

Transformation/Resurrection

The life of a congregation is a rich community tapestry of people, programs, ministries and worship. We lift up the patterns of this tapestry at Unity Church with the threads of monthly themes woven through our worship and programming. These themes deepen our understanding of our own faith and strengthen our bonds with one another in religious community. We explore each theme in worship and in our newsletter; in covenant groups, and religious education; and in our community outreach ministries, our literary journal and programs, and many other opportunities.

*My heart is moved by all I cannot save:
So much has been destroyed
I have to cast my lot with those who,
age after age
perversely, with no extraordinary
power, reconstitute the world.*

— Adrienne Rich

Resurrection is linked both to death and to the body: like the caterpillar that goes through the “goo stage” on its way to becoming a butterfly, the process of transformation is messy. It includes loss, a letting-go of things past, harm, sometimes even literal death, before we rise again.

As religious liberals, we usually talk about resurrection in metaphorical terms: the resurrection of the spirit, the return of spring, Jesus having lived as a resurrected human being. How can we honor the embodied messiness of resurrection in a way that remains true to our intellect?

When we truly heal from brokenness and trauma, it is an embodied experience. Loss and grief usually include a level of dissociation. We can see extreme versions of this in the serious dissociation of Post-Traumatic Stress, but many people have milder dissociative coping mechanisms in their grief and trauma responses. When we dissociate, we cease to be present in the current moment. There is part of us that is not there. When we heal, we come back into our bodies. We have a renewed sensory and embodied experience of the present reality that

was absent during the trauma and recovery.

In the church, we practice corporate (from the Latin *corporatus*, meaning “made into a body”) worship. The early Christian church called the church “the body of Christ.” Some Christians understand this as the original meaning of the resurrection: that Jesus was resurrected *in* the body of the church, which would carry on his work to create a more loving world. In what ways is our worship a pathway to resurrection for you?

This can also be a time when life is resurrected on the earth. In our northern hemisphere, and especially in Minnesota this year, the earth has lain fallow for the long, cold, dark months of winter, and is now slowly stirring with waking life. In contemporary American society, winter can mean constriction, confinement, cold, and even depression for humans. But for most of human history, it also meant literal death: the most vulnerable often did not make it through the months of scarce food and freezing temperatures. Seasonal celebrations marked a resurrection from the losses of winter, people celebrated having survived, and they welcomed in the season of abundance. What have you lost over the winter, and what have you survived? What greater abundance are you welcoming in this spring?

Earth Day is also in April. Many Unitarian Universalists are naturalists. If the earth is our Divine, and the Gaia motif is an embodiment of the Holy for us, how are

we living out our faith in terms of our relationship to the earth? Will we be part of resurrecting the earth from the teeth of human-driven climate change?

— Jennifer Nordstrom and this month's theme team: Janne Eller-Isaacs, Rob Eller-Isaacs, Pat Haff, Lisa Friedman, K.P. Hong, and Drew Danielson

Transformation/Resurrection Resources

BOOKS

Orlando: a Biography by Virginia Woolf

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

The Little Blue Truck by Alice Schertle

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

MOVIES

Big Fish (2003) A son tries to learn more about his dying father by reliving stories and myths he told about his life.

Chasing Ice (2012) Follow National Geographic photographer James Balog across the Arctic as he deploys time-lapse cameras designed for one purpose: to capture a multi-year record of the world's changing glaciers.

Beauty and the Beast (1991) Belle, whose father is imprisoned by the Beast, offers herself instead and discovers her captor to be an enchanted prince. (IMDB.com)

Just Words



Unitarian Universalists tend to be suspicious of miracles, myself included. My experience tells me that there are no quick or guaranteed fixes, no matter how much I yearn for them. I have not found a way to escape the reality of death or the pain of grief. I have not been able to conjure up joy or love or wonder in my day, or in the lives of loved ones, just because I need their healing presence. I have not been able to mend all that is broken in our world, despite a lifelong commitment to stay in the struggle. Even this record winter has tested my faith in transformation. Nothing would soothe

and free our frozen Minnesotan souls more than the early and permanent arrival of the greening spring — a miracle indeed!

But what I have learned through the years is that this is not how the spring, or the Holy for that matter, arrives into our lives. A few years ago, just days before Easter, my family gathered in Virginia to mourn the death and celebrate the life of my Grandpa Bill. The flowers were blooming all around us, but our hearts were heavy with our own grief and our sorrow for my grandmother, who had to say goodbye to her husband of 71 years. In the middle of the reception, I turned to see the youngest great-grandchild, three year-old Jamie, walk into the room in his fancy suit and tie. His eyes scanned the room until they found my grandmother, his “Gigi”, and his face lit up with joy. His blue eyes sparkled in the exact same way that my grandfather’s blue eyes always did. He ran to hug her and she laughed for the first time that day. I didn’t need great seas to part or thunder to clap down from the sky to know that we stood in the presence of a miracle. The cycle of birth and death. The mystery of life. The healing, enduring power of love. For a brief moment, the sacred, creative power at work in the world arrived in a curly-haired boy, just when he was needed most.

My Easter faith teaches me that miracles do not appear as magic at work in our world or as dramatic fixes to the human condition. Instead they slip in, often under our radar, escaping our notice with their humble entrance, inviting us to renew our faith in eternal things. I no longer look to the skies to glimpse them. Instead I try to pay attention to their presence already among us in the extraordinary ordinariness of our days. If you listen carefully, you’ll notice that the morning birdsong has changed in the past couple of weeks – a sign of the earth’s rebirth that is steadily on its way. As I approach the anniversary of my grandfather’s death, I’ve taken time to notice the sparkle in my own sons’ eyes. I’ve tried to bear witness to the beauty, joy and hope in the lives of those around me. May we be grateful for all that renews and sustains us in this season, and all seasons.

Blessings,
Lisa

Rev. Lisa Friedman, Director of Congregational Life
lisa@unityunitarian.org • 651-228-1456 x107



The Wheel of Life

In Celebration

Marvin Lowell West Williams
born one more redeemer
March 3, 2014
to parents Megan West
and Jesse Williams

Mary Anderson is being awarded an honorary doctorate in Humane Letters by the Starr King School for the Ministry after many years of devoted service to the school.

In Memoriam

William B. Schwabacher
October 29, 1925 – March 10, 2014

George Borgerding
March 11, 2014, age 91
Father of Tony Borgerding, father-in-law of Jennifer McDermott, grandfather of Lily and Eli

From the Archives...

We have found many photos of people and events that we cannot identify. If you know Unity Church and its people, it would be wonderful to have you help us match names and faces. No major time commitment is required — whatever you can give will be greatly appreciated. Contact Louise Merriam at 612-242-8772 or machias1@gmail.com.

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Unity Church–Unitarian
733 Portland Avenue
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104
651-228-1456
www.unityunitarian.org

APRIL WORSHIP

April Worship Calendar

Sunday worship services are held at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m., and 4:30 p.m. except where noted. **See the back cover for details about Maundy Thursday and Palm Sunday services.**

April 6: *The Gifts Go On* — Rev. Lisa Friedman

When we die, we trust that we live on in the hearts of those who have loved us. But there is another kind of immortality that lives on in the values we inherit from others and choose for our own lives. What values have transformed you and bring resurrection to your life? What new beginnings have come to you from the generations who have gone before? Helen Pohlig will serve as worship associate.

