



Bring a Friend to Church Month

Rev. Dr. Oscar Sinclair, Senior Minister

In June, Unity Church member Rev. George Anastos quoted the prophet Jeremiah in a sermon, "...it was in my heart like burning fire, shut up in my bones, and I could not hold it in. I was unable." Watching from Baltimore, I wondered what is the fire burning in the bones of Unitarian Universalists in

2025? What is the word that we have to share with the world around us, that we so compelled by that we must speak? I have spent the better part of my adult life preaching and teaching in this tradition — Unitarian Universalism has changed my life, made me a better version of myself, and helps me to understand and interpret the world around me. The same is true of many of our members; you come and tell us about it every week.

For all that, though, we are often hesitant to claim that we have any prescription for life. Unitarian Universalism is defined more by questions than answers, so it can feel counterintuitive to speak our answers out loud. But here is the thing: we do have some answers, a path toward meaning making that we have tried through experience and found to work.

Here at Unity Church, we describe that answer in three parts. We ask members to:

- Develop a personal practice that helps you find and keep your balance.
- Develop the skills of small group intimacy that let you go deep quickly with strangers.
- Let the compassion that rises from doing your work within and among lead you to bless the world.

This is our prescription, the fire in the bones of Unity Church. If more people in the world did these three things: attend to spiritual practice, be together intentionally, and bless the world, we would be a step closer to the beloved community.

This August, before the formal start of our congregational year on September 7, we are trying an experiment: a less formal sermon series, unpacking these three components of membership, pitched at anyone new to Unity Church, or wondering about it. Each Sunday of the month we will have pick-up choir rehearsal at 9:00 for anyone who shows up, and this is a great opportunity to introduce Unity Church. If you have found, in this community, a place that helps you navigate the world and make meaning, think about sharing that. If you have a friend or loved one who is wondering about what it means to be part of a liberal church in 2025, consider inviting them to come to worship this month. As we grow the congregation, we also grow our capacity to bless the world, and to navigate these anxious times together. See you in worship!

Welcome, Rev. Shay!

*Acting Minister of
Congregational Care*



We are so pleased to announce that Rev. Shay MacKay (she/her) has agreed to take on the role of Acting Minister of Congregational Care beginning September 1, 2025.

Shay is a former Unity Church intern and is currently serving as Sabbatical Minister at White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church in Mahtomedi. Over the past few years she has been working in local nonprofits, as well as doing consulting and workshops. She also just wrote a book!

Shay's ability to take on this role gives Unity Church the opportunity to conduct a search for our next Minister of Congregational Care on the usual schedule for ministerial search, which should give more candidates the ability and time to apply. Please welcome Shay when you see her this September!

Unity Pick-up Choir: Sundays in August!

This is a wonderful way to help decide if joining a choir is right for you! Anyone can show up and the music is rehearsed and learned the same morning of the service. Meet in the Foote Room at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday in August, learn some music for the morning's service, and then head to the Sanctuary to sing! Email ahmed@unityunitarian.org with questions or interest. Bring a friend!

Access all the
hyperlinks in
this newsletter
by scanning this
QR code.





Learnings from a Unity Staycation

LauraSue Schlatter, Trustee

As I entered the building for the July 12, 2025, board meeting, I realized it had been two months since I had been to Unity Church in person. I had total knee replacement surgery in May, and the recovery kept me away. It still keeps me away. I watch Sunday services online because it is uncomfortable to sit with my knee at somewhere near a 90-degree angle for an hour. Given the option to watch online, I do. They are just summer services, right?

The old joke I used to hear is that the Unitarian God goes to the lake for the summer. I don't know where the Unitarian Universalist God went in summer in Pittsburgh, where I grew up. In my Pittsburgh synagogue, a stern God was omnipresent all year long — showing up at Saturday morning services was non-negotiable, no matter the season. I started attending Unity in the summer of 1995, enjoying different voices in the pulpit from week to week. Then, in the fall, things got more formal. There were two services. I had children. Weekly attendance was routine.

During COVID, I would sometimes drive to Unity Church, slowly circling the building, tears streaming down my face, longing just to step into the sanctuary. To sit in a pew, to take in the reredos, to soak in the comfort of voices past and present. Sitting at home these past two months, I have again missed that connection.

