

Truth and Lies

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 faith and strengthen our bonds with one another in religious community.

*Truth forever on the scaffold, Wrong forever on the throne,—
Yet that scaffold sways the future, and, behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch above [their] own.*

— James Russell Lowell, "The Present Crisis," 1845

The sanctuary of the First Unitarian Church of Baltimore is an object lesson in the evolving theology of Unitarian Universalism over 200 years of history. As you walk into the sanctuary, you pass banners from the last twenty years running along the sides of the space proclaiming the connection between humanity and our planet and the congregation's welcome to all — particularly Baltimore's LGBTQ community.



Sanctuary, First Unitarian Church of Baltimore. Photo by Kiersten M

At the front of the sanctuary, in the chancel, there are a row of symbols behind the pulpit. In addition to a nineteenth-century cross, there are symbols of the world's religious traditions: a Star of David, Arabic Calligraphy, a symbol of the Buddhist eightfold path, a Yinyang. These were added in the mid-20th century, reflecting the emerging pluralism of Unitarian Universalism at that time. Above the symbols is a mosaic of the last supper, thirty feet across, a relic of the late 19th century move towards "respectability" and more outward expressions of Christianity in the congregation of that time.

But the oldest artwork in the building is outside. Over the portico, looking across downtown Baltimore, is a sculpture by Antonio Capellano of "The Angel of Truth."



The Angel of Truth, located over the entrance of First Unitarian Church of Baltimore. Photo by Bossi

While the interior of the building has been renovated over the years, "The Angel of Truth" has been there since the founding of the congregation in 1819. That founding also marked the start of institutional Unitarianism in America: William Ellery Channing preached his "Unitarian Christianity" sermon, founding what would eventually become the UUA, under the eyes of "The Angel of Truth." What is truth? This is a contested question in public life in 2025. Trust in institutions traditionally seen as neutral arbiters is low, and in the eight years since a White House official introduced the phrase "alternative facts" to public discourse there have been parallel, but mutually incomprehensible, understandings of the "truth" in society. This month at Unity, we'll take up the question of how we navigate competing truth

claims and different understandings of truth as a concept: Is there an underlying, verifiable truth that we can derive from reason? What truth is embedded in relationships?

What is the role of revelation in religious understandings of truth? How do humor and joy fit into all this?

To early Unitarians, from the founders of First Unitarian in Baltimore to the abolitionist James Russell Lowell, truth was both a goal and a hope the thing we strive to understand through experience and reason. While the theological language (and art) of Unitarian Universalism has changed in the last two centuries, we still aspire to say, "I know this much is true."

*Rev. Dr. Oscar Sinclair
with this month's Theme Team*

Theme Resources

For further reflection on the theme, see this month's spiritual practice packet, available online at unityunitarian.org/chalice-circles.

JUST WORDS | WELCOME NEW STAFF



Just Words

Rev. Dr. Oscar Sinclair, Senior Minister

I love this month's theme for worship. The question of what is truth, and how we navigate competing truth claims, has been a background conversation among the ministry team at Unity Church for the last six months, and I have been looking forward to bringing some of that conversation to the congregation in worship. Part of my excitement is circumstantial: it feels like a timely theme at the start of a new presidential administration that has a challenging relationship with truth as a concept, but part of it is the evergreen nature of the question: I spent years walking into worship services under the Angel of Truth in Baltimore, wondering what it meant for the founders of that church to choose that symbol to proclaim Unitarianism to the city around them.

I know many truths. I know that I love my wife and child. I know they love me. I know we live in Minnesota. I know the cup of tea in front of me as I write this is hot. The question of how I know these things to be true is more complicated than the experience of the truth. The tea is hot because I understand that the molecules in it have a higher energy than the air around them — and that the second law of thermodynamics suggests that the tea will cool until it matches the temperature of the surrounding mug and air. I love Stacie and Ailish because they are the primary relationships in my life — because Stacie and I choose to build a life together, and because Ailish is a part of that life. But all of this is, in some sense, after the fact rationalization. I love. Tea is hot. I know these truths and then try to understand how I know them.

The last 50 years have seen two large changes in our collective understanding of truth. Traditional sources of authority, from the government, to media, to medicine, are no longer trusted in the same way that they once were. At the same time, academic post-modernism has complicated our understanding of truth, from a single capital-T Truth that we understand through pure reason, to a more complex understanding of truths grounded in lived experience. There is good reason for both of these: the truth was always more complex than Walter Cronkite proclaiming a single story on network television, but the complexity of navigating truth in this moment opens the door for "alternative facts" and conspiracy theories in public life.

How we understand and proclaim the truth is, then, one of the most important questions we can ask as a religious community in 2025. As always, I would love to hear from you how you navigate these questions in your own life — email me at oscar@unityunitarian.org, or set up a time to come have a cup of tea and a chat.

