

# This Week at Unity Church

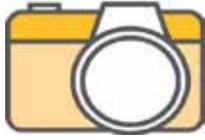
September 27-October 3, 2015

**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.

## THIS IS IT! LAST SUNDAY FOR PHOTOS!

### For the New Unity Church Photo Directory

Have your picture taken today! Photo stations are set-up on the lower level and your picture will be taken by a volunteer Unity Church photographer. Head down the main lobby staircase where you will be welcomed, asked to update your contact information, and directed to the station that will get you in and out as quickly as possible. It is that easy—really! After today, one Wednesday evening session remains:



**Wednesdays:** September 30, from 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

If you'd like to submit your own photo for the directory, click on over to [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org), complete the contact information form, and upload your favorite photo.

## Ordination of Ashley Horan

**Saturday, October 3 • 2:00 p.m. • Unity Church**

The members of Unity Church–Unitarian joyfully invite you to join us as we ordain Ashley Ariel Phillips Horan to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry. Reception to follow. Kindly RSVP to [unity@unityunitarian.org](mailto:unity@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x105. Childcare available with RSVP to [michelle@unityunitarian.org](mailto:michelle@unityunitarian.org) by September 28.

## Unity Church Choir Ensemble Performs at the Guthrie

Award-winning Scottish playwright David Greig's *The Events* follows a community's search for compassion, peace, and understanding in the wake of unthinkable violence. A response to the 2011 Norway attacks, in which the lives of 77 people were claimed by a car bomb and a mass shooting at a summer camp, this internationally acclaimed production delves into faith, politics, and reason. Featuring original music sung by a different choir at each performance, *The Events* is a daring theatrical event that explores our desire to fathom the unfathomable and asks how far forgiveness will stretch in the face of atrocity. **The Unity Church Choir Ensemble will sing in performances on Saturday, October 10, at 1:00 and 7:30 p.m.** Tickets at [www.guthrietheater.org](http://www.guthrietheater.org).

## Lessons from Unity's Racial and Restorative Justice Team

Interested in learning about a unique approach to restoring communities and individuals who have experienced trauma? The team is planning events this year for you to learn about the wonderful things the Circles of Peace are accomplishing and some of the team's lessons learned about supporting the local community in their own healing. Team members are available for conversation at tables during coffee hour through October 11. We are sponsoring Wellspring Wednesday presentations too, so look for those notices. If interested in joining our work or supporting Peace Circles in any way, contact Terri McNeil at [tmcneil003@yahoo.com](mailto:tmcneil003@yahoo.com).

## Dine with Nine: Enjoy food and fellowship with new friends!

Are you interested in getting to know more people at Unity Church? Beginning in October, small groups of Unity Church members and friends will gather in each other's homes once a month for food and fellowship. Stop by the Dine with Nine table in the Parish Hall today to learn more about the program. You can also sign up to participate in this year's Dine with Nine suppers online at [www.unityunitarian.org/dine-withnine.html](http://www.unityunitarian.org/dine-withnine.html), or by email to Teresa Wernecke at [teresa475@gmail.com](mailto:teresa475@gmail.com).

## Blessing of the Animals

**Sunday, October 11 • 2:00 p.m. • Green Space**

Bring all your fuzzy (and non-fuzzy) critters for a special blessing of honor and gratitude for the non-humans who companion us throughout our lives. You are also invited to bring photos of pets that can't attend or those you have lost in the past year.

## Unity Church Front Desk Volunteers Needed

Eager to get more involved at Unity Church during the week? Unity's Front Desk Volunteers provide hospitality by answering the phone, welcoming visitors, and helping staff as requested. Substitutes are needed when a "regular" cannot fill his or her four hour commitment. As the snowbirds go south, "subs" will have more opportunity to participate. Training provided. Please contact Sharon Merritt, [merrittsharon@aol.com](mailto:merrittsharon@aol.com), or Joan Carver, [jycarver@gmail.com](mailto:jycarver@gmail.com).

## Parish Hall Art

Today is the last opportunity to enjoy Robyn Priestly's Minnesota State Park scenes. This week the woodcut exhibit is removed and Ellen Starr's watercolors are installed.

## This Week in Religious Education

**Reminder to parents:** All classes end at 10:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 5:45 p.m., respectively. Parents are encouraged to enjoy coffee and conversation in Parish Hall following worship, or quietly wait in the lobby area until classes end.

**Spirit Play (ages 3-6):** Children in Spirit Play consider The Celebration of New Lives ceremony that is Unity's ritual of blessing and dedicating newborn infants. The ceremony helps us learn each new baby's name, bless them in special ways, and promise to love and care for them as they grow.

**Workshop Rotation (grades 1-6):** Children continue their journey as a community of faith, exploring "God is mystery." Take a moment to say hello and get to know your child's Journey Guide for this semester.

**Junior High (grades 6-8):** Youth are learning together in community in four courses offered this year: Sacred Threads/Asian Religions, Intro to Islam, UU History & Identity, and Jesus and the Beloved Community.

**Coming of Age** is our signature spiritual growth and enrichment program for 9th graders. Reminder that there is no class this afternoon, as youth return from their overnight retreat at Camp St. Croix this weekend. Class resumes next Sunday, October 4.

**Our Whole Lives** meets Wednesday, September 30, as youth bring focus to the topic of "sexual language." OWL is a signature sexuality and spirituality program for grades 7-9.

**Tower Club:** After last weekend's overnight to start the year, high school youth gather this evening to share in community and bring focus to their *raison d'être* for Tower Club this year. Tower Club is a gathering place for 10th-12th graders to enjoy community and share life at the intersection between the world and faith. Lots of fun and food! Sunday evenings from 6:00-8:00.

