

## August Worship Calendar

**FROM MAY 29 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 4 THERE IS JUST ONE SERVICE EACH WEEK AT 10:00 AM.** Religious Education Summer Sundays in the Garden is offered during the 10:00 a.m. service. Sermon podcasts and archives are available online at [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org).

### August 7: *It's All Real Life*

No matter your embrace or avoidance of technology, it is an intertwined attribute of modern life. Worship leader Terri Burnor and worship associate Angela Wilcox explore the tension between the natural and digital worlds and how we can lead fulfilling and meaningful lives in both.

### August 14: *Where Are You From?*

This question has a different meaning for many people. To some it speaks to geography, culture, lineage, or even privilege. Join worship leader Avi Viswanathan and worship associate Heidi Huelster as they explore the depth of this question and its many meanings.

### August 21: *What Saves Your Life?*

In times of upheaval and distress often a moment of grace or peace will enter in unexpectedly like a gift from beyond. With so much feeling out of kilter in our world, Rev. Janne Eller-Saacs and worship associate Kevin Ward will look to these moments that help us through the hard times.

**Join us for a pancake brunch on August 21 following the service!** We'll have pancakes with made-from-scratch syrups and jams. Love to flip pancakes? Volunteers should contact [madeline@unityunitarian.org](mailto:madeline@unityunitarian.org).

### August 28: *Mosaic Makers*

On the final weekend in August we will welcome teams from a dozen Unitarian Universalist congregations committed to becoming multi-cultural communities. The Sunday service will reflect our shared experiences and our aspirations for becoming more fully informed by the richly diverse communities in which we live and breathe and have our being.

### September 4: *Mr. Phil and the Folly of Naïve Cynicism*

The killing of Philando Castile, the beloved "Mr. Phil" who fed the children at J.J. Hill Montessori School, traumatized our community beyond compare. It created the deepest despair and cynicism, but also a soaring resolve and renewed commitment for racial equity and more immediate action. In these dark days that try our souls, we must consider the timeless spiritual wisdom about despair being a "sin." Moreover, cynicism and ennui is both symptomatic of white privilege and foolishly oblivious to the larger factual context around the arc of history. Dane Smith, worship leader; Rochelle Lockridge, worship associate.

## August 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 a chosen community non-profit recipient. To nominate an offering recipient, visit [www.unityunitarian.org/nominate-the-offering.html](http://www.unityunitarian.org/nominate-the-offering.html).

### August 7: Faith Builders Habitat for Humanity

In June, the Unity Church Affordable Housing Outreach Ministry Team co-sponsored a Habitat for Humanity build as an interfaith partner in Faith Builders. This offering will go towards Unity Church's share of the cost of building this home.

### August 14: Sierra Leone Foundation for a New Democracy (SLFND)

Having suffered ten years of civil war, Sierra Leoneans are hungry to restore their deliberative decision-making traditions that allow them to identify critical problems and develop concrete solutions. SLFND's first project is an early childhood center in rural Sierra Leone. This is a drop-off center with educational, health, and nutritional programs for children ages one through five. Unity's collection will support the purchase of solar electricity and an irrigation system for the childhood center. Unity Church members Sally and Mark Foster are supporters of SLFND.

### August 21: MORE

MORE (McDonough Organization with Respect and Equality for People) has been helping new Americans in St. Paul to provide for themselves and their families for almost thirty years. MORE currently has three major program areas: teaching English, refugee and immigrant mental health services, and social services that include advocacy/case management as well as providing donated food, clothing and household items. Currently, almost seventy percent of people being served are Karen refugees. About 8,000 Karen refugees are living in the St. Paul area. Unity Church member Cathy Rucci is the Executive Director of MORE.

### August 28: Sierra Leone Foundation for a New Democracy

See August 14.

### September 4: MORE

See August 21.

## Flowers for Worship

If you would like to provide flowers for Sunday services, please contact Martha Tilton at 651-228-1456 x105 or [martha@unityunitarian.org](mailto:martha@unityunitarian.org) for available dates.

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## Covenant

From Stu Alger, Trustee



Back row, l-r: Justin Cummins, Estelle Brouwer, Stu Alger, Thomas Brown, Hal Freshley, Mark Foster, Angela Newhouse. Front row, l-r: Danny Givens, Jr., Peggy Lin, Lisa Friedman, Ginny Allen, Bailey Webster, Marea Perry.

