

## PARADISE

*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.*

Is it a far away realm in the future or the earth beneath our feet right now? Does it represent unchanging perfection or verdant abundance? The surrender of the self or the full realization of the self? Do we have to earn our way in or do we just have to wake up?

Our culture teems with ideas about paradise. It's often conflated with heaven, though that hasn't always been the case. For example, proto-Universalist Origen envisioned paradise as a place on earth where the righteous dead spent time learning, "a lecture room or school for souls, in which they may be taught about all that they had seen on earth and may also receive some indication of what is to follow in the future." In Origen's view, if you had a pure heart and understanding, you'd eventually ascend from paradise to heaven.

The word itself comes from *pairidaeza*, an ancient Persian word suggesting an area surrounded by walls. Writing about the symbolism of the Islamic garden, Emma Clark notes that the Persians were "one of the earliest peoples to cultivate gardens, parks, and hunting grounds." By the time of the Prophet Muhammed, the concept of the Gardens of Paradise was already familiar. Clark continues, "The great love and knowledge of plants, flowers, and trees in, for instance, Islamic Spain and Mughal India, was a love born of the deep belief that the beauty of nature was a reflection of a transcendent truth; these plants and flowers are the shadow of their heavenly archetypes, their beauty a radiation of God's glory on earth."

Do we actually know what paradise looks like? Are the walls that define it meant to protect something sacred or defend against the unworthy? Do they keep something in or keep something out?

In the story of the Buddha, the young prince Siddharta was kept within the palace walls so he'd become a powerful ruler rather than a spiritual leader. Life inside the palace offered everything he could want—love, friends, good health, power, fame, wealth—but he was also sheltered from the realities of aging, suffering, inequality, and death. Once the veil was lifted from his eyes, he could no longer be content with the illusion.

In such moments, though, something about life breaks open. In *A Paradise Built in Hell*, Rebecca Solnit looks at the communities that pop up after a disaster, such as the 1906 and 1989 earthquakes in San Francisco, Hurricane Katrina, and the collapse of the World Trade Center. Contrary to the images used in movies and political speeches, people tend to be remarkably compassionate and courageous in the wake of disaster. The sudden break with the status quo leaves an opening for creativity, humanity, and new vision to emerge. Those invested in business as usual often resist the change—often violently—but for most of us, the impulse is towards meaningful service. These moments are perhaps when we've come closest to realizing the Beloved Community.

Is paradise a sense of ultimate belonging? Is it a sustained experience of the holy? Is it tied to the goodness we earn? Is it fleeting? Aspirational? Unrealizable? Inevitable?

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rep. John Lewis—both men of deep faith and major leaders in the Civil Rights movement in the South—viewed paradise differently. Dr. King spoke of having seen the promised land, but sensed, "I may not get there with you." Paradise was still an oasis in the distance. However, for Rep. Lewis,

"You have to have this sense of faith that what you're moving toward is already done. It's already happened....You live [as if] you're already there, that you're already in that community, part of that sense of one family, one house. If you visualize it, if you can even have faith that it's there, for you it is already there."

There seem to be endless questions about the nature of paradise. Is that the key? Is mystery itself the place where paradise resides?

As with so much in religion, the answer will depend largely on the person who asks. The walls themselves are silent.

— Hallman Ministerial Intern  
Lindasusan Ulrich with this month's  
theme team: Janne Eller-Isaacs,  
Rob Eller-Isaacs, Lisa Friedman,  
Karen Hering, and K.P. Hong

### WORSHIP THEME RESOURCES

#### BOOKS

*Saving Paradise* by Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Ann Parker (Beacon, 2009)

*A Paradise Built in Hell* by Rebecca Solnit (Viking, 2009)

*The Diaries of Adam and Eve* by Mark Twain (Harper, 1906; Fair Oaks, 2002)

*Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey Into the Afterlife* by Eben Alexander (Simon & Schuster, 2012)

*The Tin Forest* by Helen Ward (Puffin, 2003 reprint edition)

*The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett (Stokes, 1911; many modern editions available)

#### FILM

*Pleasantville* (1998)

*The Truman Show* (1998)

## Just Words



At last month's meeting of the Anti-Racism Leadership Team we went around the circle responding to the question, "What gives you energy and what depletes your energy in the work?" To my surprise I found myself saying, "The work itself. The work itself is what gives me energy." And I wasn't the only one.

After more than a decade of deep and challenging self-reflection coupled with the creation of long-term partnerships with communities of color, our anti-racism work is beginning to take hold. From the beginning our primary objective has been to embed a commitment to racial equity and healing in every aspect of congregational life. It's happening.

- Policy J, a comprehensive policy intended to help the Trustees evaluate our progress and insure we put our money where our values are in place.
- Our curriculum for children and youth will soon be revised to better address the needs of children of color and help prepare all our children to be effective allies.
- The church has been awarded a grant of \$75,000 by the St. Paul Foundation to help to expand the Circles of Peace Movement. Two new circles will be established, one in Frogtown and a second in the Midway, to encourage honest dialogue, accountability, and support among neighbors, police officers, and young offenders.
- More than 100 Unitarian Universalists from six Twin Cities UU congregations attended The Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed's Morgan Forum on his book *Selma Awakening*. A congregational book read of *Selma Awakening* will be held this month. Turn to the back cover for details.
- Beloved Conversations is underway again providing a powerful and intimate setting for people to reflect on race and racism.
- Unity Church, Above Every Name, the Men of Ujamaa, and a diverse group of St. Paul leaders are making a pilgrimage to attend the 50th anniversary of the start of the Selma to Montgomery March with the intention coming home and putting what they learn to work.
- The growing partnership between Unity Church and Above Every Name is taking root as we work and worship together.
- The Rev. Danny Givens, Jr., Unity's Ministerial Resident, is bringing greater insight and transparency to church staff and enriching all our lives.
- Grants of \$1500, and often considerably more, are being made most every week to partner organizations who share our core anti-racist commitments.
- More than 60 Unity Church people declared that Black Lives Matter at the Mall of America action. Many more marched through the Central Corridor to honor Dr. King by carrying on his work.

The list goes on. We know full well this is the work of generations. Broken-hearted as we are at the continuing injustice and disparity of systemic racism we are also well aware that we are in a time when the possibility of progress is greater than ever before. I, for one, take heart and find energy from the lasting friendships and the deep sense of solidarity growing within, among, and beyond us.