What do I miss? I can call people. I have friends, they have visited. I have participated in church meetings on Zoom. But there is a magic when we gather in those pews. Nothing can match it.

In its introduction to the statement of our shared values, the Unitarian Universalist Association says, "Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values."

In Unity's new ends statements we commit to "cultivate a multigenerational community of joy, care, and belonging, and evangelize love to meet the deep and abiding hunger in all of us."

I have been feeling this deep and abiding hunger. Yearning to sit and talk, write and act, with others who want to build beloved community. To walk beside some who may not know where to begin to meet their own hunger, and to share my love with them. Knowing that sharing my love will also meet my own emptiness. All this is hard to do at home, alone. God may go to the lake in the summer. But god is also here, in all of us. If we make the effort to find one another we may unravel the miracles of true connection, humility, and generosity of spirit. This idea of holding love at the center of all we do, of evangelizing love, is revolutionary in these times. We are committed to the love we all share — within, among, and beyond us.

The religious philosopher Martin Buber said, "The Hasidic communal group, like all genuine community, consists of [people] who have a common, immediate relation to a living center, and just by virtue of this common center have an immediate relation to one another."

Love is our living center. It gives us our immediate relation to one another and is why we need one another. When I see church only through a screen, I begin to wither. And the whole living community withers with me. So — if you are in town and able, come to church in August. Keep right on coming! Make our love live — learn to evangelize it so we can build the beloved community together.

The Wheel of Life

In Memoriam

Peter DeLong

April 5, 1973 – July 17, 2025

Congregational Care

Request Care

Do you have a concern or celebration you wish to have shared in the Embracing Meditation during Sunday worship? Would you like to request a call from the Minister or a helping hand or listening ear of a Care Team member? Send an email to pastoralcare@unityunitarian.org. If you are experiencing an urgent need for pastoral support, call 651-300-9123.

Unity Church Ends Statements

We the people of Unity Church-Unitarian, grounded in a joyous vision of beloved community, within, among, and beyond ourselves,

- understand the interconnected roots of oppression and yoke ourselves to the demands, sacrifices, and hard work of antiracism, multiculturalism, and climate and economic justice;
- cultivate a multigenerational community of joy, care, and belonging, and evangelize love to meet the deep and abiding hunger in all of us;
- practice lifelong faith formation, grounded in Unitarian Universalist theology, that breaks us open and allows us to be transformed.

SUNDAY SERVICES | OFFERING RECIPIENTS

Summer Sunday Services

[Summer Sunday services](#), from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, are held at 10:00 a.m., both in the Sanctuary and via livestream. Sundays in the Garden for children and youth is held during the 10:00 a.m. service.

August 3: Fire in Our Bones

Rev. Dr. Oscar Sinclair | Dick Buggs, Worship Associate

What does it mean to be Unitarian Universalist in this moment? In an anxious age, it is not sufficient for us to retreat from the world into intellectual contemplation. Instead, our faith calls us to engage, fully, with our souls, each other, and the world around us.

August 10: Keep Your Balance

Rev. Dr. Oscar Sinclair | Meg Arnosti, Worship Associate

Members of Unity Church are asked to “develop a personal practice that helps you find and keep your balance.” What is it about practice that improves balance? Is there value to these practices outside of an instrumental result? How does personal practice set up the rest of our lives together as a community?

August 17: Go Deep

Rev. Dr. Oscar Sinclair | Sarah Cledwyn, Worship Associate

The second expectation of membership at Unity Church is that our members will “develop the skills of small group intimacy that let you go deep quickly with strangers.” Among this community, the skills of connection deepen our ties and begin to connect our personal practices and lives with the broader world.

August 24: Bless the World

Rev. Dr. Oscar Sinclair | Ollie Stocker, Worship Associate

In the last of our series on membership at Unity Church, we consider our work beyond the congregation, as we ask each other to “let the compassion that rises from doing your work within and among lead you to bless the world.” In this anxious age, what does it mean to be a blessing?

August 31: We Sacred Fools

Nelson Moroukian and Caswell Burr

A hot cup of coffee. A firm handshake. A sincere conversation. As we continue to wade in the waters of polarization and binaries, the temptation to let our differences keep us apart is strong. Yet our Unitarian Universalist roots ask us to continue rethinking and reimagining what Beloved Community can and should look like. Could being foolishly vulnerable and honest with each other provide us with a key to a different world?