On a recent June evening, the Board of Trustees of our predominantly white congregation broke bread with the leadership of Above Every Name (AEN), the predominantly black Christian congregation that has been worshiping in our sanctuary on Sunday afternoons. We shared a potluck dinner; so over chicken, pasta, salad, and dessert, we deepened our connection to and understanding of each other.

The potluck dinner followed the Board's entering into a covenant with the AEN leadership — part of our on-going effort to define our relationship. The Board approved the covenant at its May 2016 meeting. Please read through the covenant, which is reprinted at right. Among other things, we committed to “simply being together”— hence, the potluck dinner! We also promised to work together for the growth of both congregations, honor and respect each other, and enter into a relationship of mutual transformation, growth, and learning.

The covenant arose out of years of relationship building between our Executive Team and the ministers of AEN — Revs. Danny Givens and Marea Perry, as well as the two-year ministerial residency of Rev. Givens here at Unity Church (that residency concludes this summer). In April 2016, after two years of sharing our worship space, the Board initiated a covenant conversation with AEN facilitated by Rev. Jen Crow. Among those who attended the covenant conversation were members of our Anti-Racism Leadership Team.

One of our congregational goals is to live out our commitment toward racial reconciliation and dismantling racism. In addition to our relationship-building with AEN, the Board is working with ARLT to examine its future role in helping our congregation toward that goal, and as part of that work, the Board is examining our church governance policies to ensure that they align with our commitment to intercultural understanding and racial justice.

The policy and governance work is important, but in these difficult times, when we would be further riven by the tragic deaths of Philando Castile and the Dallas police officers, it is the steady relationship building that gives me solace and hope.

## Covenant between Above Every Name and Unity Church

We promise to honor and respect each other's religious beliefs and practices and how things are done in each community.

We promise to be, and to allow each other to be, who we are, unapologetically.

We promise not to use each other.

We promise to be open to experiencing each other's religious practices with respect.

We promise to honor one another and each others' worship space and style. We will learn the proper etiquette for one another's worship services and follow it.

We will not objectify one another as a token of diversity or fall into the trap of believing a single story about each other. Our relationship is about mutual transformation, growth and learning.

We commit to deep learning and promise not to become complacent in our relationship.

We commit to doing things together — from spiritual practice to service, community building and simply being together.

We commit to participating in the life cycle moments of each others' congregations (Foote Sunday, celebration of the founding date of AEN, pledge drives, etc.).

We promise to work together for the growth of both congregations — spiritually and numerically.

We promise to share our gifts and talents with one another, including our financial resources, each to the extent that they are able, trusting that all are giving what they can to our partnership.

We promise to be transparent and accountable to one another in our relationship.

## 2017 Pledge Drive

Planning for the 2017 pledge drive is underway! Unity's pledge team will be providing many ways for individuals to connect the shared ministry of this congregation with the financial contributions that make that ministry possible. Adults, youth, children, and families will all have the opportunity to engage and deepen connections through music, spiritual practice, social justice, and more. Watch for an email announcing all the details! Thank you for your generosity!

## Looking for New ARLT Members

### Help Build an Actively Anti-Racist Church

The Anti-Racism Leadership Team (ARLT) works with the Board of Trustees and the Executive Team to further Unity's goal of becoming an actively anti-racist institution. The Board of Trustees will be appointing several members this year to fill vacancies on the team. The work of the ARLT is focused internally, on all aspects of church life — from the education and training programs offered to the congregation, to making Unity Church a welcoming and inclusive church community, to policies and procedures that reflect our commitment to anti-racism.

In the near term, the ARLT will be working with Unity's staff, community outreach teams, and external partners to plan and implement new programs and to record the church's progress toward becoming an anti-racist institution.

To learn more about the team or the appointment process, contact Drew Danielson (staff liaison to the ARLT) at [drew@unityunitarian.org](mailto:drew@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x112, Mark Foster (Board chair), or any of the ARLT members: Gabrielle Mead, Peter Heege, Russ Peterson, Vicki Stewart and Mary-Margaret Zindren. A full description of the responsibilities and expectations of the position is available online at [www.unityunitarian.org/antiracism-leadership-team.html](http://www.unityunitarian.org/antiracism-leadership-team.html).