Rob Eller-Isaacs

## The Wheel of Life

*In Memoriam*

**Emily Day**

October 20, 1913 —

January 13, 2015

## Co-Minister Sabbatical February and March

**From Rob Eller-Isaacs**

We want you to know how grateful Janne and I are for your generous gift of time away. While I attend the UU Minister's Association Institute on Excellence, Janne will be in Portland with our grandson Lewis Pete and his parents. I will join her for a few days before we head off to Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand. In early March we will return briefly to join the Selma Pilgrimage after which we will spend some time in and around Beaufort, South Carolina, studying the Port Royal Experiment with a possible book in mind. What a gift!

In our absence The Rev. Lisa Friedman, Unity's Minister of Congregational and Community Engagement, will serve as Sabbatical Senior Minister. We have every confidence in her leadership as well as in the strength and skill of Unity's superb, long-tenured staff.

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Unity Church—Unitarian  
733 Portland Avenue  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104  
651-228-1456  
[www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org)

# FEbruary SUNDAY WORSHIP / OFFERING RECIPIENTS

## Worship Calendar

Sunday worship services are held at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m., and 4:30 p.m. except where noted. Sermon podcasts and archives are available online at [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org). Religious Education classes for children and youth are offered during all services.

### February 1: *How Can We Meet in Heaven?*

**Rev. Lisa Friedman and Worship Associate Grant Wacker**

Paradise is a complex topic for Unitarian Universalists. We have often focused on the ways we can build a paradise in this world, rather than on what happens to us when we die. What does paradise or heaven mean to us today? How do we engage in meaningful dialogue with others, whose vision of paradise, and what it means to earn it, is so very different from our own?

### February 8: *A Time, A Place, and A Space*

**Pastor Danny Givens, Jr., and Worship Associate Jen Niemela**

Paradise on earth has an immutable impact on our day to day lives as people of faith. We often find ourselves enveloped with the varying notions of how we experience paradise on earth. A time, a place, and a space all provide a container to ponder the varying notions of such experiences from both a shared and more intimate viewpoint.

### February 15: *One World at a Time*

**Rev. Karen Hering and Worship Associate Drew Ross**

Some describe paradise as being someplace else — whether left behind in the myths of our origins or awaiting us in stories of an afterlife. Karen and worship associate Drew Ross look for the glimpses of paradise found in the here and now, especially when we pause on the threshold of significant change in our personal lives and in the larger world.

### February 22: *Imagining Paradise*

**Rev. Dr. Sándor Kovács and Worship Associate Zoe Leuthner**

This morning, we will explore paradise — lost and found — with an uniquely Hungarian Unitarian approach. Unity Church welcomes Rev. Dr. Kovács to our pulpit. He is the Associate Professor of History at the Unitarian Seminary in Transylvania, and was one of the first Balázs Scholars to study in the U.S.

## Flowers for Sunday Worship Services

If you would like to provide flowers for Sunday services, there are many dates available, including: February 15 and 22, March 8, April 19 and 26, and May 31. Please contact Marcy Mann-Anderson ([marcy@unityunitarian.org](mailto:marcy@unityunitarian.org) / 651-228-1456 x110) to reserve the date of your choice and to make arrangements.



## 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. Please make checks payable to Unity Church.

### February 1: Interfaith Youth Leadership Coalition

The Interfaith Youth Leadership Coalition (IYLC) of the St. Paul Area Council of Churches is a group of high school and college-age youth who work together to nurture interfaith understanding, reduce prejudice and misunderstanding, and discover common values that invite them to work together for community wellbeing. Youth from Unity Church participate annually in the Interfaith Day of Service which gathers young people from the metro area for interfaith reflection and service involvement with various Twin Cities non-profits.

### February 8: Bedlam Theatre

Bedlam's mission is to produce radical works of theatre with a focus on collaboration. "Fun, wild, anything-is-possible theater is our passion," say the theater's organizers who have created events such as a Queertopia Cabaret. This offering will help pay the salary of one teaching artist's weeklong residency at a Saint Paul elementary school, offering exposure and experience in puppetmaking to low-income students. Unity Church member Laney Ohmans serves on the Bedlam board.

### February 15: Civil Society

The Civil Society is an advocacy organization that works to stop human trafficking. Volunteers provide legal advice and support to victims of sexual and labor trafficking. The majority of Civil Society's recipients are immigrant and minority women. This offering will be used to support case management and services for victims of labor trafficking. Unity Church member Jane Lee volunteers with Civil Society.

### February 22: Balazs Scholar Program

This offering supports the Balazs Scholar Program that brings a Unitarian Transylvanian minister to study in the U.S. at the Starr King School for the Ministry by providing fundraising, administrative assistance and tuition to each new scholar. This year, the program welcomes returning scholar, Rev. Dr. Sándor Kovács, as a professor in residence. Rev. Kovács will be the pulpit speaker at Unity Church services on Sunday, February 22, and will offer classes on both February 18 and 21 (see page 11 for details).

## Offering Recipient Nominations

Nominate your favorite non-profit to receive the Sunday offering. Offering recipient nomination forms are online at [www.unityunitarian.org/nominate-the-offering.html](http://www.unityunitarian.org/nominate-the-offering.html)



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## Board of Trustees

From Rich Hamer, Trustee



Churches move through many chapters in their history. During Unity's history the chapters have been marked by the tenures of great ministers, the merger of Unitarians and Universalists, theological debates, the civil rights movement, and efforts to help new congregations get started. You may have other ways to mark chapters.

Since Rob and Janne have come to Unity Church, we have enjoyed a period of greater opportunity for all members. I see their tenure as a period when inhibitions to engagement were lifted and we have been encouraged to find ourselves through work in shared ministry — there are dozens and dozens of pathways. In any given month, more than 400 people volunteer to do something through Unity Church. We have become an institution that is recognized throughout the greater community as an interfaith leader, a convener, and a model for how to do things in the wider world.

This January, the Board of Trustees took stock in the church's position. A marker that we count as an important new phase in our church's history is the imminent 2016 conversion of our short term building loan, into long-term debt. As most people know, our building renovation cost \$8 million. We have raised less than \$7 million and so this remainder will be converted into a long-term note with a term of 10 to 20 years. This is not cause for dread. It signals to me that, financially speaking, Unity Church is all grown up.