If you would like to bring flowers for a summer Sunday service, email Martha at martha@unityunitarian.org to choose a date.

Offering Recipients

Each week, sixty percent of our Sunday offering is given to a community non-profit and forty percent supports the Community Outreach Ministry at Unity Church. Donations are gratefully accepted online at bit.ly/sundayoffering.

August 3: The mission of [Minneapolis Crisis Nursery](#) (MCN) is to end child abuse and neglect and create strong, healthy families. MCN strengthens families by connecting them to resources, caring for their children during difficult times, and helping to set goals that promote stability and make the relationship between the parent and child stronger. MCN offers overnight residential care for infants and children through age six while families address their crisis situation. This collection will support the overnight residential crisis program.

August 10: [RECLAIM](#) works to increase access to mental health care for queer and trans youth so they may reclaim their lives from oppression in all its forms. RECLAIM is one of the only organization in Minnesota offering financially accessible, specialized mental health care to this population. Serving youth ages 12-25, and their families, RECLAIM provides individual, couples, family, and group therapy specializing in assisting youth with gender identity and sexual orientation exploration. RECLAIM also offers training and consultation services that supports the work of their community partners in assisting queer and trans individuals.

August 17: [Discapacitados Abriéndose Caminos](#) (DAC) guides families through health care, public services and community systems to get their family member with a disability the help they need. DAC staff supports families working through cultural, language, and legal barriers, opening pathways to integrated living opportunities. Unity Church member Linda Kjerland is a DAC board member and volunteer.

August 24: [The Listening House](#) is a respite from the harsh conditions of living on the streets. The staff extends a warm welcome to all, greeting guests by name and listening with heart-based empathy, and making connections to case managers, mental health services, health care and housing specialists. This collection will support Listening House's daytime program offering resting spaces, two meals daily, a shower and personal hygiene products, laundry facilities and clothing distribution, lockers for personal belongings and internet/computer access.

August 31: [Exodus Lending](#) is Minnesota's only non-profit dedicated to helping Minnesotans get out of payday lending debt. Their program model allows enrolled participants to “gift” their past-due payday loan to Exodus who then pays off the loan in full. Program participants repay Exodus in twelve monthly installments. Those enrolled in the repayment program also have access to free financial counseling. This collection will support the refinancing of payday and other predatory loans, and advocacy for fair and just lending practices.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



Welcome Words

Philippa Anastos
Membership Coordinator
and Program Assistant

This summer, I've spent a lot of time with the latest spiritual practice packet, centered on the theme of Joy. In a

world full of natural disasters and human cruelty, joy can sometimes feel out of place. But when I hear the shrieks of laughter from Chalice Camp or catch the scent of strawberry-rhubarb sauce being made for a church breakfast, I'm reminded: joy simply is. It's natural, undeniable — and I'm grateful it shows up so often here, in our community.

Finding Yourself at Unity

Finding Yourself at Unity: For Visitors and Inquirers
Sundays 11:15 a.m. | Center Room | Childcare available

Explore a deeper connection to Unity Church and the commitments and opportunities of membership. Join the repeating eight-session cycle at any time. If you have questions or would like one-on-one conversation about getting connected or about membership, please contact Philippa Anastos, Membership Coordinator and Program Assistant, philippa@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x110.

Volunteer to Give Rides

We're looking for volunteers to give fellow community members rides to church. Your kindness and support will help others connect and participate. If you're able to assist, please consider volunteering! For more information, contact Philippa Anastos, Membership Coordinator and Program Assistant, philippa@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x110.

Parish Hall Art Exhibit

The Unity Art Team is hosting the exhibition, "The Transcendent Power of Art to Impact Change." The five artists whose work will be on display come from different backgrounds, but all speak to the creation of new narratives. Read about the artists and their art at unityunitarian.org/art-lives-at-unity.html.

Summer Brunch

Stay for food and fellowship after the service on Sunday, August 10. Donations gratefully accepted to cover the costs of the meal. Have some fun and help prepare and/or serve this brunch: sign up online at bit.ly/sundayeats.

St. Paul Saints Game

Our annual St. Paul Saints outing is coming up! Join members and friends of the congregation at the ballpark on Thursday, August 21, at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$22 each — purchase yours today: bit.ly/ucusaints25.