## Dine with Nine Begins this Fall

Are you interested in getting to know more people at Unity Church? Do you enjoy great food and lively conversation? Would you like to extend the hospitality of our community to both new and long term members alike? Beginning in October, small groups of Unity Church members and friends will gather in each other homes once a month for food and fellowship. Stop by the Dine with Nine table in the Parish Hall this September to find out more. You can sign up to participate online at [www.unityunitarian.org/dine-with-nine.html](http://www.unityunitarian.org/dine-with-nine.html), or by email to Teresa Wernecke at [teresa475@gmail.com](mailto:teresa475@gmail.com). Please include your contact information and let us know if you would like to sign up for a family or adult only group or whether you have particular location or transportation needs. We look forward to another great year!

## August Parish Hall Artist: Jennifer Kunin

I am a seeker of that which is beyond the obvious; the deeper psyche, the mystical reality of who I am in each seemingly ordinary moment.

My art process has me always surrounded by several works-in-progress at a time, like the several children that I have always had around me. They are each created with a vision of beauty, compassion and depth, and each develops in its own unique way. A lot of my time is spent staring at my images, and working on this one and that one, through stages of birth, struggle, and finishing each with joyous resolution.

I paint because it heals me. I can feel my own essence and express myself. I love the feeling language in the colors, shapes and textures of abstract art. Yet I want more. I believe I can connect with my audience and myself more deeply using the language of the human face and figure. Body language is something we all innately understand and the gesture says so much. I am fascinated by the geometry of mandalas and how interesting the figure can be as a design element repeated in the circular format. I paint, sculpt, print, and design the figure into themes of nature spirits, goddesses, angels, and lovers. They are all self-portraits of facets of my own inner spirit. [www.jenniferkunin.com](http://www.jenniferkunin.com)



*Vine Labyrinth Woman*

## The Wheel of Life

### In Celebration

#### Jude Lammer Halland

born one more redeemer  
June 27, 2016  
to parents Annie and Shandon  
and big brothers  
Alexander and Sebastian

#### Alice Viswanathan

born one more redeemer  
July 7, 2016  
to parents Kara and Avi  
and big brothers  
Bennett and Harrison

### In Memoriam

#### Katie Rivard

May 7, 1948 – June 6, 2016

#### Olga Zoltai

July 3, 1931 — June 9, 2016

#### Mary Gover

April 24, 1935 — June 29, 2016

## Merging of Waters

Be sure to collect water from your journeys (or backyard!) this summer. The Merging of Waters reunion service will be held on Sunday, September 11.



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# WELCOME WORDS / FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

## Welcome Words



This has been a difficult summer for our community and for our nation. Our hearts are heavy and we long for lasting change, real justice, and enduring peace. It has been important to come together — in worship, in the garden, in vigils, and in front yards. For together, we remind ourselves that we do not face the pain and grief alone. We do not struggle for change alone. We do not hope or dream or love alone. We walk together through the joys and sorrows toward beloved community. I want to extend a special welcome to those of you who are new to Unity Church this summer — we are glad to be walking with you and welcome you to share your hopes and struggles with us. See you in church!

Rev. Lisa Friedman

Minister of Congregational and Community Engagement

## Pathway to Membership Classes

Unity Church offers three different classes for visitors who are exploring Unity Church as a spiritual home. Sign up at the Welcome Table on Sundays or contact Rev. Lisa Friedman, Minister of Congregational and Community Engagement, at [lisa@unityunitarian.org](mailto: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 request at least one week in advance.

### Welcome to Unity: Our Class for Newcomers

**Sunday, August 7 • 9:00-9:45 a.m.**

If you have been visiting Unity Church 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 Inquiry

**Sundays • 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

Finding Yourself at Unity is now offered on a regular basis on Sundays from 10:15-11:15 a.m. in the Ames Chapel. These sessions can be attended in the order that works for you. In these classes, 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. Childcare is available in the nursery.