I used to work in non-profit management and so I can say with some authority that *when a non-profit organization develops the financial maturity to present to lenders a credible plan to re-pay a significant loan, it signals a new level of financial management and a new chapter has begun.*

Since the completion of the building's renovation, the Board of Trustees has been closely tracking the Executive Team's preparation for debt. This fall we got great news. As most will remember, during the fall pledge campaign we were presented with two opportunities to give: a pledge for the operating budget and a capital pledge. Operating budget pledges have come in wonderfully, but we are also delighted by—and grateful for—the response in capital giving.

Since the canvass began in the fall, nearly 250 members, or about one-third of Unity's contributors have pledged over \$540,000 in capital pledges over the next three years. The significance of this cannot be overstated. This money assures that the church can make principal and interest payments for the next three years. But this money is worth even more than its face value. It assures that during this time, we can repay the debt without negatively affecting the operating budget and it strengthens our negotiating power with financial institutions.

As with our shared ministries, Unity Church is on track to succeed financially. I, along with the rest of the trustees, believe more pledges will follow. What do you think?

Rich Hamer, trustee, wants to thank Tom Merritt for his thoughtful input on this column.

## MidAmerica Regional Assembly

Save the date! April 17-19, 2015 • Naperville, Illinois

Two Keynote Speakers: *The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt and The Rev. Dr. Marlin Lavanhar*

If you are interested in attending the conference, coordinating transportation, or learning more about Unity's Denominational Relations Team, contact Valerie Tremelat at [valoir@bitstream.net](mailto:valoir@bitstream.net). Conference details at [www.midamericauua.org](http://www.midamericauua.org).



## Supporting the Residency of Rev. Danny Givens

Watch for announcements about Unity's upcoming FAITHIFY crowdfunding project to support Danny Given's Ministerial Residency and Unity's anti-racism work. Faithify is similar to Kickstarter (an all-or-nothing fundraising model), but is specifically for Unitarian Universalist projects.

Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs says, "Unity's deep engagement with Beloved Conversations, led in part by Danny, is one of the most exciting things in Unitarian Universalism today. Unity's efforts around anti-racism goes back many years but the unexpected opportunity Danny and his congregation, Above Every Name, presented to Unity Church has begun to bear fruit in profoundly intimate ways. This Faithify project is worth supporting." More details coming soon.



With chalice ablaze, board members Deborah Carter McCoy, Rich Hamer, Mark Foster, and Stuart Alger pause for a selfie while developing a command of the details.

# FINANCIAL YEAR IN REVIEW

## Generosity is sure to follow...

From Barbara Hubbard, Executive Director, on behalf of the Executive Team

"When we live lives of integrity, service and joy, generosity is sure to follow." We hear these words each Sunday as we are invited to give to the offering. 2014 was indeed a year of generosity, and I thought that you would appreciate an update.

- We received a total of **\$104,228 in Sunday offerings** in 2014! \$59,561 was given to worthy community organizations that were nominated by our members and friends. \$18,129 was earmarked for dedicated Unity Church funds like the Justice Learning Scholarship Fund, the Arthur Foote Music Fund, the Hallman Endowment, the Partner Church Team and Project Home. The remaining \$26,538 went to the operating budget to support our Community Outreach programming.
- Our budgeted goal for **2014 operating pledges** was \$1,206,151, and we ended the year with pledges totaling \$1,221,149 from 720 households, including 107 new pledges.
- Our **unrestricted year-end gifts** totaled \$21,609, compared with a budgeted goal of \$21,000. How amazing is that?!
- Our 2014 operating budget included \$20,000 net income from **fundraisers**. Our spring and fall fundraisers, "Dance into Spring with Buddy and the Blue Dogs" and "Turning Over a New Leaf" raised \$44,159 of income and cost \$26,046 for the purchase of the prizes (including the car) and other related fundraiser expenses. The resulting net income was \$18,113. But there was one other uncanny thing that happened here... The

winner of the car donated it back to the church and another church family purchased it at the same price we paid for it. So, we were able to receive an additional unrestricted gift of ~\$20,000!

- On November 15, 2014, the congregation approved a 2015 operating budget with an **operating pledge goal** of \$1,242,311. As of the writing of this article, we have \$1,071,542 in pledges from 571 households including 38 new pledges. **We still need to hear from you if you haven't yet made your pledge for 2015!**
- In 2014, members and friends made additional **Unity Tomorrow capital campaign commitments** in the amount of \$109,818 making \$6,828,587 in total Unity Tomorrow commitments. We received \$1,087,496 in payment of those commitments in 2014, and are ahead of schedule on our construction loan principal payments with Western Bank. This is wonderful for us because it reduces our interest expense on the remaining balance.
- In our fall pledge drive, we introduced the idea of **ongoing capital giving** and asked for capital pledges for 2015, 2016 and 2017. We received pledges totaling just under \$540,000 from nearly 250 households that will be paid over the next three years. This capital giving will enable us to shield the operating budget from debt service, strengthen our long-term note negotiations with banks, and pay for a sprinkler system in the Sanctuary.

- In early 2014, funds that had been held at The Saint Paul Foundation were moved to Unity Church, and the G. Kent and Ariel W. Dickerman Building Endowment was established here at Unity Church. The dividends from the endowment distributions are intended for the purpose of upgrading the facilities, replacing major appliances and equipment, and redecorating from time to time—and are not to be used for ordinary annual maintenance.
- In 2014 we received a legacy gift from the estate of Joan Lovrien, long-time member of Unity Church. We are dedicating this gift to upgrading our Sanctuary sound system and to our long-term investments.
- Although we cannot count the dollars, we recognize that many people have made generous contributions to the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, and to Camp Unistar.

Thank you for your generous and ongoing support of Unity Church! We are very grateful!

### Pledges & Online Giving

Operating and capital pledges for 2015 are gratefully accepted online at: <http://www.unityunitarian.org/annual-pledge-form.html>

Payments, gifts, and offering contributions are gratefully accepted online at our secure payment page: <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=1aadb6>

## 2014-15 Hallman Ministerial Intern

Lindasusan Ulrich



Although the earth has slowed down into its wintry rest, I can't say the same is true for me. Planning for Beloved Conversations and the pilgrimage to Selma has been moving quickly, and additional responsibilities during the sabbatical will keep me on my toes. Layer in family commitments, travel, and preparation for

my appointment with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, and I confess that I can get caught up in worry. At times, I feel less like a stark, elegant tree with its energy drawn inward and more like a squirrel wary of a barely adequate food cache.