Fellowship Groups

Email Philippa at philippa@unityunitarian.org to get connected or visit unityunitarian.org/fellowship-groups.html.

Afterthoughts: Sundays, 10:15 a.m., Middle School Room 021, to discuss the service

Caregivers Support Group: third Thursday of the month at noon, Zoom

Evergreen Quilters: second Tuesday of the month, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Anderson Library, and fourth Saturday of the month, 10:00 a.m.-noon, off-site.

Families Living with Mental Health Challenges: third Saturday of each month, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Zoom

Living With Grief Group: third Tuesday of the month, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Zoom

LGBTQ+ Group: This group coordinates some of the LGBTQ+ programming with the congregation.

Men's Coffee Group: Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m., Center Room, for light-hearted conversation

Men's Conversation Group: Monday, August 4 and 18, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Zoom. Discuss a range of topics, offer support, and connect.

Men's Retirement Circle: Monday, August 11 and 25, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Robbins Parlor

New Look at the Bible meets the second Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m., at Unity Church

Recovery from White Conditioning: Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 p.m., Zoom

Textile Arts Group: first and third Friday of the month, 9:30-11:00 a.m., Crothers Room, bring your knitting, stitching, etc.

Unity Book Club: second Tuesday of the month, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Zoom.

On August 12 the group will discuss *Lone Dog Road* by Kent Nerburn.

Unity Gardeners: Join other Unity Gardeners and sign on for a few hours of weeding/watering during the summer. No experience necessary!

Women in Retirement: second and fourth Thursday of each month, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Center Room

Young Adult Group (ages 18-35): every other Wednesday at 7:10 p.m., Center Room

Meet Amy Brunell

Unity's Hallman Ministerial Intern

Hello Unity Church,

My name is Amy Brunell and I am thrilled to be selected to be your Hallman Intern for the 2025-26 year. I was born and raised in California, and while I've traveled to other places, I have never lived anywhere but Southern California. I hear in Minnesota that you experience some weather? I look forward to being "winterized" in due time.

I am in my third year of seminary at Starr King School for the Ministry. Starr King's mission is to counter oppressions and cultivate multi-religious learning. I was raised multi-religious with emphasis in Judaism and Unitarianism. I attended the Unitarian camp in Southern California and was an LRY'er (Liberal Religious Youth) in the 1970s.

I left Unitarianism when I went to college and went through different religious and spiritual experiences, including Christianity, Taoist Buddhism and alternative spiritual practices. When I returned to what was now a Unitarian Universalist church with my family in 2006, I had never heard the term Universalist and have enjoyed incorporating Universalism as a core portion of my own theology.

I attended college majoring in Musical Theater and feel passionate about music in and as part of worship and spiritual practices. I have also had a variety of professions including as a wedding photographer and as a Weight Watchers leader facilitating 13 workshops per week. Currently I facilitate weekly workshops on Emotional Intelligence via Zoom. I am a mother of two adult sons and spent their earlier years advocating for families with children who experience a variety of needs.

My ministerial goals are to be a Parish Minister and to actively promote Unitarian Universalism to those who are seeking a spiritual home. Thank you so much for this opportunity. I cannot wait to meet you!

Help welcome Unity's ministerial intern by providing a comfortable place to call home.

Amy Brunell arrives in St. Paul on August 12! Amy and her dog, Ella, will be living in the church-owned duplex on Holly Avenue and need help furnishing the space. If you have any of the following items to donate and help make their home cozy upon arrival, please email Laura Park at laura@unityunitarian.org and include a picture of the item. Thank you for your support!

- Two beds
- Side tables
- Lamps
- Dresser
- Television
- Bookshelves
- Mirrors
- Kitchen/dining table and chairs
- Small desk
- Cookware
- Arts and plants

Facilities Update

Laura Park, Executive Director

We have a lot of projects happening this summer!



Duplex Enhancements

Our intrepid crew (pictured here left to right: Colin Rust, Dick Buggs, and Paul Englund) is working to clean, paint, and install new fixtures so our church duplex is as welcoming as possible for our 2025-2026 intern Amy Brunell.

Pavers in the Green Space

At the December 7, 2024, congregational meeting, attendees approved a capital project to add pavers under the tent in the green space to the east of the church, plus an accessible walkway from the parking lot to the tent. We'll also install the Székely gate, given to us by our partner church in Homorodszentpeter, Transylvania, Romania. Travelers from our partner church will help with the gate reconstruction and installation. We'll take down the tent during the work, which will begin soon and continue through August. Come to the gate dedication on Saturday, September 6, at 10:00 a.m. to see the completed project!