August 7: UU History, Principles and Sources

August 14: Q & A with a Minister

August 21: Religious Education for Children, Youth, and Adults

August 28: Social Justice and Community Outreach

### Committing to Unity: Joining Unity Church

**Wednesday, September 28 • 7:15-9:00 p.m.**

This class explores the deeper meanings and expectations of membership and shared ministry. The class concluded with a celebration ceremony as participants sign the membership book and officially join the church!

## Fellowship Groups

*These groups are open to all members and friends of Unity Church. If you are looking to connect with a group, please contact the person listed, visit the church website, or call the church office at 651-228-1456.*

**A New Look at the Bible:** Second Thursday of the month (August 11) at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528

**Afterthoughts:** This group meets after the 10:00 a.m. summer service. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528.

**Caregivers Group:** An informal support group for caregivers. Third Thursday of the month (August 18) from Noon–2:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at [janne@unityunitarian.org](mailto:janne@unityunitarian.org)

**Evergreen Quilters:** Second Tuesday of the month (August 9) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and fourth Saturday of the month (August 27) from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Contact: Peggy Wright at 651-698-2760.

**Living With Grief Group:** For people living with grief and loss. Third Tuesday of the month (August 16) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at [janne@unityunitarian.org](mailto:janne@unityunitarian.org)

**Men's Retirement Group:** Monday, August 8, 22, and 29, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact: Phil Morton at 952-934-3578

**Textile Arts Group:** Bring your knitting, crocheting, tatting, embroidery, and cross stitch. All ages and levels of experience are welcome! First and third Wednesdays (August 3 and 17), 7:00-8:30 p.m. Contact: Linda Mandeville at [lindamandeville@aol.com](mailto:lindamandeville@aol.com).

**Unitots!:** A drop-in playgroup for families with kids through preschool age. Monday and Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-noon. Contact Michelle Hill at [michelle@unityunitarian.org](mailto:michelle@unityunitarian.org)

**Unity Book Club:** Second Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. All are welcome—even if you haven't read the book. Contact Jack Hawthorne at [jack.hawthorne@comcast.net](mailto:jack.hawthorne@comcast.net). Upcoming discussions:

August 9: *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf

September 13: *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande

**Unity Bridge Club:** The Bridge Club will meet on Friday, August 5, at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Priscilla Swartz at 651-454-3209.

**Women In Retirement: The Choice Years:** This group meets the second and fourth Thursday (August 11 and 25) of each month from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact Lisa Friedman at [lisa@unityunitarian.org](mailto:lisa@unityunitarian.org)

**Sangha Zen Meditation:** Find renewal and grounding. Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m., in the Ames Chapel. Instruction is offered on the first Tuesday (August 2) beginning at 5:00 p.m. Contact Ken Ford at [kenfaure@gmail.com](mailto:kenfaure@gmail.com)

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



L-R: Laura Slade, Cas Burr, Ben Pettee, Jim Donehower, Megan Olivia Hall, Lea Hall, Jackie Gulbranson, Shandon Halland, Heidi Springborg, Annie Halland

**Jim Donehower** is a lawyer now living in Mendota Heights. He's single, but he cherishes the love and partnership shared in relationships with his best friend and her daughter. He enjoys most kinds of performing and visual art, reading, the natural world, physical activity, good food, and better company. This church is an authentic and intentional community. Here, the mind is opened and the heart is filled. Jim reflects: "It's my time to commit, that in full fellowship I may nurture a life of integrity, service and joy."

**Jackie Gulbranson** lives in St. Paul with her husband and two children, Penny and Lincoln. She loves learning, board games, and making things from her hands. Unity feels like a great fit as she continues to explore her beliefs and tries to foster a sense of wonder in her kids.

**Lea Hall** returned to St. Paul after 17 years in Sarasota, Florida, half of which were snowbird years with summers spent in Wisconsin. Her current passions are family, her little old bungalow in Mac Groveland, and permaculture. She comes to Unity Church for the spiritual leadership and fellowship.

**Megan Olivia Hall** grew up in the UU tradition. She lives, reads, gardens, and cooks in St. Paul with her husband, Leo; their two children, Dylan and Rosalea; and their two cats, Willie and Izzy. Megan and Leo teach in St. Paul Public Schools.