April 13: *The City Reborn* — Jennifer Nordstrom

Our cities are changing in the 21st century. Values, economics, demographics, and the climate are all shifting. We sometimes experience this shaky ground as fear-inducing. But we could choose to see the transition as opportunity for transformation and resurrection. Our Unitarian Universalist values call us to engage with these changes while living in our hope for a just, multicultural, sustainable Beloved Community. Hallman Ministerial Intern Jennifer Nordstrom and worship associate Neil Bray will explore our role in the city being reborn.

April 20: *Easter Sunday • Practice Resurrection*

Lisa Friedman, Jennifer Nordstrom, KP Hong

The ancient story of the life and death of Jesus still speaks to us today — new beginnings emerge with fresh possibilities, even in those moments when it seems that all is tragically lost. As a whole church family, we will celebrate the wondrous power of resurrection and new beginnings in our lives. On Family Sundays, children experience the entire worship together with their families in the Sanctuary. A children's message and activity books related to the stories and sermon help children to engage in the experience of worship. The nursery is open for children under three years of age.

April 27: *Coming of Age Sunday*

What the Test Didn't Ask — Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs

What is the central most important defining aspect of our liberal faith? Religious researchers have been asking that question for centuries. Janne and Unity's Coordinator of Youth and Campus Ministries, Drew Danielson, will grapple with their own answers to this question. This is Coming of Age weekend and the service will include a collage of wisdom from this year's class of ninth graders.

You Are Invited: Coming of Age 2014!

The entire congregation is warmly invited to witness the Coming of Age of this year's ninth grade class on Saturday, April 26, at 7:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary.

Come and listen in amazement as our young people share their personal credos, bravely laying the beliefs of their hearts and minds out for all to hear.

April Offering Recipients

Each Sunday, thirty percent of the offering goes to support the Community Outreach Ministry at Unity Church and seventy percent is given to the chosen community non-profit recipient. Please make checks payable to Unity Church.

April 6: *The Middle Project Scholarship Fund*

The Middle Project, founded at Middle Collegiate Church in New York, is an institute dedicated to training leaders for a just society and offering an annual conference for leaders in multicultural and multiracial congregations and contexts. Past conferences have addressed issues such as the power of story to train leaders, the use of artistic worship to create multiracial communities, training leaders to manage change and conflict, and analyzing the dynamics of race, gender, class and power. This April, Unity Church will send a delegation of nine staff and lay leaders to *The Leading Edge 2014: Heal the Soul, Heal the World* conference. This offering is dedicated to making that trip possible.

April 13: *Project Home*

Project Home, a program of the St. Paul Council of Churches, serves as Ramsey County's overflow family shelter providing 40-60 beds for children and their parents. Project Home partners with area churches, synagogues and schools each month to provide a safe and clean temporary home in Ramsey County's ever growing homeless population. Each May, Unity Church serves as a host site for Project Home with about 150 members and friends volunteering as evening and overnight hosts. Unity member Elizabeth Wrobel serves on the St. Paul Council of Churches board of directors and has worked to raise funds for Project Home.

April 20: *Mano a Mano International Partners*

Co-founded in 1994 by longtime Unity Church members Joan and Segundo Velasquez, Mano a Mano International Partners is dedicated to improving health and economic wellbeing in rural Bolivia. In collaboration with the Unity Church Mano a Mano Outreach Ministry team, a group of Minnesota teachers will be traveling for the second time to Bolivia in June of 2014 to work with five rural schools. This offering will help purchase supplies for those schools and offer scholarship assistance for some of the travelers.

April 27: *Mission Haiti, Inc.*

Mission Haiti, Inc. is dedicated to supporting Haitians in helping Haitians through education, elder care, and sustainable farming. Mission Haiti partners with organizations in Haiti managing projects that include a secondary school, a home for elderly abandoned women and a sustainable farm. This offering will continue providing health care to Haitian women on a regular basis and to bring water into the secondary school site by repairing the existing pump. Unity members Shelley and John Butler have volunteered with Mission Haiti for many years with Shelley serving on their board of directors for two years.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Just the beginning for those Ends...

From Lia Rivamonte, Trustee



So, I find myself on a Board of Trustees (BOT) sub-team (with Ginny Allen, Rich Hamer, and Laura Park—fun, lovely, thoughtful, smart people—lucky me!) on the topic of evaluations and it has come to our attention that our current Ends are not yet etched onto everyone's minds. (Which means that you must have

missed the BOT/ET musical theater performance at the annual congregational meeting last November, so sorry!)

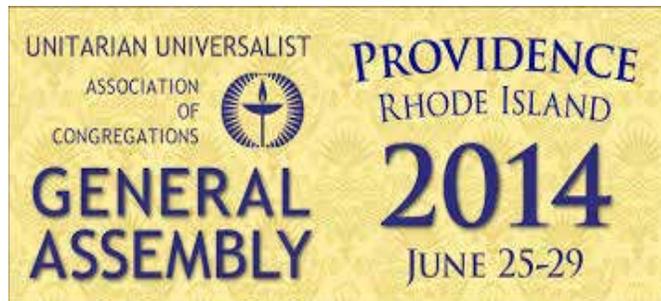
Since our Ends serve as the foundation (along with policy compliance) for the Board's performance evaluation of the Executive Team (ET), it's crucial to know what is stated in the Ends. The ET is comprised of Unity's called ministers (Rob and Janne Eller-Isaacs), executive director (Barbara Hubbard), and director of congregational life (Lisa Friedman). Each month, members of the ET submit a report to the Board describing their activities. These reports serve as a means to measure their performance against the Ends as they have interpreted them. For this reason we hope you will look again at this very important evaluation instrument that you, the congregation, helped to shape. Even if you don't commit it to memory, keep it close, stay alert, and do your own examination of Unity's operations and activities—are they in harmony with what we have professed to be working towards? And, it helps to remember: the Ends are our vision, what we have said we wish to be, not what is at this moment in time.

UUA General Assembly

Love Reaches Out

June 25-29, 2014 • Providence, RI
Registration now open!

Congregations from across the country will gather in 2014 to help our association live into a future where *Love Reaches Out* — to share our faith both within and beyond our congregations' walls. Get all the details and register online at www.uua.org/ga/registration/index.shtml. Contact Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x107 if you would like to serve as a Unity Church delegate.



Unity Church–Unitarian Ends Statements 2014-2018

Within

1. The people of Unity Church-Unitarian value a deeply meaningful, transforming liberal religious experience. As individuals, we
 - a. Open ourselves to compassionate pastoral care in times of joy, sorrow, and transition
 - b. Develop spiritual practices that nurture reverence and encourage diverse worship services rich in beauty, serenity, community and joy
 - c. Embrace our identity as Unitarian Universalists and live out the principles of our shared faith in our daily lives
 - d. Cultivate a spirit of curiosity and welcome, growing from a desire for authentic relationship.

Among

2. Unity Church-Unitarian is a community of welcome, reverence, and deep connection. As a community, we
 - a. Sustain and encourage one another in love
 - b. Reach out to one another across differences and stand together in the face of injustice
 - c. Value our shared ministry and practice it with integrity
 - d. Foster a culture of open, inclusive leadership and meaningful engagement
 - e. Are generous with our time, talents, resources and creativity
 - f. Are careful stewards of our resources and facilities.