To mitigate that tendency, I'm trying on a new daily spiritual practice. It's simple and brief, both of which make it feel sustainable, and I have the sense it will set changes in motion that add to my resilience. That may take a little while, but I don't mind. One of the gifts of an internship is the chance to experiment, discover what works, and reflect on how to make it an authentic part of my particular ministry.

It's hard to believe that the internship is half over now. I know I've been gaining knowledge and insights constantly, yet there's still so much to absorb. I do feel like I'm learning skills that will serve me well in my career, even as I know that learning will continue throughout my life.

What I won't be able to recreate later, though, is the chance to know *you*, the people of Unity Church. That's why in the coming months, one of my main goals is to connect with more of you and to deepen the bonds that have formed already. What are your hopes for your spiritual life? What are the issues weighing on your heart? How do you make meaning out of your experience?

These questions are more important than any to-do list. They make time feel expansive. And the kind of relationships they make possible can bring warmth to even the coldest winter day.

Please feel free to contact me at [lindasusan@unityunitarian.org](mailto:lindasusan@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x129.

## Ordination of Jim Foti: You're invited!

Saturday, April 11 • 2:00 p.m. • First Unitarian Society



Members of the Unity Church community are invited to the Ordination of Jim Foti into the Unitarian Universalist ministry. Jim was our half-time intern from 2011-2013 and is now serving as assistant minister at the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis.

The ordination will be on Saturday, April 11, at 2:00 p.m., at the Society, 900 Mount Curve Avenue, Minneapolis. Reception to follow. Parking is available on the street or in the public ramp attached to the Walker Art Center.

## Volunteer Corner

### Obama Elementary Volunteers Needed

#### Help with Family Fun Night!

Tuesday, February 17 • 4:30–7:00 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to help pass out boxes of food, run education stations, and provide assistance with check in. Training done on site.

#### National African American Parent Involvement Day

Monday, February 9 • 9:00 a.m.–Noon

Get an in-depth look into the exceptional and groundbreaking parent programming being facilitated at Obama Elementary. Help Obama Elementary prepare and serve a meal for kid performers and parent participants. Volunteers are needed to help prepare, serve, help parents check in and clean-up. Each volunteer is invited to see the children's performance! Training done on site.

Obama Elementary is located across the street from Unity Church at 707 Holly Avenue.

### Soup Suppers

#### We are currently looking for Soup Supper Cooks

February 15 and March 1

Take one of your family recipes, or one that we have tested, and cook for 100 people. Kitchen support, additional volunteers, and training provided as needed!

### Wellspring Wednesday Openings

February 4 (1-2 Team Members)

February 18 (1-2 Team Members)

4:00–8:00 p.m. (or a few hours during that time)

No specific cooking skills are needed as we can teach you everything you need to know.

### Welcome Team Training Sessions

#### Religious Education

Wednesday, February 11 • 7:15–8:00 p.m.

(During Wellspring Wednesday programming — come at 6:00 p.m. for dinner!)

Interested in joining the Welcome Team? Missed the Welcome Team training? Want to learn more about Religious Education? K.P. Hong, Director of Religious Education, will be facilitating a 45 minute training to get our ushers and greeters more acquainted with Religious Education programs. His training will include orientation as to the layout of Religious Education programs in the downstairs, how we welcome families, and what resources we have at Unity Church for visiting families.

If you are interested in any of the listed opportunities please contact Madeline Summers, Volunteer Coordinator, by email to [madeline@unityunitarian.org](mailto:madeline@unityunitarian.org) or by phone at 651-228-1456 x126.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

## Rainbow Chalice Alliance is Selling Pies

Pie Day (3/14/15) is fast approaching! Unity's Rainbow Chalice Alliance (RCA) will be tabling in the Parish Hall on Sunday, February 8, and 15, and taking orders for made-from-scratch blueberry, apple, and French silk pies. (Worry not, many can and do order two pies.) RCA is only able to make 25 pies, and it's first-come, first-served. The pies are prepared and then frozen so you can bake them whenever you want. The funds raised from Pie Day help us to support Q-Quest (a day-long event for LBGTQA youth held in the fall) and help fund Queer Prom and Youth Pride in the spring. Thank you for your support!



## Thank you for a Successful Winter Warm Up Drive!



Unity's Racial and Restorative Justice Team thanks you for the wonderful response to this year's Winter Warm Up Drive. You made a difference! Amicus reports that before Unity's drive started, their warm up supply closet was empty. It is now full, and the warm up supplies and bus passes are going out the door daily to those who need them.

## Saint Paul Public Schools Clothing Drive

Last month, district staff put out a call to help secure coats for homeless youth. A week later 500 new and 500 used coats had been donated, over \$1,700 had been raised, and there is much greater awareness of the more than 2,000 homeless children that attend Saint Paul Public Schools. Project REACH is still accepting and distributing donations of winter wear at 1021 Marion St., Saint Paul. The Saint Paul Public Schools Foundation is also accepting gifts to provide warm outerwear through their secure GiveMN webpage: <https://givemn.org/organization/Saint-Paul-Public-Schools-Foundation>.

## Healing Minnesota Stories

Healing Minnesota Stories is happy to announce a series of four monthly dialogues with Native American community leaders this winter and spring as a follow-up to the 2014 Fall Series on the Doctrine of Discovery, which Unity Church helped to sponsor and host.



This series offers a chance to learn about the healing work undertaken by Native leaders and create an opportunity for more learning, dialogue, and relationship building. The events will be on the second Monday of the month from February through May, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., hosted at the St. Paul Area Council of Churches at 1671 Summit Avenue in St. Paul.

The first event in the series will be on Monday, February 9. Representatives from the Dakota Ojibwe Language Revitalization Alliance will talk about the importance of language and cultural revitalization to the healing and wellbeing of their communities, and ongoing efforts to increase programming. Healing Minnesota Stories is an initiative of the Saint Paul Interfaith Network (SPIN) which seeks to bring understanding and healing between the indigenous peoples of Minnesota and others, particularly religious communities. More information at [www.spinterfaith.org](http://www.spinterfaith.org).



## Sustainable Living News

### Composting at Church

Wouldn't it be great to turn church food scraps into garden fertilizer, instead of paying the garbage haulers to carry it away? Wellspring Wednesday meals and Sunday soup suppers generate quite a bit of compost-ables every week for which we have a simple collection system, we just need help getting it out to the compost bins in the garden! We will host Compost Brigade trainings on Sunday, February 15, at 10:20 a.m. and 12:20 p.m. If you would like to sign up for the Compost Brigade, visit <http://bit.ly/compostbucketbrigade>.