**Shandon and Annie Halland** have three boys: Alex (age 5), Sebastian (age 3), and Jude (age one month). They are both passionate about making life a little bit easier for the most vulnerable people in our community. Unity Church has been a part of their lives for three years. They are grateful for the joy and renewal it brings into their lives. It is also important to them that their children are surrounded by a loving community that supports their values.

**Janet Oliver** is the mother of Bryan Smith, mother-in-law of Jennie Smith, and grandmother of Zachary Smith. She and her husband, Michael Tezla, have two dogs — a Standard Poodle and a Portuguese Water Dog. Janet grew up in White Bear Lake, attended the University of MN in Minneapolis, and completed a graduate degree at the University of Saint Thomas. Her current passions include classical piano, theater, films, literature, travel, her 46-year career in Special Education, biking, and knitting. She discovered Unitarianism after hearing John Cummins speak in 1971 and found that it reflected her beliefs, values, and temperament. She is honored to be joining Unity Church and plans to become active in its ministry.

**Heidi Springborg** is excited to be a new member here at Unity Church. She and her husband, Martin, have two wonderful kids, Emma (age 13) and Henry (age 10). Their family also

includes two dogs, and a cat who thinks it's a dog. They have lived in Inver Grove Heights for ten years and in the twin cities area most of their lives! She is a school psychologist at a middle school in Apple Valley, and also teaches in the school psychology program at the University of WI-River Falls, and in the special education department at the University of St. Thomas. She is passionate about supporting children and youth, and is excited to be in the process of co-authoring a book about supporting transgender and gender nonconforming youth in schools. She is thrilled to have found a spiritual home "under this tree."

**Molly Westerman and Eric Weber** The children's choir brought Molly and Eric here two and a half years ago when their older child wanted to sing, and Unity Church gradually drew them in from there. They are happy to be members of this vibrant and parent-friendly community. They live in Longfellow with their children Noah (age 10) and Simon (age 4).



## Prior Crossing: Housing for Homeless Youth

*An Operation of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative*

From Unity's Affordable Housing Outreach Ministry Team

**Exciting update!** Prior Crossing, a new housing facility for homeless youth (located at 1949 University Avenue in St. Paul) is opening for its first residents on September 2! Thanks to the many members and friends of Unity Church who helped secure the funding to build Prior Crossing. If this is the first you're learning of this tremendously important project, here is a bit of an introduction to Prior Crossing:



**Who will Prior Crossing serve?** Homeless youth ages 17 – 22 are eligible to apply. There are 44 apartments, each for one person. Thirty four of the units are housing choice voucher approved, meaning the units are eligible for rent subsidies. The other ten units are group residential housing for disabled individuals.

**What services will be offered?** Prior Crossing has a fitness center, a computer lab, and a vegetable garden. There will be services to assist residents with education, job training, job application, survival skills, and other personal issues.

**What kind of community support will be offered?** Four churches have stepped up so far to be key suppliers of volunteers: Unity Church, House of Hope, Temple of Aaron, and Lumen Christi. Some volunteer opportunities will be one-time activities, others will require an on-going commitment.

### Call for volunteers!

1. Volunteers will be needed at the end of August (exact date yet to be determined) to unload furniture from delivery trucks and move it into the apartments. Some of the furniture will also need to be assembled. This will take place once, so no long-term commitment is needed.
2. Help fill the supply closet. Donations of bedding, cleaning supplies, toiletries, kitchen tools, dishes, and cash to purchase these items will be gratefully accepted. Volunteers will be needed to help with the collection and delivery of donated items. If you are interested in taking a lead on coordinating donations, please be in touch!
3. Serve as a "Saturday Greeter." These individuals will commit to spending one Saturday each month at Prior Crossing. Shifts are three to four hours and responsibilities include greeting residents and visitors and answering the phone. Sunday Greeters will get to know the residents and interact during planned activities in the lounge area. Unity Church would like to provide four to six volunteers for this service. These volunteers would apply, agree to a background check, and receive training.
4. Serve as a volunteer coordinator for Unity's volunteers at Prior Crossing. This person (or persons) would find and coordinate volunteers and serve as the contact for Beacon and the staff at Prior Crossing.
5. Watch for additional opportunities! As Prior Crossing gets rolling there will be many other ways to get connected to the organization and the residents.