Beyond

3. Unity Church-Unitarian carries out the work of love in community, making a positive impact in our neighborhood and in our world. Grounded in the transforming power of our faith, we
 - a. Open our doors and our hearts to those who seek comfort, courage, and meaning
 - b. Build authentic relationships with people across differences, in the spirit of humility and reverence
 - c. Live out our commitment to racial reconciliation and to dismantling racism
 - d. Serve as a trusted and visible leader, partner, and advocate for the creation of a just society and a sustainable environment
 - e. Participate actively in the larger Unitarian Universalist community.



Jennifer Nordstrom 2013-14 Hallman Ministerial Intern

In March, I went to an Ecological-Justice Collaboratory, an ecological justice dialogue and strategic planning summit, in Detroit. Unitarian Universalist eco-justice leaders from around the country gathered to learn from Detroit's experience with losing its manufacturing base over the last 30 years. The city is struggling: it lost 25% of its population between 2000 and 2010; the city itself filed for bankruptcy in 2013, with between \$12-20 billion of debt; and it is pocked with abandoned homes, buildings, and businesses. But what we saw in Detroit was as much about hope for a new way of living and being in community as it was about the suffering created from the city's economic collapse and racism in the systems.

We visited with Grace Lee Boggs, an activist and author whose seven decades of social justice work include the major U.S. social movements of the past hundred years. Boggs told us about new connections among her neighbors in Detroit, and encouraged us to think in terms of small, beautiful community solutions to the systemic problems of racism and industrial decline. "Where you see beauty affects your vision of the future," she told us. In her book, *These Are Times to Grow Our Souls*, Boggs asks whether, as a society, we will abandon cities like Detroit, "whose apex was tied to manufacturing... Or [whether we] can... rebuild, redefine, and respirit them as models of twenty-first-century self-reliant and sustainable multicultural communities?"

We traveled to visit people who were living with the consequences of industrial manufacturing, and people who were creating solutions to its sudden decline. My small group went on a journey to Detroit's most polluted neighborhood, which is primarily African American, where five major industries were located within a mile of one another. Also located in that mile were homes, schools, and communities. Toxin levels in some homes were two and three times the federal limit. Children had been attending a school that when it closed and the soil was tested, it was deemed too contaminated to be turned into a park. It was fenced up instead, sitting across the street from peoples' homes. Some families have chosen to leave the area, while others have stayed and pushed for protection from the pollution.

Other groups traveled to a community garden where young people and members of the community learned to grow their own food. They learned about the earth, each other, and themselves in the communal project. Another group went to a dynamic church where congregants learned new skills in the basement and listened to a creative street gospel from the pulpit.

Being in Detroit felt like visiting the future. The type of industrial manufacturing that used to employ large numbers of workers is on the decline. How will our society cope with growing numbers of people out of work? What will our Unitarian Universalist churches do in response to the shifting system? In response to the pollution from industrial manufacturing? How will we use our time, energy, and financial resources?

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) owns stock Marathon Oil, an oil refinery located in Detroit's most polluted, predominantly African American neighborhood that we visited. The oil refinery processes tar sands oil extracted from indigenous lands in Canada. Although the UUA administration was not aware we owned stock in that company, when Ministry for Earth brought it to their attention, they responded. As an association, how will we deal with the reality of owning stocks like this? How will we bring our attention to the ways we are related to these industries and neighborhoods in the interconnected web of being? What happens when we discover our relationship is one of complicity? How can we respond in ways that grow our souls and bless the world? Boggs encouraged us to think in terms of solutions emerging from the affected communities. Visionary "solutionaries" will recognize, encourage, and support those emergent community answers to these 21st century realities.

Leave a Legacy for Future Generations

Legacy giving is an intentional act that leaves a lasting legacy and sustains the powerful work of this church for generations to come.

A legacy gift is a designation from your estate to a charitable organization. Your "estate" is the sum of your assets, including property you own, insurance policies, retirement accounts, cash on hand, etc. Wealthy people may have large estates, but even people who aren't wealthy often have the resources to make a legacy gift.

There are many gift possibilities. Each of these gifts allows flexibility, though some requirements apply, and you always retain the right to amend your estate plans.

- A charitable **bequest** in your last will and testament can be a specific amount or a percentage of what remains after providing for your heirs
- A **life insurance** designation names Unity Church of St. Paul as owner or beneficiary of the policy.
- **Retirement plan** assets name the church as a beneficiary of an IRA, 401(k), 403(b), profit sharing or other retirement plan
- Other types of legacy gifts include **gift annuities, life-estate agreements** and **charitable remainder trusts**

By making a legacy gift to Unity Church, you would be joining 200 others who have committed to supporting our ministry and programs into the future. Our annual **Heritage Society Dinner on Friday, May 9**, is the church's way of thanking those individuals who have made legacy gifts. **Rev. Dr. Barbara Holmes, President of United Theological Seminary, will be our guest speaker.**

For more information contact Barbara Hubbard at the church office.

WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY

Wellspring Wednesday is a multi-generational opportunity to gather together midweek at church for food, fellowship, and learning. Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m., followed by worship at 6:45 p.m., and an evening of rich programming beginning at 7:10 p.m. Childcare is available and you do not have to sign up in advance. The cost for dinner is: \$7/adult, \$4/child ages 5 to 12, \$2/child ages 2 to 4 (children under age 2 are free), and \$20/family, and can be paid by cash or check. Financial assistance is available to cover the cost of dinners; contact Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x107.

April 2

Dinner menu: TBA

Concert with a Cause! One Voice Mixed Chorus: InsideOUT! Free. Donations will be gratefully accepted to support the teens from Avenues for Homeless Youth.

Join One Voice Mixed Chorus for this foot-stomping, hand-clapping rhythmic community in a musical journey guaranteed to transform your world and warm your heart from the inside out! One Voice has been rehearsing with Melanie DeMore, a vocal activist from San Francisco who teaches the South Sea Islands art of "stick pounding." This concert will include spirituals taught by DeMore, and Unity members will have a chance to try their hand at pounding during the concert!

Beloved Wellspring Conversations

We will come together for large and small group discussion and the sharing of stories focusing on race, faith, and our desire to work toward the Beloved Community. You need not to have attended other Beloved Conversations events to attend this session. This session will explore "our cultural self" and ask, what is our own culture, do we belong to more than one, and what impact do deeply held cultural sensibilities have on us?

New Family Religious Education Orientation — Rev. K.P. Hong

April 9

Dinner menu: roasted steelhead trout, twice baked risotto, salad greens, warm chocolate chip cookies

Concert with a Cause! Unity Singers

Free. Donations will be gratefully accepted for Beacon Interfaith Housing, a local effort providing housing for homeless youth.

Join us for a rare full concert by Unity's wonderful 19-voice singing ensemble. In addition to singing at Unity services, Unity Singers have brought their ministry and music to neighboring congregations, conferences and other venues through the years.

Spiritual Direction: Tales of Transformation — Sarah Cledwyn

How are you being transformed? Who is support and witness for you in the process? Come join Spiritual Director Sarah Cledwyn in contemplative conversation around our own experiences of transformation. Participants will share and/or listen deeply around this worship theme and have an opportunity to reflect with intent on their experiences. Come be brave and vulnerable and witness others as we share around this difficult and inspiring theme.