See you soon,

Oscar

Welcome New Staff



Lillian Birkholz



Reed Richards

We're so pleased to welcome two people to our facilities staff: Reed Richards, Facilities Manager, and Lillian Birkholz, Facilities Specialist. Reed comes to us with extensive experience in facilities management, custodial services, and grounds maintenance, most recently at St. Catherine University. Lillian has worked for Unity Church before, and we're delighted to have them back. Please make sure to introduce yourself to them when you get a chance!

This also means that we once again say goodbye to Teresa Connor, who so ably filled in as Interim Facilities Manager, and Claire Newhouse, who came back as a Facilities Specialist while we searched. Our gratitude and thanks to them both!



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
BALTIMORE • JUNE 18 - 22, 2025
UUA.ORG/GA

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), where participants gather to worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy decisions for the Association through a democratic process. While anyone can attend, congregations must certify annually to have voting delegates. Interested in learning about what it means to serve as a delegate? Send an email to Laura Park at laura@unityunitarian.org.

SUNDAY SERVICES | OFFERING RECIPIENTS

Sunday Services

Sunday services are held at 9:00 and 11:15 a.m., except where noted. The 9:00 a.m. service is also offered via livestream. Find the livestream links and sermon podcasts at unityunitarian.org/sunday-services.

February 2: Veritas: The Truth Is Out There

Rev. Dr. Oscar Sinclair

The first generation of Unitarians in America preached that reason was the primary tool for understanding the truth of the world around us. *Veritas*, the Latin word for truth, gives us “verifiability,” the idea that truth is a description of external reality that can be understood by observation and experimentation. What role does this understanding of truth hold for us in 2025?

February 9: Aletheia: What is Revealed

Rev. Dr. Oscar Sinclair

Truth is not simply a dry recitation of facts. The Greek word for truth, *aletheia*, suggests an unveiling; it was used to describe a curtain coming up at a play, revealing the truth of the story. What truths are revealed to us today?

February 16: Truth, Lies, and (Re-)Conciliation

Rev. Lara Cowtan

Indigenous communities around the world were gravely impacted by The Doctrine of Discovery, a pronouncement by the Catholic Church and the policies of colonial domination by European countries that were used to justify dominion over lands that were not inhabited by Christians, and the right to subjugate and exploit non-Christian people. What is our role, as Unitarian Universalists, in furthering the process towards healing and repair? Towards Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery?

“... all doctrines, policies and practices based on advocating superiority of peoples or individuals on the basis of national origin or racial, religious, ethnic or cultural differences are racist, scientifically false, legally invalid, morally condemnable and socially unjust...” — UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, preambular para. 4

February 23: Emeth: The Truth of Each Other

Rev. Dr. Oscar Sinclair

The word in Hebrew for truth, *emeth*, is related to the verb *amam*: to support and make firm. *Emeth* is inherently relational; we depend on each other for support, and to understand the world. Can we understand truth in isolation, or are we dependent on each other?

*Interested in serving as a worship associate?
See page 6.*

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.

February 2

Young Hearts, Open Minds is rooted in the reality that no one is born hating another person because of the color of their skin, background, or religion. Young Hearts works alongside early childhood professionals and parents to help children ages one through five recognize, embrace, and appreciate cultural, ethnic, and racial differences. This program is informed and shaped in consultation with BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) communities. This collection will support the expansion of [Young Hearts, Open Minds](#) from its currently twenty local sites to fifty sites by the end of 2025.

February 9

Housing Link strives to connect people to affordable rental housing by providing web-based resources directing renters to housing options, sharing fair housing information, and encouraging landlords to serve low income households by lobbying for the expansion of Section 8 Housing Vouchers. This collection will support [Housing Link's](#) advocacy program which accompanies individuals caught in the complicated realities of identifying and applying for affordable rental housing.

February 16

Helping Paws is a leading nonprofit organization that breeds, trains, and places assistance dogs with people who have physical disabilities or are living with PTSD, or are veterans or first responders. Helping Paws places service dogs within a comprehensive framework designed to ensure the well-being and skills of the dogs and enrich the lives of the people the dogs serve. This collection will support [Helping Paw's](#) matching program, a complex undertaking where a dog is matched with a human partner.

February 23

Minnesota Multifaith Network (MnMN) is rooted in the understanding that society can be transformed for the common good through relationship building and the power of collective action. MnMN is not an organization but a network. MnMN operates via a process called “network weaving” which brings together disparate people and organizations around their interests, needs and opportunities for collaboration. As such, [MnMN](#) aims to be a statewide network of faith leaders committed to building bridges and trust between faith communities and opening space for deeper relationships. This collection will support shared learning and training focused on fostering human rights through expanded interfaith commitments.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES | WELCOME WORDS



Together We Imagine the Future

Mary Baremore, Chair, Board of Trustees

While January marks the middle of the church year, in a sense it is the beginning of a new year for Unity's Board. We have a board retreat, where the new board members join with the current trustees to plan our work for the upcoming year. Planning it is the first big responsibility for the new board chair — and this year, that was my job! Collaborating with trustees — old and new — to plan the retreat was a wonderful chance to experience how working together can help to sharpen our vision of the future. The productive retreat held on January 10 and 11 helped us get to know each other, welcome our new trustees, and look forward into the coming year. We were especially pleased to welcome Rev. Oscar to his first board retreat! Working together, we identified key areas of focus and strengthened board committees to support our work in reparations and the ends renewal process.