### Get Involved:

### Upcoming Opportunities

Stop by the Sustainable Living Group table on Sunday, February 15, in the Parish Hall for more information about composting and other activities. Join the Sustainable Living group as they plan April events to celebrate the earth and act to combat climate change. The group's next meeting is Thursday, February 12, at 5:30 p.m., and all are welcome!

## Food Collection for SHARING KORNER

Unity's Evergreen Quilters coordinate an on-going food drive for Sharing Korner Food Shelf. Collection baskets are stationed in the main lobby and by the Holly Avenue doors. Donations of non-perishable items are always welcome.



**Thank you!**

# PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP / ONGOING GROUPS



## Welcome Words

Stories are powerful. They teach us, inspire us, challenge us, and remind us of life's meaning. The best stories I know never get old. They are the ones worth telling over and over again, because there is always something new we discover in them. This insight led to the creation of Unity's Unitarian Universalist Heritage Week, which we honor every February, and the Sources Supper tradition, which invites us once again to become storytellers of our bold liberal religious heritage. Whether you are new to Unitarian Universalism, or a seasoned member, I hope you will join us and discover your place in the ever-evolving story of our faith. Turn to page 11 for all the Heritage Week offerings.

*Rev. Lisa Friedman*

Minister of Congregational and Community Engagement

## Pathway to Membership Classes

Unity 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 Lisa Friedman at [lisa@unityunitarian.org](mailto:lisa@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x107. She is happy to meet with you personally to answer questions and welcome you into the congregation. Childcare is available by contacting Michelle Hill at 651-228-1456 x127 or [michelle@unityunitarian.org](mailto:michelle@unityunitarian.org) at least one week in advance.

### Welcome to Unity: Our Class for Newcomers

**Wednesday, February 11: 7:15-8:30 p.m.** ~ also offered ~  
**Sunday, March 1: 5:45-7:00 p.m.**

If you have been visiting 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, March 7: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

(includes potluck lunch) ~ also offered ~

**Three Tuesdays, April 7, 14, and 21: 6:30-8:30 p.m. (light dinner provided each night)**

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, April 8: 7:15-8:30 p.m.** ~ also offered ~

**Wednesday, May 27: 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 will conclude with a celebration ceremony as participants sign the membership book.

## Ongoing Groups at Unity Church

*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 below, visit the church website at [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org) for meeting information, or call the church office at 651-228-1456.*

**A New Look at the Bible:** Second Thursday of the month (February 12) at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528

**Afterthoughts:** This group meets after the 9:00 a.m. service. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528

**Caregivers Group:** An informal support group for caregivers. Third Thursday of the month (February 19) 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 (February 10) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and fourth Saturday of the month (February 28) from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Contact: Peggy Wright at 651-698-2760

**Living With Grief Group:** A group for people living with grief and loss. Third Tuesday of the month (February 17) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at [janne@unityunitarian.org](mailto:janne@unityunitarian.org)

**Men's Retirement Group:** Monday, February 9, and 23, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact: Phil Morton at 952-934-3578

**Unitots!:** A drop-in playgroup for families (parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles) with kids through preschool age. Every Monday and Thursday, from 9:30 a.m.-noon, in the nursery. 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. Contact Jack Hawthorne at [jack.hawthorne@comcast.net](mailto:jack.hawthorne@comcast.net). February 10 discussion: *Let the Great World Spin* by Colum McCann

**Unity Bridge Club:** Friday, February 6, at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Priscilla Swartz at 651-454-3209.

**Women's Retirement Group:** The Women's Retirement group meets on the second and fourth Thursday (February 12 and 26) of each month from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact Marg Kinney [margkinney@gmail.com](mailto:margkinney@gmail.com).

**Young Adult Group: Potluck supper** on Tuesday, February 24, at 6:30 p.m., in the Center Room. Contact: Lisa Friedman at [lisa@unityunitarian.org](mailto:lisa@unityunitarian.org)

**Sangha Zen Meditation:** Find renewal and grounding. Tuesdays from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., in the Ames Chapel. Contact Ken Ford at [kford5@comcast.net](mailto:kford5@comcast.net)



# ADULT LEARNING & SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

## Group Spiritual Direction

Join Spiritual Director Sarah Cledwyn, MA, for Journey Conversations, a time of contemplative listening and sharing in a small group setting. Groups will meet the first and third Mondays of the month from February through April. A day group will meet from 10:00 a.m.-noon, and an evening group will meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The cost is \$180 for the series of six sessions (\$30 per session) with a sliding fee available. Sign up online at [www.unityunitarian.org/spiritual-direction.html](http://www.unityunitarian.org/spiritual-direction.html) or by contacting Sarah.

If you have questions or want more information please contact Sarah at 651-699-9948 or [sarahcledwyn@gmail.com](mailto:sarahcledwyn@gmail.com). Free childcare is available at church if requested at least one week in advance by email to [michelle@unityunitarian.org](mailto:michelle@unityunitarian.org).

## Half-Day of Silence

**Saturday, February 21 • 1:00-5:00 p.m. • Robbins Parlor**

Ever wanted to go on a silent retreat, but a weekend or a week seemed too long? Join Spiritual Director Sarah Cledwyn in a half day of silence, Saturday, February 21, from 1:00-5:00 p.m., in the Robbins Parlor.

We will begin as a large group to talk about the day and then engage in activities and opportunities to reflect in the silence as each desires. We will reconvene at the end of our time to talk about and share our experiences. Activities will include an indoor labyrinth, journaling questions, mandalas and more. This time is meant to be an opportunity to dip your toes into stillness with support and see what you find there. This program is free but please RSVP to Sarah at [sarahcledwyn@gmail.com](mailto:sarahcledwyn@gmail.com) to ensure there are enough space and materials for everyone. To request free child care, please email Michelle Hill at [michelle@unityunitarian.org](mailto:michelle@unityunitarian.org) at least one week in advance.

## Addiction and Recovery Ministry

A newly formed Addiction and Recovery Ministry (A&RM) is looking for interested persons and ideas for moving forward at Unity Church. During the initial meeting in September, Therissa Libby, Chair of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Addiction and Recovery Ministry, provided an overview of A&RM activities Unitarian Universalist churches have previously done. Those who attended indicated personal interest in either support, response, education, and/or advocacy. Wellspring Wednesday on March 4 will provide a brief overview of A&RM and the Community Reinforcement Approach and Family Training (CRAFT) intervention.