Welcome to Unity — Rev. Lisa Friedman

April 16

Dinner menu: burrito bar with all the fixings and made-from-scratch dessert

Changing Religious Landscape of America — Dr. Mark Berkson

The United States has been called "the most religiously diverse nation on earth." There have been a number of dramatic changes in the religious landscape of America in recent decades, and these are having a profound effect on the character of our nation. In this presentation, we will explore topics including religious diversity in America; trends regarding religious affiliation (e.g., which denominations are growing, which are declining, and how views about religious affiliation itself are changing); and how religions that enter America transform our culture and are, in turn, transformed in America. Dr. Berkson is professor and chair in the Department of Religion at Hamline University.

Embodied Spiritual Practice: Chanting Sacred Songs of Devotion — Rev. Alan Pritz

Sound or vibration is the most powerful force in the universe. Chanting is not like ordinary songs or hymns. Simply versed and repetitive — like melodic affirmation — it is a tool used to focus the mind and open the heart. Each time a chant is sung the singer should release more of their intellect and move deeper into the heart and God-centered focus. These chants, sung in English, are primarily from the spiritual tradition of Paramhansa Yogananda and represent devotional yearning of the soul for Spirit. After a period of devotional chanting, a guided meditation will lead participants inside the sanctuary of their soul for deeper inner communion with Spirit. Rev. Pritz is the founding president of Meditation & Interfaith Spiritual Services: www.Awake-In-Life.com

Religious Education 2014-15 Enrollment Session (see page 15)

April 23

Dinner menu: pulled chicken with the choice of a mustard/vinegar-based BBQ sauce or a ketchup-based BBQ sauce, rice, green beans, black eyed peas, lettuce & tomato salad and pie (buttermilk and pecan).

Open Writing Page Session — Rev. Karen Hering

From Bud to Bloom: Writing about Transformation

Led by Consulting Literary Minister Karen Hering, Open Page writing sessions are opportunities to correspond with the "still, small voice within." Using stories, poetry, images and objects as well as wisdom from religious teachings, science and history, participants reflect on the month's theme in their own words and on their own pages. Sessions are free but RSVP is required to karen@unityunitarian.org. *Wellspring Wednesday continued >*

WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY / PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP

Ending the Cradle to Prison Pipeline: Housing

The sixth and final program in this series will look at the difficulties formerly incarcerated youth and adults face in finding safe and affordable housing upon re-entry. In addition, this session will explore the impact the “War of Drugs” has had on the lives of people caught in the pipeline and the explosion of for-profit prisons in this country.

Embodied Spiritual Practice: Singing Meditation — Katy Taylor

Singing Meditation is a participatory singing practice in which we sing simple chants and rounds from different spiritual traditions as a group and then dissolve into silence and allow a time of quiet meditation before the next song is begun. This kind of singing invites us to come home to our embodied selves as we allow the vibrations of sound to quiet our minds, open our hearts, and land us more deeply in our bodies, in the moment. **This is a form of group spiritual practice, and is open to anyone who wants to sing.** All the songs are simple, express universal themes of devotion and spiritual practice, and are sung through many times so that there is time to learn them.

April 30

Dinner menu: TBA

Celebration of new children’s books by Unity’s own Mike Huber!

Come celebrate the release of Mike’s first collection of picture books, *The Early Experience Set*. The series contains five picture books with lovable characters facing everyday situations in early childhood such as separation anxiety and playing with other children. Bring your kids—there will be an activity for children related to the books. Books will be for sale at the celebration and in the Bookstall (on Sunday mornings). Sponsored by the Unity Library and Bookstall Team.

Courageous Conversations for Nice Minnesotans — Tom Esch

At some point you are going to have a conversation that will require a lot of courage. If you feel like your approach with others is too “nice” or you just are not sure how to approach the situation, then you’ve come to the right place. The approach we will use, founded in Process Work (Dr. Arnold Mindell) and Non-Violent Communication (Dr. Marshall Rosenberg), is based on personal awareness, feelings, needs, interpersonal skills and having an understanding of how situational power impacts conflict. We’ll show you the tools you need to address difficult topics and maintain favorable relationships and explore how to begin to address any challenging situation.

The Big Picture: The UU experience outside Unity Church

Join the Denominational Relations Ministry Team for a panel discussion connecting our congregation with the larger world of the Unitarian Universalist movement. Hear from Unity members who have experienced the wider embrace of our faith through summer camps, regional assemblies, larger social change initiatives and more.

Embodied Spiritual Practice: Chanting — Sacred Songs of Devotion Rev. Alan Pritz (See April 16 description.)

Welcome Words

In his musings on the meaning of membership, the Rev. Jack Mendelsohn observed, “Our religious way of life is not so much an arriving as a becoming - an ongoing process of thought and life experience.” Unitarian Universalism invites us to see the religious journey as a lifelong transformation. So long as we are alive to the world of new thought and experience, then we are called to deepen and expand our values and beliefs. And the community we share helps us to bear witness to the opportunities for transformation that surround us, not just in our own lives, but in our larger world. As the emerging Minnesota spring awakens us to wonder, may we renew the wonder of religious discovery with one another. See you in church!

Rev. Lisa Friedman, Director of Congregational Life

Pathway to Membership

Sign up for Pathway to Membership classes at the Welcome Table on Sundays or contact Rev. Lisa Friedman, Director of Congregational Life, at lisa@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x107. She is also happy to meet with you personally to answer questions and to welcome you into the congregation. Childcare is available by contacting Christy Randall at 651-228-1456 x127 or christy@unityunitarian.org at least one week in advance.

Welcome to Unity: Our Class for Newcomers

Wednesday, April 9, 7:15–8:30 p.m. ~also offered ~
Sunday, April 27, 12:15–1:30 p.m.

If you have been visiting Unity and would like to find out more about Unitarian Universalism and our congregation, we invite you to join us for a *Welcome to Unity* class.

Finding Yourself at Unity: A Deeper Exploration

Saturday May 3, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

In this class, we will have an opportunity to share part of our religious journey, to take a more in depth look at the history of Unity Church, to discuss the expectations and benefits of membership, and get to know the programs and ministries of the congregation.

Committing to Unity: Joining Unity Church

Wednesday June 4, 7:15–8:30 p.m.

This class explores the deeper meanings and expectations of membership and shared ministry. It offers time to reflect on the meaning of generosity and how you can discover the places in your life where the world’s needs meets the gifts and joy you have to offer. The class concludes with a ceremony as participants sign the membership book and officially join the church!

Evergreen Quilters Presents

Green Gardens

April Show

Silent Auction

Raffle

Evergreen Quilters brings you their bi-annual show, silent auction, and raffle that runs from Saturday, April 5, through noon on Sunday, April 27, in the Parish Hall.

The individual pieces of beautifully quilted items in their show *Green Gardens* can be yours if you are the highest bidder at the end of the month-long silent auction. About twenty Evergreen Quilters created this collection of quilted wall hangings, small quilts, and other decorative items. The highest bidders on these treasures will take them home on Sunday, April 27. Everyone is encouraged to bid generously and often on the silent auction items!

This year's queen-size raffle quilt is reminiscent of lush farmland as seen from above. Evergreen Quilters adapted a pattern, adding their own touches to make it unique. They call this year's raffle quilt *Community Gardens*. Raffle tickets for this quilt will be sold after services on Sundays during April. The winning raffle ticket will be drawn at noon on Sunday, April 27.

There will also be a variety of smaller items — totes, pillow cases, coin purses, and small mats — available for purchase each Sunday.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from the raffle, silent auction, and sales will be shared with community organizations including Sharing Korner Food Shelf, The Family Place, and the Jeremiah Transitional Housing Program in St. Paul.