Our congregation has experienced a lot over the past three years. Fortunately, we've been blessed with excellence in leadership, from previous boards, from our outstanding staff and Executive Team, and from you, our members, friends, visitors, and community partners. All have showed up, attended worship, workshops, and trainings, met with each other, stayed engaged and connected. We've come through the deep discussions and the hard parts.

These days, you are showing up in church on Sundays, greeting others in the Parish Hall after services, and connecting with each other in important ways. On Tolling of Bells Sunday, the Congregational Care Team hosted a gathering of grief groups where people could meet with one another and share their deepest thoughts and feelings about their private grief, in a safe and respectful space. Our current Ends call for us to know each other in all our fullness and to give and receive compassionate care to one another. In ways like this, we live out our deeply held values and beliefs.

Now, for a time, we can take our finger off the emergency button, and breathe more regularly. It is time for us to get to know Rev. Oscar more deeply and for him to know us. Time to focus our energy on welcoming our visitors and newcomers and the children in our community. It is time to continue our work around antiracism and multiculturalism. Time to continue our discussions and actions around reparations. And it is time for Ends renewal.

Ends renewal is a process we go through every five years where the church evaluates and orients toward the future. Our Ends are the aspirations which the Executive Team uses to carry out the work of the church. It is board work, but we do it in tandem with the congregation. We need you — the congregation and the church's partners — to participate and dream.

What values do we want to uphold? What will those new Ends look like? We ask you to stay engaged, to show up for community meetings, and to answer the question: *What is an experience you've had that made you say "yes, this is what church is for?"* We ask you to give two hours of your valuable time to imagine our future together with others in this community.

It has never been more important to be in community with one another. Our changing country, changing world, changing climate are pushing us to be more committed to our common future. Please be engaged — our Ends process community conversations go through February — sign up to participate in one now: bit.ly/ucuendsrenew25.



Welcome Words

Philippa Anastos, Membership Coordinator and Program Assistant

In a recent session of Committing to Unity, our group tangled with one particular responsibility of membership: to bless the world with prophetic ministry. This sort of language is not easy to apply to ourselves. At first glance, it can also seem jarringly out of tone with the sheer breadth of practices in a UU congregation. Rev. Oscar explained it simply, however: To be a prophet is to walk with the world as it is, and to point the way to the world as it could be. It is not an easy thing to ask of our members, and yet, they continually rise to the challenge with joy and creativity. This month, as we look at the paired themes of Truth and Lies, I encourage you to consider them in the context of your own prophetic ministry.

Finding Yourself at Unity

**Sundays 10:15 a.m. | Center Room
Childcare available**

This is our weekly class for visitors and newcomers. Join the repeating eight-session cycle at any time and attend the sessions in any order! Watch our weekly email for class topics or 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 today! For more information, contact Philippa Anastos, Membership Coordinator and Program Assistant, philippa@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x110.

BELOVED COMMUNITY STAFF TEAM

All Our Fullness — Why Now?

Lia Rivamonte, Beloved Community Communications Team

Long ago, I was part of a small acting troupe from a local theater that toured rural areas in the upper Midwest. Typically, we performed in a school gym or an auditorium and it was the school principal who served as emcee, introducing us by name to the students and faculty. The challenge to pronounce our names was exasperating for them; funny and ironic, to us. Waiting to go on stage, we never knew what might emanate from the mouth of the person who introduced us. The show was about growing up Asian American, an attempt at humanizing us by interweaving music with humorous and moving stories about Asian American history, culture, family life, and the immigrant experience.

The botched intros seemed to illustrate, at that time, how necessary it was to dispel the notion of Asian exoticism and inscrutability, that has long permeated Asian-ness in the country; notions that exploited difference in order to justify unequal treatment. While our names sounded strange and we may not have looked like the majority of the students or their families in their community, the narratives we shared were probably similar to their own predominantly European immigrant histories. That touring show took place 30 years ago.

The pandemic revitalized that sense of foreignness of Asian Americans; some blaming us directly for Covid. And while there have been no recent reports of violence toward Asian Americans, renewed skepticism and opposition towards all immigrants is a hallmark of the incoming administration. We have yet to see how “successful” this anti-immigrant campaign will be not only in terms of government policy and economic feasibility, but also in regard to an unabashed retreat from that to which we had once aspired: a democracy

where all are treated with equal respect, where all feel that we belong.

The cultivation of a sense of belonging and genuine human connection has taken on a new urgency. For many of us, present-day hyper-connectivity through social media has served to heighten our awareness of disconnectedness. Our social media posts often portray our accomplishments, our close happy times with family and friends, career successes, vacations, smooth life transitions, etc. In the Unity **All Our Fullness (AOF)** initiative, we want to go deeper with you to cultivate authentic inclusion and connection.