The group is gathering contact information from people who are interested, seeking ideas and volunteers, and formulating plans for a multifaceted approach. Please email [unityaddiction@gmail.com](mailto:unityaddiction@gmail.com) with your specific interests, ideas, gifts, and talents that may be useful in creating this team. Watch for an information table in the Parish Hall and the Sunday insert, *This Week at Unity*, for further events and information.

## Committed Couples Spring Series

The path of being in a committed relationship is a demanding path full of all kinds of challenges and opportunities. The goal of the committed couple's class is to enhance relationships no matter what state they are in.

Committed Couples is a class designed to support all couples who are committed to one another and to promote healthy and productive conversations about relationships. The class will cover issues like finances, spirituality, the impact of family of origin issues, parenting, intimacy, and conflict. There will be sharing and work done in small groups and as couples. Each creates a relationship vision together which serves as a foundation for the work that happens during class.

Led by Janne and Rob Eller-Isaacs, the Committed Couples class will be held Tuesdays: April 7, 14, 28, and May 5, 12, and 19, from 7:00 to 9:15 p.m. Registration is free for pledging members of Unity Church and \$110 for non-pledging friends. To register, please contact Marcy Mann-Anderson by email at [marcy@unityunitarian.org](mailto:marcy@unityunitarian.org) or by phone at 651-228-1456 x110.

Contact Michelle Hill by email at [michelle@unityunitarian.org](mailto:michelle@unityunitarian.org) to request childcare.





# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST HERITAGE WEEK

## Sign Up for Sources Suppers!

In the Sources Supper tradition, during the week of February 14-22, we will come together to tell the story of Unitarian Universalism and apply it to our lives today.

There are two options to participate in this community building and spiritually deepening dinner ritual: in one another's homes on February 15 and 21, and at the church on February 21. Sign up to attend in the Parish Hall on Sundays or online at [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org). To read about the origins of the Sources Supper and the key events covered, go to [www.SourcesSupper.org](http://www.SourcesSupper.org).



## Unity Welcomes Rev. Dr. Sándor Kovács



We welcome Rev. Dr. Sándor Kovács, Associate Professor of History at the Unitarian Seminary in Transylvania, who will visit Unity Church from February 18 through 22, offering two programs and preaching. Sándor is well known to many who have traveled to Transylvania. He is an engaging speaker, extremely well-versed in the history of Unitarianism. He was among the first Balázs Scholars in the early 1990s and returns to Starr King for the current semester as professor in residence.

### Wellspring Wednesday, February 18

#### Sharing the Journey: Religious Dissenters in Europe

Celebrate heritage week with Rev. Dr. Sándor Kovács from Transylvania. He will share stories of the relationship that developed between Hungarian Unitarians and their English speaking counterparts, including the joys and the struggles. This is a wonderful opportunity to go deeper in the story of our faith's European roots and to get to know international Unitarianism today.

### Saturday Forum, February 21

On Saturday, February 21, Sándor will make a presentation at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. His topic will be "The Development of Unitarianism in Transylvania in the 16th Century." All are encouraged to attend, and this history lesson will be especially appropriate for anyone considering this summer's pilgrimage to Transylvania. Members of other Twin Cities UU congregations will also be invited.

### Sunday Worship: February 22: *Imagining Paradise*

#### Rev. Dr. Sándor Kovács and Worship Associate Zoe Leuthner

This morning, we will explore paradise — lost and found — with an uniquely Hungarian Unitarian approach. Unity Church welcomes Rev. Dr. Kovács to our pulpit. He is the Associate Professor of History at the Unitarian Seminary in Transylvania, and was one of the first Balázs Scholars to study in the U.S.



Travel to Transylvania! Here, Unity Church pilgrims are pictured with friends from Homorodszentpeter where Unity's partner church is located.

## Have you ever thought of visiting Transylvania?

**Travel Dates: July 22 – August 3**

Have you ever been interested in finding out more about our partner church in the village of Homorodszentpeter in Transylvania, now a part of Romania? At the end of July — this summer! — a group of folks from Unity Church will travel to this part of the world to get to know the country and the people first-hand. During the first part of our pilgrimage we'll assemble in beautiful Budapest, Hungary. After getting a flavor of this amazing city on the Danube, we will travel east by coach to visit historic sites where our liberal faith has deep roots. This is the part of Europe where the idea of "freedom of conscience" in religion was actually promoted by an official edict. The "land beyond the forests" (Transylvania) is the home of our "spiritual ancestors" as well as the current home to about 600,000 ethnically Hungarian Unitarians. Our final destination will be the village of Homorodszentpeter, our partner village in the beautiful Homorod (river) valley. We will spend the week in the homes and share the daily lives of our hosts—getting to know them and their country while they also get to know us. The week will culminate in a Sunday religious service at the 300 year old village church. Leaving our new friends, we'll return to the United States via Bucharest.

There will be an information session with Janne Eller-Isaacs and Hal Freshley between the morning services on Sunday, March 1, and a "Pilgrimage Orientation" that same day at 1:00 p.m., both in the Center Room. In the meantime you are invited to contact Hal Freshley ([halfresh@q.com](mailto:halfresh@q.com) // 651-778-8765) if you are interested in finding out more about the trip. Space will be limited to 20 persons.





## What's New in the Library and Bookstall!

From Louise Merriam, Library and Bookstall Team

In last month's issue of *commUNITY*, this column discussed the rationale that undergirds the two libraries at Unity Church, the Anderson Adult Library and the Whitman Children's Library. This month's column describes some of activities of the Library and Bookstall Team (LBT) that go beyond operating libraries.

In particular, LBT supports book-related events at Unity Church. We do this in a variety of ways: paying author stipends and travel expenses, selling books, hosting events, baking for receptions, introducing speakers, and creating posters and announcements. In the past few years, LBT has sponsored book-related events such as:

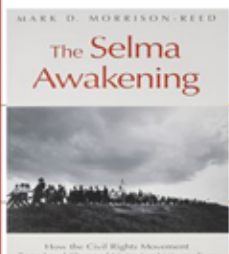
- Samuel Morgan Community Forums: LBT supports the appearances of speakers that include the Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed, who spoke about his book, *The Selma Awakening*, in November 2014.
- Wellspring Wednesday programs: At Wellspring Wednesday on September 24, 2014, Unity member Joan Velasquez read from and signed her book about the development of Mano a Mano, *Gaining Ground: A Blueprint for Community-Based International Development*. Last April, Unity member and children's book author Mike Huber spoke at a Wellspring Wednesday about his recently released series, *Early Experiences*.
- Women's Retreat: LBT has sponsored the appearances and sold the books of authors appearing at the annual Women's Retreat. For example, at the 2014 Women's Retreat, LBT sponsored the 2013 Minnesota Book Award winner Patricia Kirkpatrick, who read from *Odessa: Poems*.

