. To learn more or to put your child on the list, contact Drew Danielson at drew@unityunitarian.org.

Teacher Orientation! Please attend ONE of these sessions:

- Saturday, September 10, 10:00 a.m. -noon
- Wednesday, September 14, 6:45-8:45 p.m. (following 6:00 p.m. Wellspring Wednesday taco dinner)

Watch for an invitation to register online; questions can be directed to kp@unityunitarian.org.

This Week at Unity Church

Sunday, August 21

Pancake Brunch	11:15 a.m., Parish Hall
Finding Yourself at Unity	11:15 a.m., Ames Chapel
Afterthoughts	11:15 a.m., Gannett Room
The Heart of Worship	Noon, Center Room

Monday, August 22

Men's Retirement Group	1:00 p.m., Gannett Room
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Tuesday, August 23

Sangha Meditation Group	5:30 p.m., Ames Chapel
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Thursday, August 25

Women in Retirement: The Choice Years	1:00 p.m., Center Room
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Friday, August 26

Mary Ann Huelster Memorial Service	11:00 a.m., Sanctuary
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Saturday, August 27

Evergreen Quilters	10:00 a.m., Foote Room
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Looking for New ARLT Members

The Anti-Racism Leadership Team (ARLT) works with the Board of Trustees and the Executive Team to further Unity's goal of becoming an actively anti-racist institution. The Board of Trustees will be appointing several members this year to fill vacancies on the team. The work of the ARLT is focused internally, on all aspects of church life — from the education and training programs offered to the congregation, to making Unity Church a welcoming and inclusive church community, to policies and procedures that reflect our commitment to anti-racism. To learn more about the team or the appointment process, contact Drew Danielson (staff liaison to the ARLT) at drew@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x112. A full description of the responsibilities and expectations of the position is available online at www.unityunitarian.org/antiracism-leadership-team.html.

Returning this Fall: Beloved Conversations at Unity Church

Beloved Conversations is a teaching and learning curriculum that assumes that every conversation with another human being is a cross-cultural conversation, even if your conversation partner is from the same cultural group. Nested inside communities of faith, Beloved Conversations creates the first step — a learning laboratory — for how to live healthily in a multiracial, multicultural, and often theologically diverse community. Save these dates and sign up online at www.unityunitarian.org/beloved-conversations.html or email martha@unityunitarian.org. **Facilitators are also needed!** We will follow up in August with all who express interest.

- Opening retreat: Friday (evening) and Saturday (all day), September 23-24
- Tuesday evenings, 7:00 p.m., September 27, October 4, 11, 25, November 1, November 15
- Saturday, November 12, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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.

You can 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.

Summer Worship: Sunday, August 28 • 10:00 a.m.

Mosaic Makers

On the final weekend in August we will welcome teams from a dozen Unitarian Universalist congregations committed to becoming multi-cultural communities. The Sunday service will reflect our shared experiences and our aspirations for becoming more fully informed by the richly diverse communities in which we live and breathe and have our being.

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 August 14, \$971.95 was collected in the offering. Sierra Leone Foundation for a New Democracy (SLFND) will receive a donation of \$680.37. Information about today's offering recipient, MORE, is available in your order of service. The offering recipient on August 28 is SLFND.

Church Year Worship Schedule Resumes September 11!

Sunday worship services will be held at 9:00, 11:00, and 4:30 p.m., beginning Sunday, September 11. Religious Education classes for children and youth begin on Sunday, September 18!

Nominations for MUUSJA Justice Leadership Awards

Do you know an unsung individual or group who is working for social justice? The Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance is collecting nominations for a youth group, congregation, lay leader and minister. Nominations are due September 8 and the awards will be given at MUUSJA's Celebration and Fundraiser on September 29. Make your nomination at <http://www.muusja.org/>.

Support Unity's Food and Hospitality Ministries

If you would like to volunteer and share your time and energy with the congregation, please contact Madeline Summers, Volunteer Coordinator, at madeline@unityunitarian.org.

Food Ministry: Volunteers are needed to do easy kitchen tasks. Sign up for one opportunity — or many! No need for any special skills, training will be provided. Families can even volunteer together! Join us in the kitchen for fun and fellowship.

- Sundays: September 11 and 18, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- Tuesdays: September 20 and 27, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Wednesdays: September 21 and 28, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Sunday Welcome Teams: Additional Welcome Team members are needed at all services (9:00, 11:00, 4:30). Greet members and visitors as they arrive to church, 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.

Wellspring Wednesday Returns September 14!

Staff and volunteers are gearing up for another exciting year of Wednesday night programming that will offer opportunities to share delicious meals, attend multi-generational worship services, and participate in classes and discussions. If you would like to serve on a Wellspring Wednesday cooking team, please contact Madeline Summers at madeline@unityunitarian.org.

Cairns: The Unity Church Journal of the Arts, Vol. 8

You are invited to share your art and writing with the Unity Church community! You do not need to be a professional writer or artist to submit. All writing and art is appreciated and will be reviewed for publication. Final deadline is September 26!