As Rev. KP Hong, Unity’s Minister of Faith Formation says, “At the heart of a faith community is creating belonging where there has been exclusion, border, social fragmentation, and segregation.” The current Unity Church fourth Ends Statement may be aspirational, “to know each other in all our fullness and create an ever-widening circle of belonging for all people,” but as KP says, “A religious vision of belonging is always revolutionary, prophetic, imagining a way beyond othering.” This is the belonging that we call Beloved Community.

Did our theater presentation make a difference? Did we persuade the mainly white, Euro-American students to see Asian Americans as having the same desires and needs, despite seemingly unpronounceable names or other perceived differences? Maybe, for a minute. What I do know is the kid in the audience who was a Korean adoptee or whose family owned the local Chinese restaurant was always the first to greet us backstage; often in tears, grateful to hear their own story elevated and told as something about which to be proud. It felt to them as if they belonged — if not in that gym, in the larger world they hoped would be

waiting for them one day.

We, too, are waiting. It is easy to isolate and never stretch ourselves, but I think we are all a bit tired of living among strangers. As curious Unitarian Universalists, who believe in the interconnectedness of our universe, how about starting with ourselves?

With this in mind, we warmly invite you to All Our Fullness, to share your personal story in response to one of the following prompts:

- **When did you become aware of your own cultural identity?**
- **Share a story about a time you encountered difference; and what difference did it make.**
- **What stirs your yearning for multicultural community?**

We welcome videos (two minutes or less), art, photographs, and/or your written response (300 words or so). Submit via the All Our Fullness online form at <https://bit.ly/AllOurFullness>.

Thank you! We are grateful in advance for your participation. Responses will be shared with the congregation on Unity’s website and/or in *commUNITY* in the coming months. Please note that your contribution may be edited for length and clarity.

Feel free to direct any questions about AOF to aof@unityunitarian.org.



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Serve as a Worship Associate

Please consider applying to serve a worship associate at Unity Church! Worship associates help explore the monthly themes and participate in services by sharing readings and/or reflections that are developed in collaboration with the minister(s) in charge of each service.

Worship associates commit to a two-year term and meet at Unity for quarterly retreats on Saturday mornings. Because of the depth of inquiry about worship that those retreats allow, there is an expectation that worship associates commit to attending those meetings. Worship associates are expected to serve in the capacity as worship associate four to five Sundays per year, and potentially preach/lead a service during the summer.

Applications are online at bit.ly/ucwaapp. The deadline to apply is Sunday, February 23.

Unity-UUA Common Read 2025

Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families

Read now! Participate in the workshop, led by Unity's ministers, on Tuesday, February 25, 6:00-8:00 p.m., in Robbins Parlor and on Zoom. Books are available in Unity Bookstall and Anderson Library. Discussion guide is online at bit.ly/discussguide25.

A Spiritual Practice to Feed Your Soul: Lectio Divina

Join us for a sacred experience of listening, contemplating, and responding to inspirational texts. Though the spiritual practice of Lectio Divina is centuries-old, typically utilizing Scripture, Unitarian Universalists use contemporary poetry. Participants report that Lectio Divina is "rejuvenating" and "insightful." Each second Wednesday and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:10 p.m. on Zoom; or Zoom from the Gannett Room at Unity on Wednesdays. All are welcome! Led by Lisa Wersal or Shelley Butler. Questions? Contact Shelley at library@unityunitarian.org.

Sangha Practice

Tuesdays | 4:30-6:00 p.m. | Ames Chapel

At the heart of Buddhist practice is the commitment to awaken — to step into our doubts and predicaments and hear the roaring of life at the still point of a turning universe. Through weekly practice of meditation, we discover a clarity of mind attentive and accountable to each moment of life's flow, and touch the mystery of our original face. This group is open to anyone interested, no experience is necessary, and instructions will be provided. For more information, please contact Rev. KP Hong at kp@unityunitarian.org.

Fellowship Groups

Email Philippa Anastos at philippa@unityunitarian.org to get connected.

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

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

Men's Conversation Group: February 3 and 17, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Zoom. Discuss a range of topics, offer support, and connect.

Men's Retirement Circle: Monday, February 10 and 24, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Robbins Parlor

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

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

February 11: *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles

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

New Groups Now Forming

Parents of Teens: Many of the support structures that surround us when we have small children fade away as our children get older. If this isolation frustrates you, and you want to spend time with a group of parents sharing in the joy and struggle of raising teenagers, reach out to Gail Mulcahey at gtbmulcahey@gmail.com. We are still determining the best format and meeting time for this group!

Mid-adults Group: Middle adulthood brings a host of changes and challenges in all facets of life. How do we live our values as we navigate those changes? If you have been searching for a group that lies between the Young Adults Group and the retirement groups here at Unity Church, reach out to Tom Coffey at tomcoff@pm.me.

WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY

A multigenerational weeknight at church!

Dinner: 5:45 p.m. | Chapel service: 6:45 p.m. | Programming: 7:10 p.m. — childcare provided!