A list of LBT-sponsored occasions would not be complete with a reference to the annual Café Unity, where Unity Church authors, musicians, and poets have the opportunity to read or perform in an informal, coffee-house atmosphere that includes food and wine. Unity's Library and Bookstall Team invites the congregation to attend one of these great book-related events.

To Commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March

**50**  
SELMA

**A Congregation Book Read**



**The Selma Awakening**  
How the Civil Rights Movement Tested and Changed Unitarian Universalism  
By Mark Morrison-Reed

**Book Discussion**  
Wellspring Wednesday  
Feb. 25, 2015 • 7:15 pm

Buy Selma in the Unity Bookstall  
OR  
Check it out from Unity Library

## Open Page Writing Sessions

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. No writing experience is necessary.

All of the following offerings are held at Unity Church. Writing sessions are free, and an RSVP is required to [karen@unityunitarian.org](mailto:karen@unityunitarian.org).

**Sunday, February 8 • 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

### ***Paradise: Then and Now and Yet to Come***

Paradise has often been imagined as a garden laden with fruit and shining in perfect possibilities, each one realized. What can we learn about the world we live in today, by exploring the stories of a paradise found somewhere else, as a place of creation or a destiny of souls?

**Sunday, March 22 • 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

### ***Surrender: The Nerve Center of Our Consent***

Henri Nouwen called surrender an act of deep listening and receiving. Howard Thurman often referred to it as the "nerve center of consent." Others have defined surrender as an offering of ourselves. To what sacred truth and presence do you offer yourself? What is the meaning of surrender in our spiritual journeys? What does it ask – and not ask – of us today?

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

### ***Freedom Shared***

"Freedom is not something that anybody can be given," said James Baldwin. "Freedom is something that people take and people are as free as they want to be." How do we find and claim the freedom we want and need? What responsibilities accompany our freedom? How does a freedom shared ironically bind us to others?

**Wednesday, May 13 • 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

### ***Peace Within and Among Us***

"Peace is people talking together with one heart between them," said a wise eight-year-old, reminding us that peace is more than an absence of conflict; it is engaging our hearts in relationship with one another. This session explores the inner and outer dimensions of peace and how one affects the other.

**Wednesday, June 3 • 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

### ***Wisdom's Crossroads***

"At the crossroads, Wisdom takes her stand." At the crossroads of our own times, this writing session explores the proverbial wisdom, old and new, that is needed today and where we might find it, in the world and within ourselves.

For more information about additional writing programs offered in other locations, visit [www.karenhering.com](http://www.karenhering.com), or to receive periodic e-mail notifications of Karen's upcoming literary programs, contact [karen@unityunitarian.org](mailto:karen@unityunitarian.org).



## Pitter-pattering Questions

[...like raindrops on the window, and little feet running through the house]

From K.P. Hong, Director of Religious Education

What continues to capture our attention in Milton's *Paradise Lost* may be his portrait of the fallen archangel as an original and seminal thinker. While he may be tragically wrong, Satan is wrong in the most instructive way. "The mind is its own place, and in itself can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven," begins his construal of the contrast between the place where he finds himself and the place from which he has been expelled. Paradise is a state of mind, and perhaps more accurately and powerfully than his seventeenth century contemporaries, Milton queried and laid his theological axe at the root of our spiritual and moral imagination.

Paradise as an act of spiritual and moral imagination? I think of a familiar theater game called "Presents." Person A thinks of a present to gift person B, then mimes giving it to her. B has to guess what it is and use it accordingly. They then swap roles, and so on until the exchange becomes unintelligible and finally breaks down. You can imagine how quickly (and hilariously and frustratingly) it turns competitive, as players imagine more and more outlandish items to bewilder the other. A variation of this game, of course, resides in our sacred play with children who come bearing gifts in all sorts of packaging. How are we at this play, at discerning what wild and precious gifts they bring? What comes forth as an act of our spiritual and moral imagination?

I wonder specifically about three kinds of responses: (1) player B can say "No, thank you" for No remains an important component in our relational repertoire, that not all gifts are experienced as gifts by others. But does not every No beg a greater Yes to life? And as parents and teachers, how do we speak and communicate that deeper Yes? If in our hearts we believe that every offer from our children holds a gift, because they are the gift, how can we not somehow offer that underlying Yes? (2) We can also respond "What is this gift? What is it for? What am I supposed to do with this?" And this is how the game is usually played, accepting the gift conditionally on what the gift might be. The ensuing process can cover the breadth of human relationships, with challenge, misunderstanding, pain, surprise, hilarity, learning, understanding, joy, and friendship. But there is another question for me that remains compelling in our work as teachers and spiritual guides of children, (3) of asking ourselves, "How do I want to receive this gift?" It is a response that exceeds our appreciation for what a gift is supposed to be, to what a gift can be. We do not stop with "What is this gift for?" (And even less, "Is this a good gift?") We *over-accept* the gift and ask "How can this gift be welcomed or used in a faithful way? What does the way we receive this gift say about the kind of people we want to be? Beyond what it is, what can this gift become in our beloved community?"

This is our spiritual practice in paradise, of our moral imagination as receivers of the gift. What would it be like if the burden of the theater game, or our sacred play with children, did not lie with the imaginative potential of the giver (though our children certainly are!), nor with how interesting the gift is, but with our capacity as receivers to make what we are given as interesting and fabulous as possible?

Sharing questions that pitter-patter across our sacred journeys...

## The Golden Queen

The 2015 Unity Church Children's Musical  
February 26, 27, and 28 • Turn to page 15 for details

## FEBRUARY

### Parish Hall Artists

Children of Unity Church!