Boiler Venting Repair

When you see the crane arrive at the church, you'll know that the boiler venting repair has begun! Infrastructure work may not be the most compelling part of church, but we're glad we can keep everyone who uses our building warm and safe.

commUNITY is the monthly newsletter of Unity Church. Deadlines are the 15th of each month.

Subscriptions (digital and USPS) are available by contacting Martha at martha@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x105.

Access all the hyperlinks in this newsletter by scanning this QR code.



Unity Church–Unitarian

Upscale SALE

Volunteer



JULY 31

AUGUST 1 & 2

9 AM – 5 PM | PARISH HALL

Preview Sale: Wednesday, July 30

6–8 PM | \$10 preview fee

Proceeds benefit the Unity Church operating budget.

PARTNER CHURCH VISITORS

Come Meet Our Visitors from Transylvania

Rene Meyer-Grimberg, Partner Church Community Outreach Ministry Team



On Saturday, September 6, at 10:00 a.m., in the green space, Unity Church will celebrate the dedication of a Székely Gate gifted to us by our partner church in Homoródszentpéter. Ten visitors from the village will be with us between August 17-25 and September 1-10, continuing the decades of our interconnectedness.

In 2013, I visited Transylvania with two of our kids for the first time. What was this trip going to be like? Homoródszentpéter is a small agrarian village, 30 minutes from the nearest town, with fewer than 200 inhabitants. Pilgrimages and other adventures call you to “be open to whatever comes.” The beauty of the trip is that you cannot know how you will process your experience and the challenge is to be in the moment, breaking you open and allowing you to be transformed. Two more visits and deeper engagement with the Partner Church Team since then has only strengthened my commitment to the village, the villagers, and the enrichment felt in our time together. Nothing seems more important than embracing the opportunity to know people deeply, across difference, in this moment. With the gate installation we can honor the past and carry the relationship into the future. Our thirty-five-year partnership (25 years of pilgrimages with a total of 155 pilgrims, several of whom went multiple times) is extraordinary in the

depth, the years, and the commitment we have to each other. Carved wooden gates are common in Transylvania, and soon we will have our own gate — a physical representation of our connection to Homoródszentpéter.

The visit of ten Transylvanians in St. Paul from August 17-25 and September 1-10 offers all of us a chance to share space. They are Kinga-Réka Székely, the minister of our partner church in Homoródszentpéter in Romania and her family (pictured above: husband Csaba and youth from 17-23 years of age), as well as Gyöngyike (school teacher) and Zsolt Székely (factory owner) with their son Zsoltika (age 13) (pictured at below).



The Partner Church Team is also looking for people interested in hosting and hanging out with our guests. This could mean for example: offering a bed and breakfast, taking some of them when Unity Church goes to the Saints game on August 21 or the State Fair, inviting them on other outings to parks, museums or a backyard barbecue. They host us generously when we visit (which you can experience if you join the next pilgrimage in 2026!).

We would love for the wider Unity community to meet our friends! Please email unitypartnerchurch@gmail.com if you are interested in hosting Transylvanian visitors in your home, offering hospitality in another way, or participating in any of the programming once they are here.

The Székely Gate will be installed in the green space next to church. Mark your calendars for the dedication ceremony on Saturday, September 6, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Also, check out the July 2025 *National Geographic* article about Transylvania. Our friends are quoted! You can find a hard copy at church or visit the Partner Church page on Unity's website: unityunitarian.org/partner-church.html.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Weekly Moving Practice Circle Begins August 18

All are welcome to attend a new weekly embodied practice circle launching at Unity Church in August. Conceived and led by three Unity Church members who are Unitarian Universalist ministers but not part of Unity's staff, the circle will meet Mondays, 5:00-6:00 p.m., in Ames Chapel.

The circle (as yet unnamed!) will include guided gentle movement and breath, silence and poetry and song, grounding us in the energy and resilience needed to meet the growing challenges of this time. Drawing from qigong, tai ji, tao yin, yoga and more, each week we'll share simple embodied practices, tapping into our aliveness and courage. We'll learn movements that can regulate an unsettled nervous system and help us access the body's natural resources for resilience and resistance. No previous experience is necessary. The practices can be modified for sitting or standing. Wear comfortable clothing, bring a water bottle and a curiosity in mind, heart and body.