Please join the Evergreen Quilters on Sundays in the Parish Hall during April to see our quilts and to bid on your favorites!

Do people confide in you?

Take Marital First Responders Training

Saturday, April 12 • 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Parish Hall



Unity Church has been the national launching pad for Marital First Responders.

It's a training workshop for people who others open up to about troubles in their marriages and intimate partnerships. Marital First Responders are natural confidants, but they are sometimes unsure about how to be helpful, how to avoid taking sides, and how to steer friends and family members to the right resources.

Marital First Responder Training will help you be more intentional, skilled, and confident when a friend, coworker, or family member confides about relationship struggles. It's not about being a counselor but being a good friend to a person and a marriage.

The trainer is Bill Doherty, Unity member, University of Minnesota Professor, marriage therapist, and Director of the Minnesota Couples on the Brink Project.

Training topics will include:

- Listening and empathizing without taking sides
- Offering helpful perspectives on relationships
- Challenging when needed
- Keeping good boundaries
- Helping people find the right kind of help

For information and to register visit maritalfirstresponders.com/class-minnesota-2014-04. Unity members pay five dollars for lunch.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Beloved Conversations at Unity Church



Beloved Wellspring Conversations

Wednesday, April 2 • 7:15-8:30 p.m. • Unity Church

Above Every Name, Morning Star Baptist, and Unity Church join for a series of Wellspring Wednesday events based on the exciting Beloved Conversations experience.

All are invited to “break bread” together from 6:00-7:00 p.m. We will come together for large and small group discussion and the sharing of stories focusing on race, faith, and our desire to work toward the Beloved Community. You need not have attended other Beloved Conversations events to attend this session. This session will explore “our cultural self” and ask, what is our own culture, do we belong to more than one, and what impact do deeply held cultural sensibilities have on us? Childcare will be available.

Beloved Conversations Mini Retreat

This is your chance to get in on Beloved Conversations! Unity Church will conduct a two-day “mini retreat” to capture the flavor of discussion, story-telling, and community building, focusing on race and our spirituality central to Beloved Conversations. This retreat is intended for those who did not participate in the Beloved Conversations sessions that were held in fall of 2013.

Friday, April 11: 6:30–9:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 12: 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Light breakfast and lunch will be served – free will offering accepted. Details and online registration is available at: <http://www.unityunitarian.org/beloved-conversations.html>

If you have questions, please contact Drew Danielson at Unity Church by phone at 651-228-1456 x112 or email at drew@unityunitarian.org.

Palm Sunday: Above Every Name Welcomes Unity Church

Sunday, April 13 • 1:00-3:00 p.m. • Sanctuary

On Palm Sunday our community partner church, Above Every Name, invites the members and friends of Unity Church to worship together with their congregation. This collaboration grows out of “Beloved Conversations” and invites us into deeper relationship with others in our community. Unity Church will have a role in the service and be invited to fully participate in this meaningful celebration of Palm Sunday.

Elders Circle Group

Tuesday, April 22 • 1:00-2:30 p.m. • Center Room

The Elders Circle is a group of church elders (self-identified) who get together monthly for fellowship, reflection, and fun. This month, elders will consider events and turning points in their lives and make a visual representation in order to understand where they have come from, where they are now, and where they are going. Mining the stories of a lifetime will give us a chance to gather our most important moments into a story we can share with loved ones!

Book Reading

Local author Judith Sullivan will read from her new book, *The Terrifying Wind: Seeking Shelter Following the Death of a Child*

Monday, May 5 • 7:00 p.m. • Common Good Books

38 South Snelling Avenue, St Paul

It took only one phone call to change a family’s life forever. When twenty-five-year-old Melissa Sullivan arrived at the hospital, she was already in a coma. Several days went by as Judith Sullivan, her husband, and her son and his wife held vigil in the hospital waiting room. Holding on to hope, the family clung to each other and to friends who offered their support. But Melissa would not survive the cardiac arrest. Judith and her family then went on a journey. They struggled to understand how Melissa could have died. They realized that their family would have to be redefined. And they learned the value of good friends—life supporters—who walked with them on their journey.

Writing Green: Nature Poetry and Ecology

Saturday, May 10 • 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. • Unity Church

There are many ways to advocate for the natural world! Join master poet Thomas R. Smith as we survey the world of nature poetry with masters such as Wordsworth, Thoreau, Mary Oliver, and Wendell Berry. Along the way, we’ll look at some Minnesota poets who have written notably of nature, and borrow liberally from the British “ecopoetics” scholar Jonathan Bate and French poet Francis Ponge. Taking time for enjoyment and discussion of great nature poetry, while staying aware of serious threats to our environment, we’ll use writing exercises to hone our ability to create poems celebrating and advocating for the natural world.

Thomas R. Smith has had hundreds of poems published on three continents. He is the author of six books of poems, and has had poems featured in Garrison Keillor’s public radio program *The Writer’s Almanac*, *The Best American Poetry 1999*, and elsewhere. He lives in River Falls, Wisconsin, where he is able to write about and observe the natural world, and teaches poetry at the Loft Literary Center.

Cost: \$59 for Unity Members, \$79 for non-members
Register online at <http://bit.ly/WritingGreen>.

Second Chance Day 2014 at the Capitol

From Peter Heege, on behalf of Unity's ARLT

Second Chance Day at the Minnesota Capitol, held Wednesday, March 12, was a gathering of advocates for proposed legislation around several issues impacting ex-offenders. There was a large crowd in the rotunda — legislators, faith-based advocacy groups, persons affected by current law — and Unity Church was well represented by staff, Racial and Restorative Justice Outreach Team members, current and former Anti-Racism Leadership Team (ARLT) members, and other interested congregants.

Current legislative proposals which will be on the docket this session include a proposal to change the current law which disenfranchises ex-offenders who are no longer incarcerated but are still “on paper” (parole or probation); a proposal for expungement of juvenile criminal records (anyone accused of a felony has this kind of record, regardless of the outcome of any adjudication); and a proposal to halt the practice of shackling pregnant inmates during labor, delivery, and post-partum.

The scope of these proposals is by no means small. In Minnesota, 45,000 people who are currently living, working and paying taxes in our communities, are not able to participate fully in the society because of disenfranchisement. One in four Minnesotans has a criminal record. Over 4,000 female inmates are pregnant during their time of incarceration. Those affected are disproportionately from communities of color. These numbers have increased geometrically with the increase in numbers of incarcerated as a result of the War on Drugs. Over two million African Americans nationwide are disenfranchised. In Minnesota, 17% of African American men can't vote.

The ARLT feels that advocacy at the legislative level on these issues is an important component in working to help Unity Church become an actively anti-racist congregation. We know this advocacy has an effect. Last year's proposal to “ban the box” (the question on job applications about criminal history) was adopted by the legislature and there is great hope that this year's proposals will have a similar result. North Dakota has adopted a “once you are out, you can vote” change in its laws. Disenfranchisement laws were largely adopted and are a carry-over from the Jim Crow era, when their intent was to bar minority voting.

Ramsey County Attorney John Choi spoke eloquently at the rally. He said that he believes in consequences and justice, and that we are a civil society which should promote redemption. Giving people who have made a mistake a second chance gives them a stake in our society and a greater chance for success in, and contribution to, that society.



