

This Week at Unity Church

November 19-25, 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

Community Outreach and Social Justice

Finding Yourself at Unity meets today, from 10:15-11:15 a.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.

LGBTQ+ Community and Support Group

Today! • 6:30-8:00 p.m. • Robbins Parlor

A place for you to come and be in community with other LGBTQ people. This is an intergenerational place for all ages and all identities including, but not limited to, transgender, gender non-conforming, genderqueer, bisexual, lesbian, gay, and queer people. Questions? Contact Jamie Bosc at bosc.jamie@gmail.com.

Elders' Circle: The Nature of God

Tuesday, November 21 • 1:00-3:00 p.m. • Center Room

Questions? Contact Andrea Johnson at andrea@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x129.

Black Friday at Church

Body and Soul: Reclaiming our Collective Humanity

Friday, November 24 • 10:00 a.m. • Sanctuary

Join Rev. Ashley Horan, Pastor Danny Givens, Jr., Unity's ministerial interns, and musical guest Ellis Delaney as we gather for spiritual nourishment on the Feast Day of Consumption. As the year-end holiday machine revs into high gear, let's come together for a time of reflection, challenge, and inspiration for how we can repair and reclaim our collective humanity.

Gun Violence and What We Can Do About It

Rev. Nancy Nord Bence, Executive Director of Protect Minnesota

Wednesday, November 29, 7:15 p.m. • Center Room

This event is sponsored by Unity's new Gun Sense Ministry Team.

The Congregation of Unity Church-Unitarian joyfully invites you to attend the ordination of

Shay MacKay into the Unitarian Universalist Ministry

Saturday, December 2 • 10:00 a.m. • Unity Church

Reception to follow and childcare provided. Kindly RSVP by November 25: unityunitarian.org/ordination.html.

Unity Church Christmas Pageant

Children and youth of Unity Church! Join this year's Christmas Pageant cast in telling the Nativity story on Christmas Eve! Being a part of this tradition is another rite of passage for many children as then can participate from kindergarten through high school, and join at any age. Registration and rehearsal details are available online at <http://bit.ly/ucupageant2017>. Questions? Contact Kelley Loughrey at kelleyloughrey@comcast.net.

In 2019, Unity's beloved pageant will celebrate its 100th anniversary! In January, a Pageant Centennial Team will be formed to help plan this special event. If you have memories, stories, or photos to share, or would like to help with planning, please email Kelley at kelleyloughrey@comcast.net.

Look Who's Sharing at Art Share

Don and Rose Crannell are exhibiting their daughters' art. If you'd like to share, sign up on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

Share the Bounty Auction Update

Unity's "Share the Bounty" auction on November 4 was a big success! Once the dust settles, it looks like the net income will be right around \$24,000, which exceeds our goal of \$20,000. Thank you to all who made donations to the auction, to the winning bidders, and to all who participated. A special thank you to all the people who volunteered their time and talents including the auction team, the food and beverage team, the folks who checked people in and out, the auctioneers, the youth and adults who entertained children, and everyone who helped with clean up.

And.. There are still a few gatherings with openings! Stop by the Auction table in the Parish Hall today and secure your spot in one of these wonderful events. Details will be available and spots will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

- Valentine's Happy Hour: 26 spots, \$30 each
- House Party: Singing in the Treetops: 31 spots, \$10 each
- Kid-Friendly Winter Warming Party: 8 spots, \$10 each
- Fire on the Bluff: Pizza, Beer, Music: 15 spots, \$20 each
- Sustainable Style Soiree: 5 spots, \$25 each
- Afternoon of Wine, Cheese, Poetry: 6 spots, \$10 each
- Mardi Gras Dinner: 2 spots, \$35 each
- Star Wars Role Play Party: 6 spots, \$15 each
- Cooking 101: Hand Pies: 5 spots, \$25 each

Front Desk Volunteers Needed

Unity's Front Desk Team is seeking substitutes for when a regular volunteer is unable to cover their shift. Training is provided. Shifts are from 9:00-1:00 and 1:00-5:00. Please contact Joan Carver at jycarver@gmail.com if you are interested.

This Week in Religious Education

Today is Thanksgiving Family Sunday and all children and youth are in the Sanctuary for the full worship service.

Activity packets for younger children are available for use during worship, as well as nursery care on the lower level.

Reminder of no R.E. classes next Sunday given Thanksgiving break. All regular classes resume Sunday, December 3. As we step into the winter holiday season, please closely follow the schedule online at <http://www.unityunitarian.org/calendar.html>.

Celebration of New Lives is Sunday, December 3, for families wishing to recognize and dedicate infants into the church community. This celebration is typically for members of Unity or families who are on the path toward membership, and offered 4-5 times throughout the year. For more information, contact Michelle Mecey at michelle@unityunitarian.org.

Coming of Age class meets today at 3:30 p.m. for introduction to the topic of "living with death and loss," and attend Family Sunday worship together. COA is a signature program typically for 9th graders as they prepare to assume greater religious responsibility for their ongoing adult faith journey.