Details and Zoom links at unityunitarian.org/wellspring-wednesday.

February 5

Dinner: Stewed chicken tinga, rice, lime slaw, brownies

Dying for Beginners | Parish Hall and Zoom

Last year's series on aspects of death and dying returns, in a shorter and more focused form. This session on preparing for death is the first in a three-part series. See page 10 for details.

Religious Education New Family Orientation | Gannett Room

Interested in learning more about Unity's religious education programs for children and youth? We offer Religious Education New Family Orientation on the first Wednesday of every month. Email Nelson Moroukian at nelson@unityunitarian.org one week in advance if you plan to attend.

Young Adults Group (ages 18-35) | Center Room

A fun, reflective group of people working to build multifaith and multicultural community as they navigate the complexity of being an adult.

Beginner Violin | Choir Room

Join Mayra Mendoza for beginning violin lessons appropriate for all ages. Email mayraquitzia@hotmail.com by 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday to ensure a lesson.

February 12

Dinner: Salmon, roasted potatoes, mixed greens, butterscotch oatmeal bars

Dying for Beginners | Parish Hall and Zoom

Last year's series on aspects of death and dying returns, in a shorter and more focused form. This session on the experience and act of dying is the second in a three-part series. See page 10 for details.

The Land Is Not Empty Discussion | Room TBD and Zoom

Join us for an ongoing discussion about Sarah Augustine's book, *The Land is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery*. Augustine draws on the history of our society and the church, as well as her lived experience within the Mennonite and Tewa pueblo communities, to help readers confront the complexities of the Doctrine of Discovery.

Lectio Divina | Zoom

Join us for a sacred experience of listening, contemplating, and responding to inspirational texts. Though the spiritual practice of Lectio Divina is centuries-old, typically utilizing Scripture, Unitarian Universalists use contemporary poetry. Participants report that Lectio Divina is "rejuvenating" and "insightful." Zoom from the Gannett Room at Unity Church on Wednesdays.

Beginner Violin | Choir Room

Email mayraquitzia@hotmail.com to ensure a lesson.

February 19

Dinner: Chana masala, rice, kachumber salad, butter cookies

Dying for Beginners | Parish Hall and Zoom

Last year's series on aspects of death and dying returns, in a shorter and more focused form. This week's session on what comes after death is the third in a three-part series. See page 10 for details.

Hymn Sing | Robbins Parlor and Zoom

At each session group members sing the hymn, discuss its music, text, history, and theology, while also sharing personal reflections on the music and its meaning.

Young Adults Group (ages 18-35) | Center Room

A fun, reflective group of people working to build multifaith and multicultural community as they navigate the complexity of being an adult.

Beginner Violin | Choir Room

Email mayraquitzia@hotmail.com to ensure a lesson.

February 26

Dinner: Fried chicken, soul rice, coleslaw, Rice Krispie treats

From Conflict to Convergence Book Reading | Parish Hall

Join author Mariah Levison for a discussion of her book, *From Conflict to Convergence: Coming Together to Solve Tough Problems*. We have all wondered how to find common ground with people with differing views and perspectives, and Levison delivers an incisive, hands-on guide to deescalating conflict and constructively engaging with others to find better solutions to problems.

Considering Five Theological Questions | Room TBD

Explore one of five questions at the heart of systematic theology with church member Nathan Schultz. These same questions guide the church's religious education program. This session will explore the question: *What is sacred?* Come prepared to engage in personal reflection and share your responses with those gathered.

The Land Is Not Empty Discussion | Room TBD and Zoom

Join us for an ongoing discussion about Sarah Augustine's book, *The Land is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery*. Augustine draws on the history of our society and the church, as well as her lived experience within the Mennonite and Tewa pueblo communities, to help readers confront the complexities of the Doctrine of Discovery.

Beginner Violin | Choir Room

Email mayraquitzia@hotmail.com to ensure a lesson.

Fulfilling Our Promise

Unity Church–Unitarian

AUCTION FUNDRAISER

Online bidding begins February 23!



~~~~~  
Saturday  
March 1  
2025

Doors Open  
5:30 PM

Live Auction  
7:00 PM  
~~~~~

Advanced admission, including food and beverages: \$20.00
Fun, fellowship, and exciting bidding.
Childcare available.

Visit unityunitarian.org/fundraiser for details about making a donation, purchasing tickets, and volunteering.

Unity Church-Unitarian | 733 Portland Avenue, St. Paul, MN

FULFILLING OUR PROMISE

Let's get together, online and live, and fulfill our congregational promise to raise \$35,000 for our 2025 operating budget.



Make a donation!

Donate online: bit.ly/ucauction25

Donation deadline: February 15, 5:00 p.m.

Some ideas include:

- Time at a vacation home
- A gathering where you share your unique skill such as wine tasting, painting, crafting, cooking, or you name it
- A dinner, poetry reading, or special in-person event
- A behind-the-scenes tour somewhere special
- A once-a-month or one-time special treat such as pie, soup, cookies, or cake
- Gift cards to local businesses
- Entertainment and sports tickets
- Home furnishings, trinkets, and treasures
- And more!