We three facilitators, Karen Hering, Ruth MacKenzie and Kate Tucker, proposed the new circle as a shared experiment in embodiment that could help us and others through the stress and many emotions of this time. We've each shared a little below about why this matters to us, and we look forward to further developing this experiment together with you in the coming months.

Ruth MacKenzie:

I'm not sure where or how it happened but the "work of the church" led me to the "work of the body." Tapping into the sacred geometry of a yoga pose, the flow of tai chi, or following the outline of box breathing has steadied me, and brought me into a settled place where I can connect with the flow of good and grace that moves through and around us all, and helps me to face my life and this world with more courage and compassion. I'm needing this more than ever in a time awash in cruelty, and injustice. This is why I enthusiastically joined my friends, Karen and Kate to form this practice circle and to join you all in creating a courageous space of movement.

Karen Hering:

I began doing tai chi in seminary and later studied with Chungliang Al-Huang, a teacher who opened the practice up for me in joyful and healing ways. When I recently spent another weekend learning from Chungliang, he frequently referred to our threatening times and the importance of practices like tai chi to help us "joyfully participate in the sorrows of the universe." My personal daily practice has helped me feel my emotions while keeping them moving; it honors my grief, fear, anxiety and despair, while also welcoming the joy, love and compassion that make resistance possible and powerful. Now I am eager to collaborate with Ruth and Kate in forming this community practice, where together with others we can experience an even larger shared resource of energy, balance and resilience.

Kate Tucker:

Karen and Ruth beautifully describe our intention. We want opportunities to be together in our fullness, as creatures of weight and creatures of hope, seeking a kind of fluid solidarity (if such is possible). In these unsettling times, our proposed sessions are both a commitment and a quest. We'll explore motion and stillness, buoyancy and gravity, word and song. We'll experience our wholeness in the company of other seekers. A simple thing, but not a small thing. Shall we try it?

For more information, contact one of the facilitators: karen@karenhering.com, ruthcmackenzie@gmail.com or kjtucker@usiwireless.com.

Lectio Divina

Wednesday, August 13 | 7:10 p.m.
Zoom

Registration: bit.ly/UnityLectio24-25

Is it poetry? Is it meditation? It's a bit of both — Lectio Divina! Come experience the alchemy that occurs through focused reflection on an inspirational text. Many people find Lectio Divina sessions to be a time of rejuvenation and insight. Led by Shelley Butler and Lisa Wersal; facilitated by your own heart.

Sangha Practice

Unity Sangha is on break during the month of August. The practice resumes on Tuesday, September 2, 4:30-6:00 p.m., in Ames Chapel.

Email kp@unityunitarian.org if you would like to join the weekly practice.

Gentle Soulful Flow Yoga

Wednesdays through September 3
6:30 p.m. | Ames Chapel

Experience a nervous system-informed practice that is focused on exploring the Chakra system. Dr. Tamara's practice includes a warm up series, some challenge in a standing sequence, and cool down postures followed by relaxation time. Classes are donation based. To maintain room capacity, please register by email to DrTamarak@outlook.com. Dr. Tamara Kraft is a somatic psychotherapist and holistic health coach. Her specialty is supporting others in honoring the innate wisdom of their whole being — mind, body, spirit.

Merging of Waters

Sunday, September 7
Services at 9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

Collect water this summer for our annual Merging of Waters reunion ritual in September.



Part 2: Let Freedom Read

I Know Where You Can Get Great Summer Reading ON SALE!

Shelley Butler, Library-Bookstall Team

There's a corner of Unity Church that is often the calm in a sea of what can feel to an introvert, like pandemonium. I'm speaking, of course, about our much-loved Bookstall, which is mostly bookstore but part welcoming space for friends and newcomers alike. It's not a splashy place and doesn't scream, "COME HERE," so if you don't know about it, it is in the nook on the Grotto side of Parish Hall, staffed by book-loving, friendly volunteers under the leadership of my esteemed co-team leaders, Barb Foss and Vicki Kappus. And this month, you can get books on sale!