Tower Club: Senior high youth meet tonight to practice stepping into community, not as a closed circle of people embracing each other, but spiritual companions bound together by a Sacred voice asking for our attention. Tower Club is a gathering place for 10th-12th graders to enjoy community and share life at the intersection between the world and faith. Sundays, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

This Week at Unity Church

Sunday, November 19

Finding Yourself at Unity	10:15 a.m., Ames Chapel
Afterthoughts	10:15 a.m., Gannett Room
Women's Ensemble Rehearsal	10:15 a.m., Foote Room
Children's Choir Rehearsal	10:15 a.m., Robbins Parlor
Above Every Name Worship Service	1:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Soup Supper	5:45 p.m., Parish Hall
Tower Club	6:00 p.m., Center Room
LGBTQ+ Group	6:30 p.m., Robbins Parlor

Monday, November 20

Men's Retirement Group	1:00 p.m., Gannett Room
Circle of Peace	5:15 p.m., Center Room

Tuesday, November 21

Elders Circle	1:00 p.m., Center Room
Sangha Meditation Group will NOT meet on November 21.	
Living with Grief Group	7:00 p.m., Gannett Room
Young Adults Group	7:30 p.m., Center Room

Wednesday, November 22

No Wellspring Wednesday Thanksgiving Break

Thursday, November 23

Happy Thanksgiving! Church Office Closed

Friday, November 24

Black Friday at Church 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Saturday, November 25

Kung Fu 10:00 a.m., Body Room

NO WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY ON NOVEMBER 22!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Looking ahead: Wellspring Wednesday, November 29

6:00 p.m. *Dinner: La Loma tamales, rice, and beans. Vegetarian and gluten free 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

Gun Violence and What We Can Do About It

The Rev. Nancy Nord Bence left her position as Senior Pastor of a large Lutheran congregation to join the gun reform movement after the first San Bernardino mass shooting in December 2015. She now serves in a specialized call as Executive Director of Protect Minnesota, the only independent, state-based gun violence prevention organization in Minnesota, and as spokesperson for their Interfaith Alliance for Gun Safety. The Interfaith Alliance engages people of faith from all religious traditions in the effort to reduce gun deaths and injuries through education, organization, and advocacy. You can find out more about their work at www.protectmn.org. This presentation is sponsored by Unity's new Gun Sense Ministry Team.

UU Theology

Introduction to theological concepts through a UU lens.

Above Every Name Soul Session

A soulful journey through Scripture in the Bible. All are welcome.

Embodied Spiritual Practice: Yoga

Learn and Play Go: A Chinese Game

Tween Group: Grades 5-7

Sunday, November 26 • The Pilgrimage of Jesus

As we turn towards the Christmas season and our Judeo-Christian religious roots, what can the story of Jesus' teachings and life's journey teach us about our own racial justice journey? For those of us who identify as White, what might it mean to give up our privilege? Ministerial intern Andrea Johnson and worship associate Heidi Huelster will explore the theme of transformation through pilgrimage. Musicians: Nick Rath, guitar (9:00/11:00); Ruth Palmer, piano (4:30). There are no Religious Education classes on November 26 due to Thanksgiving break.

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. On November 12, \$3,249.08 was collected in the Sunday offering. Center for Victims of Torture will receive a donation of \$2,274.36. Information about today's offering recipient, Unity's Partner Church Ministry Team, is available in your order of worship. On November 26 the offering recipient is Frogtown Green.

Holiday Concert, Carol Sing, Dessert Buffet

Saturday, December 9 • Sanctuary

6:30 p.m.: Carol Sing

7:00 p.m.: Holiday Concert, "What Sweeter Music"

Children's Choir, Unity Singers, Unity Choir, Women's Ensemble, joined by guest violinist, Wendy Tangen-Foster

8:00 p.m.: Dessert Buffet

Bring a holiday dessert already cut, plated, and ready to serve. Non-perishable food donations will also be gratefully accepted and shared with our neighbors through Hallie Q. Brown Food Shelf.

Save the Date: 2018 Children's Musical Parent Meeting

For the past 28 years, talented members of the Unity Church community have come together to write, compose, direct, choreograph, and perform a unique show for Unity Church. Participating in the Children's Musical has been a transformative experience for many of our young people. If you have a 6th, 7th, or 8th grader, consider whether this fun, team building experience might be right for them. To learn more, please come to the parent information session on Sunday, December 10, from 10:00-11:00 a.m., in the Choir Room. The musical is scheduled for March 1-3, 2018! Stay tuned for more information. Questions? Please contact co-producer Peggy Lin at peggy.peggylin@gmail.com.

Help Provide a Meal for Jeremiah Families

Help cook a meal at The Jeremiah Program (932 Concordia Avenue, St. Paul), a residence and education program for single moms and their children. Unity Church volunteers are needed to help prepare meals before evening classes on the following dates: Tuesday, December 12; Tuesday, March 20; Tuesday, April 10. Helpers (including kids over 8 years old) work from 4:00-7:00 p.m. To volunteer contact Karen Buggs at 651-297-0111 or buggs745@hotmail.com.

Unity Church Men's Retreat!

Save the Date: Saturday, February 17, 2018

The theme of this retreat is "Building Heart Connections." This retreat is open to all who identify as male. Details to follow. Questions? Contact Steve Harper at steveharper.home@gmail.com.

Food Shelf Collection

Last month Unity Church members and friends donated 308 pounds of food to the food shelf. Keep those donations coming! Collection trunks are located near the Holly Avenue and Portland Avenue entrances.