Everyone has something to offer! Don't have space to host in your home? You can host at the church! Contact Laura Park at laura@unityunitarian.org for help figuring out an item to donate.

Prefer to make a financial contribution? Please visit our [Make a Gift](#) page and select "Fundraiser Donation" from the drop-down menu, or select the "#1000 Donation" item in the [auction catalog](#).



Attend the March 1 auction event in-person!

[Purchase Tickets](#)

Advance tickets: \$20.00 | At-the-Door tickets: \$25.00

Purchase your advance tickets — select item #1 in the auction catalog — for our silent and live auction on Saturday, March 1, 5:30 p.m., at Unity Church. Admission price includes delicious appetizers and beverages, fun, fellowship, and exciting bidding. Childcare available.



Bid early and often!

[View the Catalog](#)

View the catalog and be ready to start bidding Sunday, February 23, at 9:00 a.m.! Check back often as new items are added daily now through March 1. Bid from anywhere! You do not need to be present to bid on or win a silent auction item. Silent auction bidding ends on Saturday, March 1, at 8:00 p.m.



Volunteer to help!

Sign up Online: bit.ly/auctionvol25

We have many opportunities to pitch in, a little or a lot. Sign up to help with food, decoration, or technology Friday, February 28, and Saturday, March 1. Contact Laura Park with questions at laura@unityunitarian.org.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Dying for Beginners

Wednesdays: February 5, 12 and 19 | 7:10 p.m. | Parish Hall and Zoom



Workshop #1 | February 5 | Taking Charge of Your End-of-Life Decisions

Back by popular demand, this workshop, first in a series of three, dives into defining your end-of-life wishes and ensuring your voice is heard when it matters most. Learn how to create or update an Advance Directive, add a “dementia provision,” if desired, and select a medical representative. You’ll be encouraged to reflect upon and write down your values that will guide critical decisions. Through small group discussions and interactive activities, participants will leave with the tools to confidently communicate their values and choices to loved ones and healthcare providers.

Workshop #2 | February 12 | Empowering Informed Decisions

Join us for the second installment of this impactful series, where we tackle the complexities of medical interventions and care when living with dementia or at the end of life. This session covers the details of life sustaining measures, palliative care, and special directives like POLST (Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment) and DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) orders. Through real-life scenarios and group discussions, you’ll gain clarity on these options and how they align with your values. Whether you’re revisiting last year’s concepts or joining for the first time, this workshop will help you and your loved ones make informed and compassionate choices.

Workshop #3 | February 19 | Completing the Circle: Conversations and Legacy

The final session in the series focuses on the human side of end-of-life planning: engaging loved ones, honoring faith and cultural traditions, and creating meaningful legacies. Participants will learn about proposed legislation related to medical aid-in-dying, create a plan to talk with loved ones, address disagreements, and communicate their wishes clearly. We’ll also explore creative ways to leave a legacy that reflects your values. Through interactive role-play and brainstorming, you’ll walk away with a plan to ensure your wishes are known and respected.

Presenters: All three sessions are led by the Rev. Harlan Limpert, who retired as the Unitarian Universalist Association’s chief operating officer in 2017. As a former parish minister and hospital chaplain, Harlan brings decades of experience supporting individuals through their end-of-life journeys. Reverend Lara Cowtan, Unity’s Minister of Congregational Care, will also contribute her expertise as a registered nurse and a hospice and hospital chaplain.

Sessions are free-standing, but linked, so please attend as many as possible. For more information, contact Marty Rossmann at rossm001@umn.edu.

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? Use the form on this page or send an email to pastoralcare@unityunitarian.org. If you are experiencing an urgent need for pastoral support, call 651-300-9123.

Be a Helping Hand

Helping Hand provide valuable and rewarding specific and time-limited assistance with practical tasks including:

- Writing cards or emails to those mentioned in the Embracing Meditation
- Making or purchasing a meal to be delivered to a congregant
- Knitting a comfort shawl
- Walking a beloved dog for someone who temporarily cannot do that
- Helping with shopping or rides
- Assisting with memorials

Interested? Please email Rev. Lara Cowtan at lara@unityunitarian.org.

Join the Care Team

Our Care Team provides a vital way in which church members generously give and receive compassionate care to those in times of transition, sorrow and joy. Care Team members find participation to be spiritually enriching and they receive the ongoing development and support they need. Care team members are commissioned by the church and supervised by the Minister of Congregational Care. Interested? Please email Rev. Lara Cowtan at lara@unityunitarian.org.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAMS

Gun Violence Prevention Team

Jo Lucas, Gun Violence Prevention Team

Save the date!

Please plan to join other gun safety advocates at the Minnesota State Capitol on Wednesday, March 19. This is an annual gathering, a time to speak with legislators, and others working to make Minnesotans safer from gun violence.

