

# This Week at Unity Church

December 4-10, 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: Pastoral Care

Finding Yourself at Unity meets on Sunday mornings from 10:15-11:15 a.m., 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.

## Mano a Mano Craft Sale • Today!

Are you looking for that perfect holiday gift? Or for a special winter-time treat for yourself? Be sure to visit the Parish Hall today to peruse the lovely handicrafts on sale. Sweaters, scarves, gloves, caps, and more, all made by hand in Bolivia. Proceeds from the sale benefit Mano a Mano (as well as the craftspeople from whom they were originally purchased).

## Wreath and Cookie Sales! Today!

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

## 2016 Unity Church Christmas Pageant Registration

**Registration for the Christmas pageant ends today.** We hope you will join us! All children and youth, from kindergarten through high school, are invited to participate in this cherished Christmas Eve tradition. Registration is online at <http://bit.ly/ucupageant2016>. Questions? Contact Kelley Loughrey at [kelleyloughrey@comcast.net](mailto:kelleyloughrey@comcast.net). Cast list will be posted by December 10.

## Mitten Tree

Unity's holiday tradition of generosity begins today! 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 items will be distributed to area families through Obama Elementary. Adult items will be distributed through Amicus.

## Go Tell It! Holiday Carol Sing • Concert • Dessert Buffet

**Saturday, December 10**

**6:30 p.m.:** Carol Sing

**7:00 p.m.:** Holiday Concert, "Go Tell It!"

*Children's Choir, Unity Singers, Unity Choir, Women's Ensemble, joined by trumpet, oboe, and string quartet!*

**8:00 p.m.:** Dessert Buffet

*We invite you to bring a holiday dessert, already cut, plated, and ready to serve and share!*

## Recovery Ministry

**Tuesday, December 13 • 5:00-6:30 p.m. • DeCramer Room**

Join us for a monthly gathering of sharing poetry, readings, and our own stories. This group is for anyone who self identifies as being in recovery. This is a supportive group within this church community to meet people where they are and build connections. If you have questions or to request child care, contact Jessica Clay at [jessica@unityunitarian.org](mailto:jessica@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x109.

## Young Adult Potluck and Cookie Exchange!

**Tuesday, December 13 • 6:30 p.m. • Center Room**

Join Ministerial Intern Nic Cable for a festive evening of getting to know other young adults at Unity and sharing favorite holiday treats. Contact Nic if you have any questions at [nic@unityunitarian.org](mailto:nic@unityunitarian.org).

## Evergreen Quilters

### Celebration of New Lives Quilt in the Sanctuary

Members of Evergreen Quilters make small quilts each year as part of the group's social justice mission. After the Celebration of New Lives, "Our Neighborhood" (see details in the order of service) will be donated to The Family Place, a day shelter in St. Paul, where it will be given to a family receiving their services. Our church families who participate in today's welcoming ceremony receive a card with a picture of the quilt.

### Holiday Boutique Fundraiser

**Sunday, December 11 and 18 • Parish Hall • After morning services**

Each year Unity's Evergreen Quilters design and sew original items especially for your holiday gift-giving. Choose a gift for someone on your list or treat yourself to totes, scarves, table runners and mats, gift bags, small quilts, hot pads and trivets, notebooks, cards, ornaments, and much more! Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted! One hundred percent of the total of your purchase goes to help people in need through donations made to local non-profits. If you would like to join Evergreen Quilters or learn know more about the group's activities, contact Peggy Wright at 651-698-2760.

## Women's March on Washington

To learn more about Unity's planned participation in the Women's March on Washington, that will be held on the Saturday after the inauguration, please contact Janne at [janne@unityunitarian.org](mailto:janne@unityunitarian.org). There are plans for a local event as well as travel to DC.

## This Week in Religious Education

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

**Spirit Play (ages 3-6):** Children in Spirit Play today hear the real story of the *Seven Spools of Thread: A Kwanzaa Story*. Why do people fight and argue with one another? How might our differences create something more beautiful because of our differences? Please take time to wonder with your children.

**Rotations (grades 1-6):** Children begin their journey as a community of faith, exploring the theme "On Being Human and Alive." Humans have the same needs and feelings, and the connection between needs/feelings informs our justice work.

**Junior High (grades 6-8):** Youth continue with their classes today, learning together in community through four courses offered this year: Religions of Star Trek (OWL room), Hebrew Bible (Jr. High classroom), UU History & Identity (Jr. High classroom), and High Feasts & Holy Days (Robbins Parlor).

**Tweens (grades 5-7):** meets for the last meeting of this semester, Wednesday, December 7, from 7:15-8:30 p.m.

**Our Whole Lives** is a sexuality and spirituality program typically for grades 8-9. Youth meet December 14 on the topic of "Sexuality and Disability" before going on winter break.

**Coming of Age** is a signature program typically for 9th graders. Youth meet today to continue their focus on "Death and Loss."

**Tower Club:** High school youth do NOT meet this evening, given Saturday's gathering to prepare cookies and wreaths. Meetings resume December 11, at 4:30 p.m., to host youth from our partner UU congregations in the Twin Cities.