Now is your chance to commit to serving the youth in our community and helping the young people at Prior Crossing make a better life for themselves. For more information contact Rev. Lisa Friedman at [lisa@unityunitarian.org](mailto:lisa@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x107.

## Religious Education Updates and Reminders

Families who may have missed spring Religious Education Enrollment for 2016-17 should attend the enrollment session on Wednesday, September 7, at 7:15 p.m. Childcare is provided. R.E. classes begin September 18. Questions? Please email [michelle@unityunitarian.org](mailto:michelle@unityunitarian.org).

**Our Whole Lives (OWL) Orientation**  
Please choose to attend ONE of these orientation sessions:

- Tuesday, August 30  
7:00–8:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 7  
7:00–8:30 p.m.

At least one parent or guardian must attend orientation in order for a child to participate in OWL. Orientation includes viewing class materials and experiencing parts of the curriculum. OWL is open to 7-9th graders, with 8th graders receiving preference. To learn more or to put your child on the list, contact Drew Danielson at [drew@unityunitarian.org](mailto:drew@unityunitarian.org).

**Teacher Orientation!** Volunteer teachers/guides for the 2016-17 church year, both new and experienced, are asked to attend teacher orientation. Please choose to attend ONE of these sessions:

- Saturday, September 10  
10:00 a.m. -noon
- Wednesday, September 14  
6:45-8:45 p.m. (following 6:00 p.m. Wellspring Wednesday taco dinner)

Watch for an invitation to register online; questions can be directed to [kp@unityunitarian.org](mailto:kp@unityunitarian.org).

### Coming of Age Registration

Registration for Coming of Age is now closed. If the spring online registration process escaped your notice, you have a 9th grader wanting to participate, and you are a member of Unity Church, contact [drew@unityunitarian.org](mailto:drew@unityunitarian.org) ASAP.

## UNITY SINGERS holding auditions for SOPRANO and TENOR

Unity Singers, our auditioned 20-voice ensemble, is looking for a soprano and a tenor to join us this season!! We salute members Amber Lockridge, soprano, and Steve Nelson, tenor, who were two of our founding members and sang with us for ten seasons. Our thanks to all they brought to us and best wishes for their life plans that take them into new ventures.

Unity Singers is based on the ensemble idea of how voices work together, each effecting the sound of the other and the ensemble as a whole. Voices work together in unique and often surprising ways. This means you do not have to have what you might call a "solo voice." It is all a matter of how your voice combines with the other voices in the ensemble. Auditions consist of meeting separately with Ruth Palmer and then with your voice section and entire choir.

If interested, please be in touch with Ruth Palmer as soon as possible to set up a time to meet together. Final auditions are Tuesday evening, September 6. Feel free to be in touch with any questions and interest in auditioning! Contact Ruth Palmer at [ruth@unityunitarian.org](mailto:ruth@unityunitarian.org). We invite you to explore the possibility of singing with this wonderful community of voices and people.

## Sing in a Unity Church Choir

Here at Unity Church we have a vital choral program and invite you to consider singing with us this year. If you've been wanting to do this, how about this fall?

For adults, it is helpful to have some musical experience — music lessons, choir experience, etc. Of course, if that is not in your background, but you have a passionate interest and the courage to jump in to the flow of things in order to learn a new skill, we invite you to come and sing with us. We have a great time together!

Please feel free to contact Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministries, with any questions at [ruth@unityunitarian.org](mailto:ruth@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x118.

First rehearsals for this church year are as follows:

- **Children's Choir** (grades 1-5)  
Sunday, September 11, 10:15–11:00 a.m., Robbins Parlor  
Kathleen Radspinner, director ([kathleenr395@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenr395@gmail.com))
- **Unity Choir** (high school, adult)  
Thursday, September 8, 7:30– 9:15 p.m., Parish Hall  
Ruth Palmer, director
- **Unity Singers** (auditioned membership, see above)  
Tuesday, September 6, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Parish Hall  
Ruth Palmer, director
- **Women's Ensemble**  
Sunday, September 11, 10:15-10:45 a.m., Foote Room  
Ruth Palmer, director