The Annual Bookstall Book Sale is your chance to get many quality, important, inspiring books at a deep discount! Come September, book prices will go back to their typical list price, so don't delay. And while you're there, consider the opportunity to join the team!

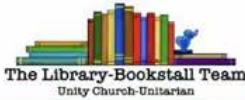
Do you enjoy books? Interacting with people?


**TEAM POSITION OPENINGS
UNITY BOOKSTALL**

Visit the Bookstall during coffee hour any
Sunday morning and chat with us.
Pick up a description of our duties.
We offer full training including shadowing other
volunteers and ongoing support.

Contact Team Coordinators:
Vicki Kappus vkappus@msn.com or
Barbara Foss pbfoss@mac.com

*It's fun and it's important. Bookstall sales support the
Anderson Library and other literary programs at Unity.*


The Library-Bookstall Team
Unity Church-Unitarian



From the Archives

Mrs. Powell and the Noack Organ



From the album cover: Mrs. Powell at the Noack organ.

In 1928, Unity Church hired a 25-year-old Virginia Wetherbee as the church organist and choir director. After the 1963 fire, the now Mrs. Virginia Wetherbee Powell was involved in the search for a new organ. The instrument, built for Unity Church by Fritz Noack, was one of the earliest three-manual tracker organs made in America in modern times.

After its installation, the congregation produced a record album of Mrs. Powell performing various pieces on the new organ. The album is available as a playlist on Unity's YouTube channel: bit.ly/vwporgan.

After 52 years, Mrs. Powell retired in 1980 and the congregation dedicated the Noack organ in her honor. She died in 1995 at the age of 92.



Mrs. Powell and Rev. Roy Phillips, 1980.

From time to time, we feature some of the many photos we have in the archives. We would love to receive any additional information or comments about the photo at archives@unityunitarian.org.

In The Justice Database

[Social Justice Books](#) is a project of Teaching for Change. Not a bookstore, but a resource for critically reviewed books for children, young adults, and educators.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Act for the Earth Team

Adult Clothing Swap

Sunday, August 3 | After the service | Parish Hall

Don't get rid of your old clothes, let's swap! Bring what you no longer need, and then take home something new-to-you. Even if you have nothing to bring, come shop the swap.

Fall Act for the Earth Programming — Save the Dates

- **Active Hope Book Group:** Four Monday nights beginning September 15
- **Fork to Forest potluck and program:** Friday September 26, 6:00 p.m.
- **Nature's Path: Embracing the Spiral of Active Hope in Forest Therapy:** Sunday, September 28
- **Waste reduction event:** Saturday, October 18, 9:00 a.m.-noon
- **Sea of Grass author presentation:** Wednesday November 19, 7:10 p.m.

Day on the Saint Croix River

Saturday, August 9 | 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. | Interstate Park

Gather at 9:30 a.m. at Taylors Falls Canoe & Kayak Rental (307 Milltown Road, Taylors Falls, MN 55084). This is within a state park, so entry fees apply: \$7/vehicle for a day or an annual pass.

Spend the day enjoying one of the most accessible and scenic reaches of the Saint Croix River! Put in at Interstate Park, just south of Taylor's Falls, and float through the Dalles, past sandbars and backwater pools about six miles down to the Osceola landing, where we will picnic together. This stretch of the river is shallow, with a sandy bottom — perfect for swimming. Families, beginner paddlers, and experienced boaters all welcome!



Bring your own canoe, share one with a Unity friend, or rent one from the outfitter. If you'd like to canoe with an experienced paddler, email Don Arnosti by August 5: donarnosti@gmail.com. Shuttle rides are available from Osceola back to the put-in parking lot. The landing area has a small beach, restrooms, grills and picnic tables and a grassy area suitable for tossing a ball or frisbee. Tables will be saved and grills fired up from 12:00-2:00 p.m. at the Osceola landing. Bring a picnic lunch or food to share.

Project Home

Household Goods Collection: Back by popular demand!

Saturday, September 13 | 9:00-11:00 a.m. | Parking Lot

Unity's Evergreen Quilters and Housing Justice Team are once again collecting household items for families moving out of emergency shelter at Project Home and into permanent housing. Please bring the following **clean and gently used or new** household items to Unity's Holly Avenue parking lot on September 13:

- Dish sets including fine China. Please no chips, cracks or stains, etc.
- Pots and pans, baking pans, storage containers, service pieces, Corning Ware.
- New pillows and twin, regular or queen-sized sheets and pillow cases.
- Small appliances such as toasters, microwaves, coffee makers, etc.
- Bath towels, washcloths, kitchen towels and dishcloths.
- Silverware sets, knife sets.
- Kitchen utensils: spatulas, turners, soup ladles, measuring cups, measuring spoons, etc.



