

# This Week at Unity Church

December 3–9, 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.

## Holiday Boutique

**TODAY! And December 10 • 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. • Parish Hall**  
**Mano a Mano will have goods for sale after the 4:30 service.**

- Artisan-made sweaters, totes, shawls, scarves, hats, tablecloths, and more from Bolivia
- Hand-sewn and quilted table runners, wall-hangings, zippered bags, ornaments, and other items made by Evergreen Quilters
- 100% of the proceeds from the sale will benefit the communities that these two organizations support

## Wreath and Cookie Sales • Today!

Purchase your holiday wreath and treats from our high school youth in support of their pilgrimage to Boston.

## Mitten Tree

Our little tree will stand in the Whitman Lobby on the lower level, waiting to be decorated with warm hats, gloves, scarves and—yes—mittens! All donated items should be new or like new. Children's winter items will be distributed to families through Obama Elementary. Adult items will be distributed through Amicus.

## Transylvania Pilgrimage Information Session

**TODAY! • 10:15-10:45 a.m. • Anderson Library (note room change)**  
Join Rob and Janne Eller-Isaacs for a pilgrimage into our Unitarian homelands. The trip will include a visit to Unitarian headquarters, the seminary, and the oldest Unitarian congregation in the world, before settling in with our partner church friends in the little village of Homorodszpetter. Travel dates are July 31-August 13, 2018. To find out more about this opportunity for travel and learning, come to the information session between the morning services today.

## Open Page Writing Session • *Incarnation: The Embodied Life*

**TODAY! • 2:00-4:00 p.m. • Anderson Library**

How do the old stories of incarnation and our own contemporary experience together illuminate our understanding of this embodied life — with all its beauty and its brokenness and blessings? In the beginning of this very busy month of December, we pause to reflect on the gifts, limitations, and holiness nested within our embodied world. *Led by Consulting Literary Minister Karen Hering, Open Page writing session participants reflect on the monthly theme.*

## Unity Church Christmas Pageant

Join this year's Christmas Pageant cast in telling the Nativity story on Christmas Eve! Shepherds, heavenly hosts, and acolytes are still needed! Registration and rehearsal details are online at <http://bit.ly/ucupageant2017>. December 4 is the deadline to sign up.

## Racial Justice Movie Night: *Forrest Gump*

**Friday, December 8 • 7:00 p.m. • Parish Hall**

Join Unity Church members and friends for an ongoing film series to further our growth in the understanding and challenging of white supremacy and structural racism. Popcorn will be served and there will be time for conversation after the film.

## 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.*

**Cairns**  
The Unity Church Journal of the Arts  
Vol. 9, 2017  
On Sale: Dec. 10, 2017  
Release Party in the Center Room  
10:00 – 11:00 AM  
Available in The Bookstall following the party.

## This Week in Religious Education

**Monthly Religious Education Orientation for new families**, and anyone interested in learning more about Religious Education, is Wednesday, December 6, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Childcare provided.

**Santa Pause** childcare on December 13, from 5:30-8:00 p.m., is a gift of time and care during the holidays, so parents can finish making gifts, plan gatherings, or just take a moment's pause during this full season. Dinner, crafts, games and a movie for children ages 3 to 10. Advance sign up is required by December 10 to [michelle@unityunitarian.org](mailto:michelle@unityunitarian.org).

**Spirit Play** (ages 3-6): Children today hear the real story of St. Nicholas, *Friend of Children* and what it means to enter the holiday season of gratitude and caring for the least among us. Who was St. Nicholas? Why did he give away his possession to help the poor? Have we helped anyone in secret? Who would St. Nicholas help today?

**Rotations** (grades 1-6): Children continue to explore "Humans are One Family of Diverse Backgrounds." Take a moment to say hello to your child's Journey Guide for this semester.

**Junior High** (grades 6-8): Youth continue with classes today, learning together in community through four courses offered this semester: Power of Myth (OWL room), UU Identity & History (Jr. High classroom), What Do You Stand For? (Jr. High classroom), and Earth-Centered Religions (Foote Room).

**Tweens** (grades 5-7): meet this Wednesday, December 6, 7:15-8:30 p.m. after Wellspring Wednesday's supper and worship.

**Our Whole Lives** is a sexuality and spirituality program typically for grades 8-9. Class continues Wednesday, December 6, with focus on sexuality and disability.

**Coming of Age** is our signature spiritual growth program typically for 9th graders. Class meets today to continue focus on "Death and Loss."