**Help needed in nursery:** For anyone drawn to the presence of mystery and life peering out from the face of a toddler, the nursery would LOVE your help during our Wellspring Wednesday programs. Please contact [michelle@unityunitarian.org](mailto:michelle@unityunitarian.org).

## This Week at Unity Church

### Sunday, September 27

|                                    |                            |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Afterthoughts                      | 10:15 a.m., Gannett Room   |
| Children's Choir Rehearsal         | 10:15 a.m., Robbins Parlor |
| Women's Ensemble                   | 10:15 a.m., Foote Room     |
| Canvasser Training                 | Noon, Foote Room           |
| Celebration of New Lives Reception | Noon, Center Room          |

### Monday, September 28

|                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Men's Retirement Group | 1:00 p.m., Gannett Room |
|------------------------|-------------------------|

### Tuesday, September 29

|                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sangha Meditation Group           | 5:30 p.m., Ames Chapel    |
| Articulating Your UU Faith        | 7:00 p.m., Robbins Parlor |
| Religious Education Ministry Team | 6:30 p.m., DeCramer Room  |
| Unity Singers                     | 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall    |

### Wednesday, September 30

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Wellspring Wednesday | See box below |
|----------------------|---------------|

### Thursday, October 1

|                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Generosity Ministry Team | 6:00 p.m., DeCramer Room |
| Unity Choir Rehearsal    | 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall   |

### Friday, October 2

|                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Our Whole Lives Party | 7:00 p.m., Center Room    |
| Unity Bridge Group    | 7:00 p.m., Robbins Parlor |

### Saturday, October 3

|                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Canvasser Training         | 9:00 a.m., Parish Hall    |
| Committing to Unity        | 9:00 a.m., Robbins Parlor |
| Ordination of Ashley Horan | 2:00 pm., Sanctuary       |

### Wellspring Wednesday, September 30

**6:00 p.m.** Dinner menu: *Build your own tater tot hot dish!*  
*Strawberry icebox cake for dessert. Gluten-free, vegan, and vegetarian choices are 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**

**National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month: Visible, Vocal, Valuable, Telling Our Stories:** Using the coaching from the earlier session, we will tell our stories to each other. Those who wish may receive coaching on how to craft an even more powerful message. This is the second of two programs to honor this important awareness-raising month.

**Comfort Shawl Ministry:** For many years, the U-Knitarians of Unity Church have been knitting comfort shawls to be given to members and friends as they experience times of grief, healing, and other challenges. Each shawl is blessed by the members of the Pastoral Care team and extends the warm, loving embrace of our community. Come hear testimony to the power of this ministry and learn how to knit the shawl pattern. All are invited to discover their inner U-Knitarian and become a part of this ministry of care and hospitality.

**Great College Search: Session Three: Financial Aid Basics**

**Embodied Spiritual Practice: Yoga**

**Go: A Chinese Game**

**Tween Group**

**Coming in October: Everyday Enjoyable Parenting**

**Four Wednesday sessions: October 14, 21, 28, and November 4**

Parents (and grandparents!) of toddlers to teens are invited to participate in four sessions on the topic of good parent-child relationships. Register by October 1 to [rossm001@umn.edu](mailto:rossm001@umn.edu).

## OCTOBER IS PLEDGE DRIVE MONTH!

### OCTOBER 4 IS PLEDGE DRIVE SUNDAY!

### *To Be or Not To Be: Grown Up Church for the 21st Century*

#### Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer

While the posturing politicians and pandering pundits draw off our life energies into the pointless, endless question, "Black Lives Matter or All Lives Matter?", we need to ask "Will the church Matter to Black Lives? How will it matter? When?" The purpose and practice of church: now. This service will also feature Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout who is the Director of Music at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ann Arbor. The Unity Singers will sing at 9:00 and 11:00 and the Unity Women's Ensemble will sing at 4:30. The Twin Cities Marathon is October 4 and many streets will be closed. Please plan accordingly!

*Since 2008, Gail Geisenhainer has served as Senior Minister with the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Originally from Massachusetts, Gail has served UU congregations in California and Florida. She and her partner of 32 years, Celeste DeRoche, share passions for candor, books, dogs, and the state of Maine.*

### 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 September 20, \$5004.28 was collected in the offering. As a special emergency collection, the UUSC-UUA Refugee Crisis Fund will receive the entire donation. Information about today's offering recipient, Camp Tamarack, is available in your order of service. The offering recipient on October 3 is the Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance.

### Evergreen Quilters

The quilt, "Happy Friends," hanging in the Sanctuary this morning was made and donated by Suellen Carroll. It is displayed here to honor the babies being welcomed in today's Celebration of New Lives. Unity's Evergreen Quilters make small quilts each year as part of the group's social justice mission. After the Celebration of New Lives service, the quilt made for today will be donated to The Family Place, a day shelter in St. Paul, where it is given to a family receiving their services. Our church families who participate in today's ceremony receive a card with a picture of the quilt.

Evergreen Quilters invites everyone who is interested in quilting to join the group. Participate as much as you can, whenever you can. The group collaborates on quilting projects and shares knowledge, creativity, and skills with each other and the wider community. Instruction is gladly offered. Meetings are held at the church on the second Tuesday (7:00-9:00 p.m.) and fourth Saturday (10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) of each month. To learn more about the group's activities, please contact Peggy Wright at 651-698-2760.

Evergreen Quilters contributes money to help local homeless and hungry people through programs such as The Family Place, Sharing Korner Food Shelf, and the Jeremiah Program. One hundred percent of the money raised by the group's auction and sales is donated to these organizations.



**There is still time**  
**to submit to Cairns:**  
**The Unity Church**  
**Journal of the Arts Vol. 7!**

**Deadline: Oct 1, 2015 @ 11:59 p.m.**