We had three very successful collections last spring, resulting in ten vehicles full of items delivered to Project Home. Thank you very much! Questions? Email Barb Rogne at bzrogne27@gmail.com or Janice Gestner at janicemgg@comcast.net.

Hallie Q. Brown: Summer Food Shelf

Donations are down! Please help!

Donations to Hallie Q. Brown Food Shelf are down 390 pounds compared to this time last year. Bring a bounty of donations in August so we can get back on track! The need in our community is greater than ever due to funding cuts and an increased number of people facing food insecurity.



During August please bring granola bars, fruit bars, boxed cereal, bottled water, soup, ramen, boxed potatoes and gravy. General school supplies would also be greatly appreciated. Food shelf financial contributions are accepted at hallieqbrown.charityproud.org/donate.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Barack and Michelle Montessori and Middle School Opens in September

JJ Hill/Obama School Community Outreach Ministry Team

Progress on the "school across the street" is really moving along. When you come to church, check out the new signs in the front right above the main entrance: Barack and Michelle Obama Montessori & Middle School. After two years of hard work, the building will be reopening this fall.

Many Unity Church members and friends have volunteered at the school over at least thirty years, mostly on an informal basis. In the years before COVID, a more formal support structure for church volunteers was formed, eventually becoming one of our Outreach Ministry Teams. When the school closed and we heard that the Montessori School at JJ Hill School would be moving into the Obama building, our volunteer efforts were directed there, hoping to build a relationship with the community as they prepared to make the move. A strong partnership has been developed. Now it's time to welcome the school into our neighborhood as the Montessori school [Pre-K through 5th grade] arrives, along with a brand new, independent middle school, which will start with its first class of sixth graders in September.



Please consider how you might like to be involved. We know there will be a need for classroom and library volunteers, starting in October. For people who can't volunteer on weekdays, there may be other opportunities: providing refreshments for staff at various gatherings, helping during special events, and more. Stop by our table in Parish Hall on Sundays during August, pick up our informative brochure, and talk with one of our volunteers. We look forward to sharing more information with you this fall!

Postcard Campaign in Support of Housing Programs

Housing Justice Community Outreach Ministry Team

The "Big Beautiful Bill Act" passed with severe cuts to Medicaid and food assistance. This directly hurts residents in the deeply affordable housing that our partner, Beacon, and other nonprofits build in Minnesota.

Now, in exchange for voting for that bill, the White House has promised members of Congress that they will pursue cuts to housing programs as they create their FY26 budget. This includes cuts to Section 8 Housing Vouchers and to supportive housing (deeply affordable housing with mental health services, employment services, recovery services, etc.).

Beacon, with partners around the country, has begun a postcard writing campaign. At Unity Church, we need to let our U.S. Senators Klobuchar and Smith and Minnesota members of Congress know that we do not support these cuts and that we have their backs as they take on this fight. Sign a digital postcard today (you do not need to know your Congress member's name): bit.ly/digpostfund. Please share this link with your partner, relatives and friends.

Unity's Housing Justice Team is tabling in Parish Hall after the service on August 3. We can answer questions and will also have hard copies of postcards to sign.



Jodi Pfarr Returns to Unity Church

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 13, and October 11!



Jodi Pfarr was here last spring and 65 people attended one, or both of her Urgency of Awareness workshops. Many people expressed a strong desire for her to return. The program details are still in the works! Watch for more information coming from Unity's Racial Justice Community Outreach Ministry Team very soon.

A quote from [Lia Rivamonte's review of the workshop](#) published in Beloved Community News, reads:

Facilitating with humor and blunt vulnerability, she provides tools to help us visualize how our identities have been informed by our experiences and situations beyond our control.

Questions? Please contact Clover Earl at 2clover@gmail.com.

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Chalice Camp 2025 was full of connection, learning, and fun!

Many thanks to our counselors, counselors in training, campers, families, facilities staff, and Camp Director Nelson Moroukian!
We're already looking forward to next summer!