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## This Week at Unity Church

### Sunday, December 4

Mano a Mano Craft Sale	Parish Hall
Celebration of New Lives Reception	10:15 a.m., Center Room
Afterthoughts	10:15 a.m., Gannett Room
Finding Yourself at Unity	10:15 a.m., Ames Chapel
Children's Choir Rehearsal	10:15 a.m., Robbins Parlor
Women's Ensemble Rehearsal	10:15 a.m., Foote Room
Above Every Name Worship Service	1:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Soup Supper	5:45 p.m., Parish Hall

### Monday, December 5

Men's Retirement Group	1:00 p.m., Gannett Room
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### Tuesday, December 6

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

### Wednesday, December 7

Wellspring Wednesday	See box below
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### Thursday, December 8

Women in Retirement: The Choice Years	1:00 p.m., Center Room
A New Look at the Bible	7:00 p.m., Room TBD
Unity Choir Rehearsal	7:30 p.m., Parish Hall

### Saturday, December 10

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

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## Christmas Eve Services

**Find A Stillness • 10:00 a.m.**

**Christmas Pageant • 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.**

**Christmas by Candlelight: Family Lessons and Carols • 7:00 p.m.**

**Christmas by Candlelight: Lessons and Carols • 10:00 p.m.**

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### Wellspring Wednesday, December 7

**6:00 p.m. Dinner:** *Tofu lettuce wraps with cabbage crunch and roasted green beans. Vegan, vegetarian, GF 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**

### Christian Fellowship at Unity Church

The diversity of theological beliefs at Unity Church is a beautiful thing. Join Rev. Tom Duke, Pastor Danny Givens, Jr., and Ministerial Intern Nic Cable, as we explore what it might look like to create space for nurturing Christian identity and practice at Unity Church.

### Mother/Daughter Film: *Little Women*

Please join Unity Church moms and daughters (grades 6 & up) on the second Wednesday of the month for a female focused film.

### Nonviolent Communication in the Holiday Season

Join Jon and Susan Vaughan-Fier for an introduction to non-violent communication. Participants will leave with skills to bring into their daily lives during this busy and sometimes stressful season.

### Textile Arts

Bring your knitting, crocheting, tatting, embroidery, needlepoint, and cross stitch for an evening of fellowship and service.

### New Family Religious Education Orientation

**Yoga Movement and Mindfulness: Review of the Niyamas**

**Learn to Play the Chinese Game of Go**

**Tween Group (grades 5-7)**

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## Sunday, December 11: *The Bark Heals the Scar*

**9:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. • 4:30 p.m.**

Every living tree tells a story of its life. From its fibrous wood and bark we learn of storms, droughts, lightning strikes, and animal nests. Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs and worship associate Kevin Ward will explore the lessons to be found in the natural world about healing and repair. Musicians at 9:00/11:00: Unity Choir. Musician at 4:30: Kathy Kraulik, piano.

## 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. Please make checks payable to Unity Church. On November 27 \$2689.37 was collected during the offering. Camp Tamarack will receive a donation of \$1882.56. Information about today's offering recipient, Restorative Justice Community Action, is available in your order of worship. On Sunday, December 11, the offering recipient is Avenues for Homeless Youth.

## Interest in caroling this season?

Join us in holiday caroling for members who are not able to get to church. On Sunday, December 11 and 18, a group will gather at the Holly Avenue reception desk after the 11:00 a.m. service and travel by carpool to different assisted living facilities. We will return to church by 3:00 p.m. After you see the grateful joy of the listening audience you will be hooked and want to join us every year. For more information contact Janne at [janne@unityunitarian.org](mailto:janne@unityunitarian.org).

## Prior Crossing Holiday Party

Unity's Prior Crossing Congregational Volunteer Committee is planning a holiday party for the new residents on Wednesday December 14. On that day we are looking for help with decorating, entertainment, food pick-up, set up, service, and clean up. Prior Crossing is a new housing facility for homeless youth that opened in September. If you are interested in volunteering contact Linda Fei at 651-698-1691 or [LindaFei@aol.com](mailto:LindaFei@aol.com).

## Blue Holidays Service

**Friday, December 16 • 7:00-8:00 p.m. • Ames Chapel**

Join us for this contemplative service for all who are lonely, grieving, and hurting during the holidays. Come and be with others in the community as we take gentle care of our tender hearts together. Childcare will be provided.

## Winter Solstice Celebration

**Wednesday, December 21 • 7:00 p.m. • Parish Hall**

Come join us for a contemplative, family-friendly, Celtic-inspired ritual to mark the turning of the year as the darkness gives way to the growing light. This participatory ritual will include chanting, meditation, candle-lighting, singing, and cauldron jumping. Kids—bring animal masks and hand percussion (rattles, shakers, bells)!

## Christmas Eve Choirs: Join us!

Contact Ruth Palmer: [ruth@unityunitarian.org](mailto:ruth@unityunitarian.org)/651-228-1456 x116

### Christmas Pageant Choirs

Rehearsal: Sunday, December 18

Children's Pageant Choir • 10:00-11:00 a.m. • Robbins Parlor

Adult Pageant Choir • 10:00-11:00 a.m. • Choir Room

Sing on Christmas Eve during pageant performances at 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.; both choirs arrive by 3:15 p.m.

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Choir

Rehearsals: Thursday, December 15 and 22 • 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve: Arrive by 9:15 p.m., sing at 10:00 p.m.