Project Home: An Opportunity

From Ann Russell, Project Home Team

SIGN UP ONLINE! [HTTP://BIT.LY/PROJECTHOME2014](http://bit.ly/PROJECTHOME2014)

The word “homeless” creates certain images for each of us... just who is the homeless family... do we really know? A recent HBO documentary, *Winter in America*, follows eight Portland families who said, “I never thought this would happen to me.” They were middle class people, many long term employees, some college educated, and most home owners, each struggling to make ends meet, all of whom found that they were one injury, one sick child, or one job loss away from disaster. Even with the help of a social service system (although ever-shrinking and maddeningly uncoordinated) those families faced a period without the safety of a home. Those parents were struggling to create that safe place again. However, the challenge they and others face continues unabated... **the United States now has over ONE MILLION homeless children.**

The Project Home program is committed to getting families back into the safety of a home. As part of a community wide effort, and with the help of many volunteers, Unity Church becomes a safe place for families each night during May. Project Home is now well known to many in this community and is part of the rhythm of our congregational life. **We must recruit 150 volunteers (five each night)!** Three volunteers are present from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., to welcome families when they arrive and provide whatever hospitality is needed (serving a snack, entertaining children, or simply conversation). Two volunteers arrive at 8:00 p.m. to see families to their rooms (lights out a 9:00 p.m.), spend the night, provide a simple breakfast, and send the families off by 7:00 a.m. on weekdays and 9:00 a.m. on weekends. We give our families the chance to engage, but we are also able to provide a private space if they wish. For that brief window we are simply present in community with them. We are real to these families, and they are real to us. It is no wonder we have such faith in Unity's ability and willingness to respond when, and if, we have gaps in our volunteer coverage.

As generous as Unity Church members have always been, gathering 150 volunteers is still a huge undertaking. We make it easy for you to say, “Yes!” You can sign up at the Project Home table after morning services on Sundays or visit the online Sign Up Genius at <http://bit.ly/ProjectHome2014>. If you are new to Project Home you will receive a basic orientation and training. Many who have volunteered in past years have told us that it is a truly meaningful engagement with struggling families who genuinely need very immediate focused help to get back on their feet. Many are surprised at how much they have enjoyed getting to know these families. These few hours gives us that rare chance not just to “do for” but truly to “be with” people who need us. We also need hearty volunteers at the beginning and at the end of the month to help set up comfortable places for each family. **If you have not been part of Project Home in the past we encourage you to participate!**

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Celebrate Spring!

Partner Church Team members are taking orders for lovely blooming plants in the Parish Hall each Sunday through April 6, following morning services. This annual fundraiser benefits the relationship with our partner church and Unitarian friends in Homorodszentpeter, Transylvania, Romania. The plants will be ready to take home on Palm Sunday, April 13.



Tutors Needed at Galtier School

Volunteer reading and math tutors are needed at Galtier Community School located at 1317 W. Charles Avenue, St. Paul. The school has an extended day program on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 4:00-5:45 as part of the St. Paul Schools Extended Day for Learning.

The program is available for students from kindergarten through fifth grade. The after school program features fun and engaging activities to help students improve math and reading skills as well as opportunities for them to take enrichment classes to explore new abilities and interests.

Dr. Darcel Hill with the Children's Defense Fund Freedom School (Unity Church members volunteered with the summer Freedom School in 2013) is the site leader for this program at Galtier School. For more information visit <http://extendedday.spps.org> or call Dr. Hill at 651-428-1322.

Sustainable Agriculture Group

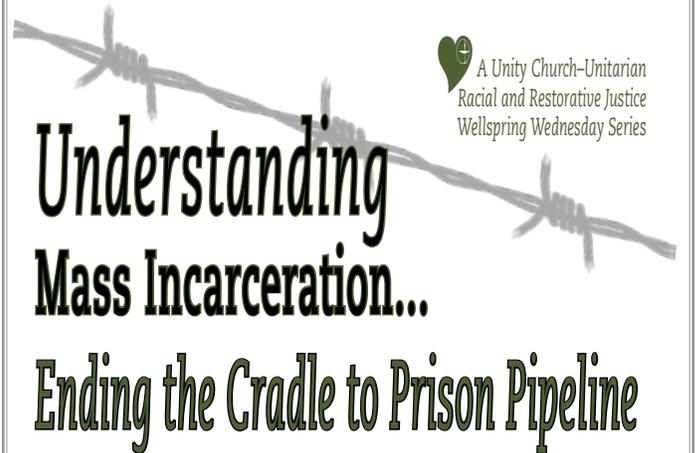
Thursday, April 10 • 5:30-7:30 p.m.

DeCramer Room and Children's Garden

Weather permitting, the Sustainable Agriculture group will get into the garden at this month's meeting! We will explore the Children's Garden history, goals, successes and challenges. We will overview straw bale gardening, unpack and set up the straw bales, and make plans to prepare them for use. Join us if you want to be part of Unity Church's gardening process! We will also talk about the church's food processes, from buying to composting. We all bring some food to share at the meeting.



APRIL 2: ONE VOICE MIXED CHORUS • APRIL 9: UNITY SINGERS
See page 12 for more information about these concerts benefiting organizations working to support homeless youth in our community.



A Unity Church-Unitarian
Racial and Restorative Justice
Wellspring Wednesday Series

This series has three areas of focus: education (fall 2013), jobs (winter 2014) and housing (spring 2014), and will incorporate the issues of prevention and incarceration, and the effects of the War on Drugs and the Minnesota criminal justice system into each offering. Each session will follow a similar format:

- An introduction grounded in our Unitarian Universalist faith imperative
- An overview of the justice issue delivered by the guest speaker
- A first hand story by someone who has experienced the "pipeline"
- A call to action including opportunities for service and advocacy with community partners
- A question and answer session

Programs are held at Unity Church and run from 7:10 p.m. to approximately 9:00 p.m.

Upcoming! April 23 • 7:10 p.m.

The sixth and final program in this series will look at the difficulties formerly incarcerated youth and adults face in finding safe and affordable housing upon re-entry. In addition, this session will explore the impact the "War of Drugs" has had on the lives of people caught in the pipeline and the explosion of for-profit prisons in this country.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Music Notes

From Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministry

Come and join with us and many of our neighbors for a wonderful workshop from the Spirituals Project, Saturday, May 3, here at Unity Church!

Noon–2:00: Workshop on the African-American Spiritual with Dr. Arthur Jones

2:00–3:00: A community sing featuring gathered choirs and Dr. Arthur Jones

We are very excited about welcoming our guest, Dr. Jones, to be with us and many of our neighboring churches and all those who wish to come and experience this wonderful workshop. No better description could articulate the passion and dedicated work of Dr. Jones and the Spirituals Project than their own words which I share below. Please consider joining us for this wonderful beginning to our Arthur Foote Music Sunday Weekend! This is free and open to the public.

We seek to tear down the walls that hinder young people in learning from elders, and hinder elders in trusting young people to assume the mantles of leadership. We seek to draw from the wisdom of the ancestors, whose embrace of the twin forces of Spirit and Hope defied all odds. We seek to rejoice in the genuine social progress that we have made as a society, while also working to tear down the remaining walls that impede our efforts to build the kind of world in which we want our children and our grandchildren to live. Musically and poetically, our aim is for all to experience the infinite power of the soul that delivers a genuine inter-generational and interracial dialogue as it symbolically works its way through those strands. If we accomplish that aim, then we will know that the women and men who created and first sang the spirituals will be pleased.