A surprising number of our fellow congregants here at Unity Church have been impacted by gun violence, directly or indirectly, as we have learned from inviting folks to share their stories at the Gun Violence Prevention table on Sundays. It's a difficult conversation to invite. As members of this sacred community, knowing and supporting each other deeply is one of the things we look to do. Dare to ask those hard questions, and listen to those often hard answers — and lend your support on Wednesday, March 19, at the Capitol. Watch for details! Questions? Contact Bob at bobalbr@msn.com or Barbara at brford839@gmail.com.

Transformative Experience: Travel to Bolivia



Mano a Mano seeks to improve health and well-being in marginalized Bolivian communities. Over 150 Unity Church members have traveled to Bolivia to visit the schools, health clinics, and water projects built in partnership with community residents; to help distribute medical and school supplies collected in Minnesota; and to engage with its ecological agriculture training project.

To find out how you can join the next trip, May 5-15, 2025, come to an information session on Sunday, February 2, at 10:15 a.m., in the Gannett Room, and 12:30 p.m., in the DeCramer Room. If cannot attend a session and you have questions or want to learn more, please contact Ann Mabbott at amabbott@hamline.edu.

Connecting Unitarian Universalists and allies to help shape a just and loving world. muusja.org



Housing Justice Team

Dayna Kennedy, Housing Justice Team

Cleaning house? Save the dates!

Repurpose items from your home for families from Provincial House moving into their new home. We will be collecting the following items on **Saturday, March 8, and 29, 9:00-11:30 a.m., at Unity Church**. Come to the east side parking lot (off of Holly Avenue) to the side doors. Volunteers will be waiting inside and ready to load your donations directly from your car into theirs. This is a combined effort of Unity's Housing Justice Team and Evergreen Quilters.

All items should be new or gently used and clean (please, no chips, cracks or stains): dish sets, pots, pans, baking and storage items, waste baskets, small appliances, flatware and knife sets, Corning Ware, brooms, cutting boards, dish cloths and towels, and/or new bedsheets, pillow cases, towels, wash cloths, mattress pads.

Questions? Contact Janice Gestner at janicemgg@comcast.net or Barb Rogne at bzrogne27@gmail.com.

Contact Your Legislators

Our legislators are busy crafting the state's next biennium budget. We want them to prioritize supportive housing and they need to hear from you! Our Housing Justice Team partners with Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative to build deeply affordable homes with "supportive services." These services include any area of support that people need to be successful in their new home, areas such as mental health, recovery, parenting skills, employment, etc. The cost of these services has increased and funding has not kept up. Our voices need to be heard if the current housing crisis is to be a priority! Visit bit.ly/MnLegPetition25 to sign a pre-written "petition" that will automatically go to your legislators.

Be a Weekend Warrior!

We're looking for groups of 3-6 adults to participate in weekend meal teams at Provincial House in Saint Paul. Volunteers assist with serving meals, visiting with guests, and clean up. For details and to sign up visit bit.ly/ucuph. Questions? Reach out to Donna Franklin at dfranklin@interfaithaction.org or contact Unity Church member, Janice Gestner at janicemgg@comcast.net.

Asylum and Faithful Hospitality

Families seeking asylum in our community face an overflow in emergency shelters. Born out of this need, the Faithful Hospitality initiative partners with local houses of worship to provide shelter for these families. Want to learn more? Please contact Annessa Ihde at aihde@interfaithaction.org or Janice Gestner at janicemgg@comcast.net.

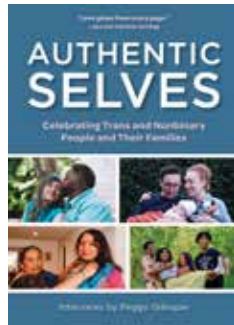
Authentic Selves, the Unity-UU Common Read 2025 and Workshop

Shelley Butler, Library-Bookstall Team

Last month, I talked about how every day is another chance to get it right. Here's another chance that we have talked about before, Rev. Rolenz preached about, our worship associates reflected on, and the UUA President wrote about, but it bears repeating because of this:

The Human Rights Campaign is both saddened and infuriated by the deaths of at least thirty-two transgender and gender-expansive people whose lives were tragically and inhumanely taken through violent means, including gun and intimate partner violence, in 2024.

We all can take another step, albeit small, toward greater understanding, inclusion, and nonviolence with and for trans and nonbinary people, right here at Unity, right now this month. For this reason, **the Unity-UU Common Read 2025 is one of the most important book reads we've held at Unity: *Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families* (Peggy Gillespie/Skinner House/2023)**, featuring over 40



interviews from across the country exploring gender identity, the intersection of sexual orientation, racial and ethnic identity, gender expression, faith, and family.

At the time of its publication, UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray wrote, "We want to encourage everyone to affirm their trans and nonbinary + family members. Studies show that when people do so, it has a significant impact on reduced suicidal ideation and improves the ability of trans and nonbinary + people to survive and thrive in the world. Reading *Authentic Selves* is one way everyone can learn about and celebrate the many ways we all can support trans and nonbinary + communities." It's not just the right thing to do, it's our responsibility as a people of faith.