Pablo Picasso famously said, "It took me four years to paint like Raphael, but a life time to paint like a child." As Parish Hall artists for February, our children remind us what it means not to simply paint or draw but to live art. Such art is quintessentially spiritual practice for our children, exceeding any determination of how technically proficient or "correctly" drawn or how it compares with other expressions. As spiritual practice, children's art is not consumable entertainment nor segregated aesthetics for museums, galleries, performance halls. Rather, it seeks to illuminate the very truth and mystery of their being—its beauty, dynamism, creativity, and inherent relatedness to everything in the world. This gathered collection, curated from many classes and projects over the years, invite us into children's learning, sacred play, and ceaseless inquiry into wonder and contemplation of the Sacred.

## February R.E. Calendar

Wednesday, February 4: Religious Education New Family Orientation, 7:15 p.m.

Sunday, February 8: Story Sunday (grades 1-6 begin in the sanctuary for a story, junior high classes worship in the sanctuary for the entire service); New Workshop Rotation Cycle: "Community"

Sunday, February 15: No R.E. Classes – Special activities for kids; nursery care available (Presidents' Day Weekend)

Saturday, February 21: Parents' Night Out! 600-8:30 p.m. (RSVP required to [michelle@unityunitarian.org](mailto:michelle@unityunitarian.org))

Sunday, February 22– regular R.E.

## JOIN the UNITY SOUND TEAM

- ◀ If you are excited about our new sanctuary sound system
- ◀ If you have a background in working with sound or fascination with technical systems
- ◀ If you love music, don't play, don't sing, but want to be involved
- ◀ If you are none of the above but are interested and willing to be trained...

### WE WANT YOU to be part of the UNITY SOUND TEAM !

Because this is a much more sophisticated system and some channels and settings will be dedicated (example: consistent settings for Rob and Janne), while others would be variable each week, it will need a trained team of people at the sound desk for every service and event. Our beloved facilities staff member Harold Watson will certainly continue at the sound board during the morning services. However, we will need a rotating team of our own Unity Church "sound pros" in the event he is not able to be here, to staff the 4:30 services on a rotating schedule, and for various other special events.

Here is what is involved (it's really as easy as 1, 2, 3):

1. Attendance at a training session with Reid Kruger, recording engineer and our advisor on this initiative
2. Availability and willingness to run sound at 4:30 services as part of a rotating schedule
3. Serving as "sound pro" for various special events and services

This could be exciting! You can be part of a new era where we have great sound for all speakers and can actually record the music that occurs in every service! Wow, maybe we should even have t-shirts!

If interested, please contact Ruth Palmer ([ruth@unityunitarian.org](mailto:ruth@unityunitarian.org) // 651-228-1456 x118) as soon as possible. We are hoping to install the new system by the beginning of February!

*Mark your calendar!*

**May 3, 2015**  
**Arthur Foote Music Sunday**

### Pastoral Care

#### Rides Ministry

Unity's Rides Ministry helps people get to Sunday worship. If you don't drive or don't have a car and could use a lift, please contact the main church number, 651-228-1456, and the volunteer or staff member who answers the phone can check to see whether any of our more than 60 volunteer drivers might be able to help out. And we can always use more volunteer drivers—for more information or to sign up as a driver, call 651-228-1456.



#### Caregivers Group

**Third Thursday of the month:  
February 19 and March 19**

Are you a part-time or full-time caretaker of loved ones in your life? Do you need support in order to sustain the care you are giving? Join Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs and Pastoral Care Team member Cynthia Orange for an informal support group for caregivers. During February and March, please contact Lisa Friedman by e-mail at [lisa@unityunitarian.org](mailto:lisa@unityunitarian.org) or by phone at 651-228-1456 x107 if you would like to participate.

#### Living With Grief Group

**Third Tuesday of the month:  
February 17 and March 17**

On the third Tuesday of every month, Janne Eller-Isaacs will offer a group for people living with grief and loss. All are welcome to come to discuss issues related to the grieving process. During February and March, please contact Lisa Friedman by e-mail at [lisa@unityunitarian.org](mailto:lisa@unityunitarian.org) or by phone at 651-228-1456 x107 if you would like to participate.

#### Share a Joy or Concern

If you have a joy or sorrow, life-cycle event, or concern you would like to share with the Pastoral Care Team or congregation, please fill out the online form at <http://bit.ly/joyconcern> and a team member will contact you.





# The Golden Queen

*A Royal Musical Adventure About Life's True Riches*

The 26th Annual Unity Church Children's Musical

Unity's 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders

Written and Directed by Mary Blouin-Auffert

Music by Sandy Waterman

As always, the entire production — from the script to the music to the choreography — is original material created for Unity's 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Sandy Waterman, composer and lyricist extraordinaire, returns for her 26th year as composer of the musical score. The multi-talented Mary Blouin-Auffert wrote the script this year and returns for her fourth year as director.

## PERFORMANCES

In the Sanctuary at Unity Church

Thursday, February 26 • 7:00 PM

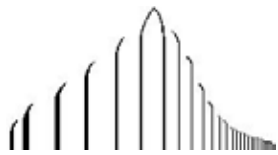
Friday, February 27 • 7:00 PM

Saturday, February 28 • 5:00 PM

## TICKETS

\$6/adults • \$4/children • \$20/family

Tickets will be sold in the Parish Hall after services during February, online at [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org), and at the door before the performances.



# 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](http://www.unityunitarian.org) • [unity@unityunitarian.org](mailto:unity@unityunitarian.org)

GINNY ALLEN, CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REV. JANNE ELLER-ISAACS, CO-MINISTER  
REV. ROB ELLER-ISAACS, CO-MINISTER  
BARBARA HUBBARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
REV. LISA FRIEDMAN, MINISTER OF CONGREGATIONAL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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**TIME SENSITIVE  
MATERIAL**

To Commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
the Selma to Montgomery March

**A Congregation Book Read**



MARK D. MORRISON-REED

The Selma  
Awakening

**The Selma Awakening**

How the Civil Rights Movement Tested  
and Changed Unitarian Universalism  
By Mark Morrison-Reed



How the Civil Rights Movement  
Tested and Changed Unitarian Universalism

**Book Discussion**  
Wellspring Wednesday  
Feb. 25, 2015 • 7:15 pm

Buy Selma in the Unity Bookstall  
OR  
Check it out from Unity Library



**Young Adult Potluck**

Tuesday, February 24

6:30 p.m. • Center Room

Are you looking to meet other young adults (ages 18-35) at Unity Church? Bring your favorite dish to a relaxed evening of good company and conversation. If you have questions, please contact Lisa Friedman at [lisa@unityunitarian.org](mailto:lisa@unityunitarian.org).