— Dr. Arthur Jones, Founder and Chair Emeritus, Psychologist and Educator

Located on the campus of the University of Denver, The Spirituals Project is a federal nonprofit community dedicated to the following:

Mission: The Spirituals Project mission is to preserve and revitalize the music and teachings of the sacred songs called “spirituals,” created and first sung by enslaved Africans in America in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Vision: The Spirituals Project is a broad-based initiative to explore the many, varied dimensions of African American spirituals as art form, tradition and tool; and to invite all people to experience the joy and power of this dynamic music and gift from African Americans to the world. Spirituals uplift in times of crisis, heal, comfort, inspire and instill hopes and dreams, thereby transforming individuals, communities, and whole societies. Our goal is to ensure that the spirituals will be passed on for many generations to come.

Goals

- Developing and using present day technology to promote awareness and to insure the preservation of the spirituals for future generations
- Promoting an understanding between racial communities leading to reconciliation based on an understanding of the historical period in which the spirituals found their birth
- Educating the public about African American spirituals, enhancing the public’s understanding of the historical value of the spirituals, and encouraging appreciation of the spirituals as art form and cultural tradition
- Providing educational experiences centered on the historical significance, traditions, and gifts that the African American community brings to the world, beginning with the spirituals and continuing to the present
- Providing educational and performance opportunities for vocalists
- Encouraging collaborative efforts among a variety of singers, speakers, scholars, religious leaders, and academicians within the community

Concerts with a Cause

April 2: One Voice Mixed Chorus
InsideOUT!

Free. Donations gratefully accepted to support the teens from Avenues for Homeless Youth.

Join One Voice Mixed Chorus for this foot-stomping, hand-clapping rhythmic community in a musical journey guaranteed to transform your world and warm your heart from the inside out! One Voice has been rehearsing with Melanie DeMore, a vocal activist from San Francisco who teaches the South Sea Islands art of “Stick Pounding.” This concert will include spirituals taught by DeMore, and Unity members will have a chance to try their hand at pounding during the concert!

April 9: Unity Singers

Free. Donations gratefully accepted for Beacon Interfaith Housing, a local effort providing housing for homeless youth.

Join us for a rare full concert by Unity’s wonderful 19-voice singing ensemble.

Arthur Foote Music Weekend Events

Saturday, May 3

12:00-2:00 p.m.: Workshop presented by Dr. Arthur Jones, The Spirituals Project (*details at left*)

2:00-3:00 p.m.: Music presentation by participating choirs and community-sing

Sunday, May 4

9:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. • 4:30 p.m.

Music presented by Unity’s Children’s Choir, Unity’s Women’s Ensemble, Unity Singers, Unity Choir; Laura Sewell, cello; Unity Percussion Ensemble; and special guest, Dr. Arthur Jones, The Spirituals Project

LIBRARY/BOOKSTALL / CAFÉ UNITY / BOOK SALE



What's New in the Library and Bookstall!

From Louise Merriam, Libraries and Bookstall Team

Unity Church has maintained libraries for adults and children for many years. Library services are provided and the collections are maintained by a stalwart group of volunteers that always seems just a little bit too small. We accomplish great things, but we could always do more — if we had more people.

To encourage Unity folks to consider joining the Library Team, what follows are comments from current team members about their experiences as volunteers with this group.

- I like being on the Library Team because I like the people on the team; and because when I am in the library or working on the books I see books that I would like to read. — *Jane*
- I love being on the Library and Bookstall Team because I get to work with an amazing group of volunteers who share my passion for libraries and for service to Unity Church—they all rock! — *Shelley*
- What a wonder for Unity to have not one, but two separate libraries. I love watching the energy and curiosity that the young ones bring to the children's library when I am there on a Sunday morning, and it is open after all services. I appreciate that the Library and Bookstall teams are not only interested in their direct work, but that we also support wider church efforts, such as the publication of *Cairns*, book signings, and Cafe Unity. — *Cynthia*
- I joined the library team because I enjoy reading and learning new things. Simply being in our lovely library is an opportunity to explore what it means to be a Unitarian. And, the library team members and meetings are genuinely fun! — *Sandy*

If these dedicated volunteers haven't convinced you, check us out for yourself. Contact Louise at 612-242-8772 or machias1@gmail.com or Shelley at 651-283-5139 or sjbutler@comcast.net. We will give you a private tour!

Attention Artists!

Applications to be a Parish Hall artist will be accepted in April!

Unity Church-Unitarian will be accepting applications for exhibits during the exhibit calendar year 2014/2015 beginning in April 2014. Exhibits run monthly from September 2014 through August of 2015. More information and an application form will be online at www.unityunitarian.org/parish-hall-artists.html.

The 6th Annual Café Unity Poetry & Music Salon

Friday
April 4, 2014
7:00 p.m.

Original Writing
Great Music
Food & Drink
Fellowship



FREE!!

Need Childcare?
Contact
christy@unityunitarian.org
by April 1.

High School Book Sale! April 12 & 13

Pick up your summer reads or some great additions to your personal library at the High School Book Sale! Thank you to all who donated books.

Saturday Midnight Madness: 12:00-1:00 a.m.

Sneak preview for Unity congregants only (password required)

Saturday, April 12: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 13: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fill a Bag for \$5 starts Sunday at 2:30 p.m.!

Proceeds help youth make the pilgrimage to Boston and participate in other denominational activities. Book donations are accepted until April 11 at 5:00 p.m.!



MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Coming of Age Is Deadly

From Drew Danielson, Coordinator of Youth and Campus Ministries

The Coming of Age class this year hit a wall in late December.

“This is no fun. I hate it”

“We’re not treated respectfully.”

“Nothing we talk about is relevant.”

“No one likes each other.”

And this was just the teachers! The “agers” also showed signs of fatigue over the spiritual, philosophical discourse. Some expressed feelings that the class topics had very little to do with them in any practical way. How that could be, escaped me. *What does it mean to be human? What is Sacred? How do we live in the face of death and loss? Describe God.* Seriously, how could anyone, regardless of age, find these topics to be personally irrelevant?

My guess is the winter holidays, boredom, and a bit of group think was really behind it. That and, when the youth looked ahead to the end, the light in the tunnel, what they would see is that freight train called the “Statement of Faith” bearing down on them. Which can cause not a little fear.

But they muddled through pretty well. Teachers and youth admitted to each other that all this reflection and sharing can be a slog, and now, though the train is rumbling ever nearer, it feels like we’re at least out of that long dark tunnel, and something other than impending doom might be up ahead.

I want to avoid forcing an analogy between “spring’s redemption,” the “resurrection” of the spirit and body that spring can bring, and the COA class hopefully emerging from the doldrums of a bleak, frigid winter. I want to, but I can’t, completely. I can’t because of the thing about resurrection that makes the “it’s Easter and the lilies are back — resurrection!” message too simple. That thing is death. Death is not a little

rough patch; we can’t just dress warmer to avoid it. We should recognize maybe there are things fatal that happen in COA.

Two things are clearly in danger of being attacked and eliminated over the course of the year. First is the comfort of feeling you already know everything you need to know, that it’s all figured out as well as it ever has to be. We claim COA is about saying what you believe, but the nature of the class is to ask you to reexamine your beliefs and consider the flaws. Seems a cruel trick. Secondly, in promising “spiritual adulthood” this rite effectively ends “spiritual childhood” — the comfort of not having to think about these things for yourself. To “come of age” does our childhood really have to end now?