**Tower Club:** Senior high youth do not meet tonight.

## This Week at Unity Church

### Sunday, December 3

Holiday Boutique	Parish Hall
Finding Yourself at Unity	10:15 a.m., Ames Chapel
Afterthoughts	10:15 a.m., Gannett Room
Sustainable Living Team	10:15 a.m., Crothers Room
Transylvania Pilgrimage Info Session	10:15 a.m., Anderson Library
Women's Ensemble Rehearsal	10:15 a.m., Foote Room
Children's Choir Rehearsal	10:15 a.m., Robbins Parlor
Celebration of New Lives Reception	10:15 a.m., Center Room
LGBTQ+ Group	12:30 p.m., Robbins Parlor
Above Every Name Worship Service	1:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Open Page Writing Session	2:00 p.m., Anderson Library
Soup Supper	5:45 p.m., Parish Hall

### Monday, December 4

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

### Tuesday, December 5

Sangha Meditation Group	5:30 p.m., Ames Chapel
Unity Singers Rehearsal	7:30 p.m., Parish Hall

### Wednesday, December 6

Wellspring Wednesday	See box below
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### Thursday, December 7

Textile Arts Group	7:00 p.m., DeCramer Room
Unity Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m., Parish Hall
Young Adults Group	7:30 p.m., Center Room

### Friday, December 8

Film Series: <i>Forrest Gump</i>	7:00 p.m., Parish Hall
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### Saturday, December 9

Kung Fu	10:00 a.m., Body Room
Holiday Concert, Carol Sing, Dessert Buffet	6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

## Look Who's Sharing at Art Share

Janne and Rob Eller-Isaacs are exhibiting art that has a strong connection to their family and to a place they both treasure. If you'd like to share, sign up on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

### Wellspring Wednesday, December 6

6:00 p.m. *Dinner: Tuscan rosemary beans, Italian chopped salad, warm farro, roasted veggies, and anise cookies. 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**

### Reflections on Unitarian Universalist Association Leadership

Join us as Hallman Intern Arif Mamdani interviews Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs on his recent UUA Board service, which capped over 40 years of service to our denomination. Rob will reflect on his learning and the issues facing our faith today.

### Help the CLF Prison Ministry Spread the Holiday Spirit

Join the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) Prison Ministry and UUs from around the Twin Cities to help address envelopes to CLF's 800+ members in prison. Activities for children will also be provided.

### Religious Education New Family Orientation

### 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, December 10 • *The History in Our Hands*

Nobel Laureate Jose Saramago, in *The Gospel According to Jesus Christ*, presents the ministry of Jesus in the context of generational trauma. Had Joseph only stopped to warn the neighbors of the coming danger his son might have lived a very different life. Much as we long for the simple joy of the season we are still called to consider the whole of the story. Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs and worship associate Suzanne Quinn-MacDonald will help us all to see the stories that our bodies tell. Musicians: Unity Choir (9:00/11:00) and Unity Singers (4:30).

## 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 26, \$1,923.43 was collected in the Sunday offering. Frogtown Green will receive a donation of \$1,346.40. Information about today's offering recipient, We Are All Criminals, is available in your order of worship. On December 10 the offering recipient is Prepare and Prosper.

## 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. If you have a 6th, 7th, or 8th grader, consider whether this fun, team building experience might be right for them. To learn more, 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! Questions? Please contact co-producer Peggy Lin at [peggy.peggylin@gmail.com](mailto:peggy.peggylin@gmail.com).

## Mila Vocal Ensemble: Seasonal Music from Eastern Europe Friday, December 15 • 7:30 p.m. • Sanctuary at Unity Church

This family friendly concert includes joyful music from Bulgaria, Croatia, Ukraine, the Republic of Georgia, and more. Join the singers in the Parish Hall for holiday treats following the concert! Tickets available in advance at <http://bit.ly/alilo2017> and at the door: \$10/kids, students, seniors and \$12/adults.

## Morgan Forum with Michael Cowan

### Saturday December 16 • 9:30 a.m.-Noon • Parish Hall

Making white people feel guilty is not a strategy for change. Michael Cowan is a professor at Loyola University New Orleans, and a fellow in the Centre for the Resolution of Intractable Conflict in the University of Oxford and the Irish School of Ecumenics in Trinity College Dublin. A leader in interracial and interfaith community organizing in New Orleans since 1990, he initiated an issue-based interracial effort to rebuild New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. A provocative and thoughtful speaker, Michael Cowan has helped to welcome and guide our congregation's efforts in New Orleans.

## Sing with a Choir on Christmas Eve

### Children's Pageant Choir Rehearsal: Sunday, December 17

10:15 - 11:00 a.m. • Robbins Parlor

Sing during the 4:00 and 5:30 pageant services on Christmas Eve.

### Adult Pageant Choir Rehearsal: Sunday, December 17

10:15-11:00 a.m. • Choir Room

Sing during the 4:00 and 5:30 pageant services on Christmas Eve.

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Choir Rehearsal: Tuesday, December 19

7:30 p.m. • Choir Room

Sing at the 10:00 p.m. candlelight service on Christmas Eve. If you would like to participate in the Candlelight Choir, please contact Ruth Palmer at [ruth@unityunitarian.org](mailto:ruth@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x118.