## Reading to Listen in Memory of Philando Castile

From Shelley Butler, Library and Bookstall Team

It's the day before the funeral. The deadline for *commUNITY* looms and I'm struggling with what is in my heart vs. what to write about the Library & Bookstall Team. Avoiding the task altogether, I opened Facebook to find that I35W was shut down by protesters, a rally is planned for tomorrow, and a friend posted a link to "What Writers of Color Say We Should Read Now," (Strib, July 13, 2016). Laurie Hertzell writes:

*How does one culture understand another culture?  
How can one culture understand another culture?*

*Books are one way.*

*In the wake of the recent shooting death in Falcon Heights of Philando Castile, Twin Cities writers, artists and teachers of color have suggestions for books that might help bridge that gap.*

Does this seem trivial? Books are not the only way and not even the primary way to understand, but writers say they can show us "how to be human together," and how to connect "this struggle to the larger history in the United States," among other life-shifting ideas.

Here are a few of the new books that writers of color say we should read now that you can find in the Anderson Library and/or the Bookstall:

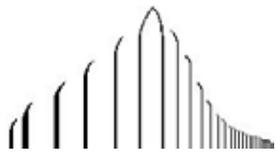
***A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota*** edited by Sun Yung Shin, MN Historical Society Press, 2016. Susan Power says, "Each voice helps us step inside a different perspective, exploding assumptions and stereotypes with each page. To heal differences, we have to admit they exist, then we have to listen."

***Resisting Arrest: Poems to Stretch the Sky*** edited by Tony Medina, Jacar Press, 2016. Bao Phi writes, "The great poet Nikki Finney once remarked that one of her goals as a poet was to create beauty out of the ugly. The poems in the anthology... certainly accomplish that. This collection of work by a multigenerational, multiracial ensemble of poets addresses police violence against people of color, and is essential reading in these unbearable times."

***Revolutionary Mothering: Love on the Front Lines*** edited by Alexis Pauline Gumbs, et al, PM Press, 2016. Shá Cage says that this book is "a movement-shifting anthology committed to birthing new worlds, full of faith and hope for what we can raise up together."

You can find the entire list and several of the books on it in the Anderson Library on the "New Books" shelf.

One other thing: Nikki Giovanni says, "You must be unintimidated by your own thoughts." To share your thoughts in writing or art is to join the conversation. Consider contributing your voice to *Cairns: The Unity Church Journal of the Arts*, Vol. 9. Final deadline: September 26, 2016.



# UNITY CHURCH-UNITARIAN

Sanctuary Entrance: 733 Portland Avenue • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104  
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**TIME SENSITIVE  
MATERIAL**

## Save the Date!

Monday, October 10, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Unity Church-Unitarian

### THE REVIVAL

*“The Revival: Time for a Moral Revolution of Values” is a national tour to redefine morality in American politics.*

The Revival is co-led by the Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr., and the Rev. Dr. William Barber, II, architects of the historic Moral Monday Movement. Minneapolis/St. Paul is one of 12 cities on this important national tour. Reverends Forbes and Barber will be joined by other local and national social justice leaders in revival services with testimony from people who have been impacted and hurt by regressive policies. <http://www.moralrevival.org/>

*Unity Church will also welcome the Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr., as our guest preacher during Sunday worship on October 9.*

### Revival Youth Organizing

Wednesday, August 24, All Day Training

In preparation for The Revival event in October, Unity Church will host the program’s leadership team as they train youth, and faith and moral leaders, to strengthen local and state activism from the bottom up. Participation details will be coming soon.



## Coming this fall!

### Beloved Conversations at Unity Church

Beloved Conversations is a teaching and learning curriculum that assumes that every conversation with another human being is a cross-cultural conversation, even if your conversation partner is from the same cultural group. Nested inside communities of faith, Beloved Conversations creates the first step — a learning laboratory — for how to live healthily in a multiracial, multicultural, and often theologically diverse community. **Save these dates and email [martha@unityunitarian.org](mailto:martha@unityunitarian.org) if you are interested in participating, or if you would like to serve as a facilitator.** We will follow up in August with all who express interest.

Opening retreat: Friday (evening) and Saturday (all day), September 23-24. Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.: September 27, October 4, 11, 25, November 1, November 15. There is also a Saturday session from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.: November 12.