I don’t know that any of the “agers” consciously fear what I’m talking of; probably the public speaking part is the identifiable threat. The impending writing and speaking assignment tends to eclipse the grieving over lost certainty. We require them to let their loss go and to prepare to stand as something new. And in late April our 9th graders will rise again. They will rise out of the “garden level” of religious education classes, burst into the sanctuary, and before our eyes, they will bloom. And their beauty will stun us! They will stun us because their maturity and thoughtfulness will seem like it came from nowhere. We’ll hear observations and conclusions and beliefs we had no idea existed. We’ll be speechless.

And we’ll be proud, as we should be, because once we stop being amazed by how well they turned out, we’ll remember all the work — the good soil, the fertilizing, the care and sunlight — that helped get them here. It did not come from no where, it came from a lot of work from a lot of people. I know this will happen, yet I’m still compelled to remind us how critical it is for us as a church community to take this responsibility to guide Coming

of Age seriously. For all the joy and color and relief and balloons we’ll see on COA weekend, our youth had a difficult year... probably years. Not just because they wrote something and presented it — because we have worked not to indoctrinate them, but to raise them in a faith with few easy answers and potentially overwhelming responsibility. We’re never sure the outcome. We may not like what truths they arrive at, exactly what beliefs they profess. Many youth will never enter our doors again. For those who do, they’ll struggle to find their role in a church and faith that maybe hasn’t really figured out exactly what its young adults are supposed to do from here.

Still we will have to be here. We cannot remain speechless. We have to be mentors. We have to lead them; we also have to let them lead us. We will have to let go of their childhoods, listen to them, and be ready to maybe even let many of our own beliefs and comforts die as well. Then we will all become something beautiful.

Helpful Reminders!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2014-15

You must be present at one of the following sessions to enroll:

- Sunday, April 13 • 1:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 16 • 7:15 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 22 • 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 26 • 10:00 a.m.

See page 15 for all the details.

LAST DAY OF R.E. 2014

The last Sunday of religious education including a recognition of our fabulous and dedicated teachers, will be held on Sunday, May 11.

SUMMER CAMP AT UNITY CHURCH

This year Unity Church is offering two summer camps! Get all the details and register online...

Chalice Camp

unityunitarian.org/chalice-camp.html

Arts Camp

unityunitarian.org/arts-camp.html

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH / ONGOING GROUPS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION!

Enrollment begins for 2014-15

New and returning families wishing to enroll in Religious Education will have a chance to receive orientation, volunteer to teach, and enroll children for age-appropriate classes for 2014-15. This in-person session with staff and Unity's Religious Education Ministry Team members will help you review Unity's religious education programs and answer any questions you may have.

Enrollment dates:

- Sunday, April 13 • 1:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 16 • 7:15 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 22 • 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 26 • 10:00 a.m.

Yes, there is a spot for every child interested in growing up in our community! Some classes fill up quickly, while other classes have ample space for additional children. No one has been or ever will be turned away from our Religious Education program but we ask families to please come with a flexible spirit and a willingness to consider service times other than their first choice.

Childcare will be provided at each of the hour-long enrollment times.

This is NOT the enrollment for Coming of Age (program typically for our 9th grade youth) nor for Our Whole Lives (sexuality and spirituality program). Information and dates for these programs will be forthcoming. Questions and comments about these two offerings should be forwarded to Drew Danielson at drew@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x112.

Ongoing Groups

These groups are open to all members and friends of Unity Church. If you are looking to connect with a group, please visit www.unityunitarian.org/fellowship.html or call the church office at 651-228-1456.

A New Look at the Bible: Second Thursday of the month (April 10) at 7:00 p.m.

Afterthoughts: This group meets after the 9:00 a.m. service.

Caregivers Group: An informal support group for caregivers. Third Thursday of the month (April 17) from Noon–2:00 p.m.

Evergreen Quilters: Second Tuesday of the month (April 8) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and fourth Saturday of the month (April 26) from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Job Transitions/Networking Group: Every Monday at 9:00 a.m. in the Anderson Library.

Living With Grief Group: A group for people living with grief and loss. Third Tuesday of the month (April 15) from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Men's Retirement Group: Monday, April 7 and 21, from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Unitots!: A drop-in playgroup for families (parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles) with kids through preschool age. Every Monday, from 9:30 a.m.-noon, in the nursery.

Unity Book Club: Second Tuesday (April 8 and May 13) of the month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. In April the group will discuss *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese and in May the group will discuss *Under a Wing* by Reeve Lindbergh.

Unity Bridge Club: Friday, April 4, at 7:00 p.m.

Women's Retirement Group: Second and Fourth Thursday of the month (April 10 and 24) from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Zen Meditation: Find renewal and grounding. Tuesdays from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., in the Ames Chapel.

SUMMER CAMP AT UNITY CHURCH

Friends Fun Crafts
ARTS Singing GAMES

CHALICE CAMP Week 1: July 7-11

CHALICE CAMP Week 2: July 21-25

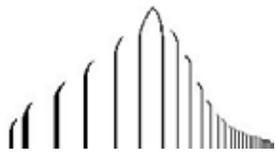
More information and registration for Chalice Camp is online at <http://www.unityunitarian.org/chalice-camp.html>

ARTS CAMP Week 1: June 23-27

ARTS CAMP Week 2: July 14-18

More information and registration for Arts Camp is online at <http://www.unityunitarian.org/arts-camp.html>

Unity Church is offering many weeks of summer day camp! Share in summer fun and Unitarian Universalist values with Unity Church friends entering grades 1-6. Our camps run Monday-Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. Early-bird tuition \$200/week/child if paid by May 1. After May 1, \$250.



UNITY CHURCH-UNITARIAN

Sanctuary Entrance: 733 Portland Avenue • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104
Business Entrance: 732 Holly Avenue • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104
651-228-1456 • fax: 651-228-0927 • www.unityunitarian.org • unity@unityunitarian.org

STEVE HARPER, CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REV. JANNE ELLER-ISAACS, CO-MINISTER
REV. ROB ELLER-ISAACS, CO-MINISTER
BARBARA HUBBARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
REV. LISA FRIEDMAN, DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

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**TIME SENSITIVE
MATERIAL**

Palm Sunday **Above Every Name Welcomes Unity Church**

Sunday, April 13 • 1:00-3:00 p.m. • Sanctuary

On Palm Sunday our community partner church, Above Every Name, invites the members and friends of Unity Church to worship together with their congregation. This collaboration grows out of "Beloved Conversations" and invites us into deeper relationship with others in our community. Unity Church will have a role in the service and be invited to fully participate in this meaningful celebration of Palm Sunday.



Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 17 • 7:00 p.m. • Ames Chapel

Please join us for a service of ritual and community, sharing in traditional holy week practices of Eucharist and Foot Washing. In the Memorialist tradition, we join to remember the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, which include welcoming all people to a meal of love, giving thanks for the gifts of life, and serving each other in humility.



DANCE *into* **SPRING**

*with the
rock-and roll
sounds of*

Buddy and the Blue Dogs

Buddy and the Blue Dogs is a five person band that plays a fun range of music made for dancing including R&B, Motown, Blues, and Classic Rock with extra helpings from the '60s and '70s.

Saturday, April 12
Save the date, details to follow!