I know there has been some controversy about the book and whether encouraging people to be their "authentic" self is realistic or limiting; our true self may be always changing, or we may have several true selves. But I'm going out on a limb here to say that the positive outcomes of the book, exhibit, and workshop to change negative stereotypes and debunk myths are many, and outweigh disagreement over the word "authentic," in my opinion.

So, read it! And/or attend the **Authentic Selves Workshop led by Rev. Oscar and Rev. Lara on Tuesday, February 25, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the Robbins Parlor and on Zoom: bit.ly/UCUAuthenticLvs**. It will be well worth the hours spent in reading and in community with our congregation!

February Parish Hall Artists

Aaron Silver



Artist Aaron Silver interprets contemporary experience and the natural world through papercuts (and occasionally other media) that are rigorous, beautiful, and thought-provoking. His papercuts often spring forth from Jewish texts and include text in them, and with them Aaron seeks to question or reinforce meanings, and to comfort or challenge the viewer. Aaron's work has been exhibited at PSJC in Brooklyn, at the St. Paul JCC, at the Sabes JCC, and at the Minnesota Center for Book Arts. He has taught papercut art-making in New York and St. Paul, and he participated in the Minneapolis Jewish Artists' Laboratory. Aaron is grateful to Unity Church for inviting him to participate in this exhibit!

Susan Solomon



My work is a search for safety, a light in the dark. I believe people know intuitively the landscapes they love and where they feel balanced and at peace. I am dedicated to images of the natural world including sky, land, water, creatures, weather.

My paintings are made using a resist technique with gouache and ink. I studied painting at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and some of my work is housed in the permanent University collections of Purdue and Metropolitan State.

Thank you to Unity Church for this exhibit.

ARCHIVES TEAM

Archives Team

Fire!

Betsy Moore, Archives Team

On February 12, 1963, fire broke out in the organ alcove at the front of Unity's sanctuary. Flames spread rapidly, gutting the chancel area. Smoke filled the Parish Hall and Ames Chapel, but fortunately, heavy doors prevented damage to the Eliot Wing and no one was hurt.

Offers of help came from many directions, including hymnals sent from other Unitarian churches. It was decided to move Sunday services and some of the church school activities to the Selby Community Center (now condos) located diagonally across the street from the Eliot Wing. Classrooms in the Eliot Wing were still usable.

The Board of Trustees seriously considered building in a different location. Ultimately, however, it was decided that the current location was accessible for most members and that the neighborhood would benefit from the continued presence of the church.

By November reconstruction was underway. The red cedar beams were scorched but still solid, and most of the oak pews could be salvaged. The interior of the sanctuary was lightened considerably by opening up the chancel area, adding a light wood reredos designed by architect Richard Hammel, and creating a large skylight where the fire had burned through the roof.

Ironically, funds had already been set aside to replace the sanctuary's stained glass windows during the summer of 1963. Of the fire, minister Arthur Foote is said to have remarked, "Well, that takes care of the sanctuary windows."

A choir loft and new pipe organ were built at the back of the sanctuary, and an enclosed cloister (extending out to the sidewalk at Portland and Grotto) was built to improve sanctuary access and as a place for hanging coats. (The cloister was removed during the most recent building project.) Services resumed in the new sanctuary on September 13, 1964. Letters were sent to all who had worked on the rebuilding, inviting them and their families to a service in November. This was both a thank you for their work and an opportunity for them and their families to see the end result. Much of what was created back then still serves us well today!

Archives Team: Pauline Eichten, Fritz Hoehn, Louise Merriam, Carol Miller, Betsy Moore, and Deb Woodburn.



Views of fire damage and rebuilding efforts, 1963-1964. Unity Church Photographs and Negatives Collection. Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul, MN.

Unity's Archive Collection at the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS)

People at Unity Church have asked how to access the items at MNHS. Because the online catalog has many layers, it's a suitable time to provide a tutorial on how to identify and view items in the collection:

1. Visit the online catalog: bit.ly/unitymnhs (bookmark the link to come back easily).
2. To scan all the catalog records, use the up or down arrows on your keyboard to move through the finding aid.
3. To find items about a particular topic, press the control and "f" keys simultaneously. For example, enter the words Eliot Wing (caps not necessary) to see materials about this addition to the church building. That search results in four hits, which will be highlighted as you move through the finding aid using the up or down arrows next to the search box.

MNHS has digitized some items, focusing on sermons recorded at Unity Church. For example, you can hear former minister Arthur Foote by using the process above. Simply enter digital Foote in the search box. You can listen to the digitized sermon from anywhere using your device.

To see the items you've identified, head to the Gale Family Library on level two of the Minnesota History Center, 345 W Kellogg Blvd. Take the box numbers of the materials you'd like to see. The librarians will bring you the requested materials.



commUNITY is the monthly newsletter of Unity Church. Deadlines are the 15th of each month. Subscriptions are free to those who make pledges to Unity Church and are available to others for \$30/year.

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH



The Search for Truth and Meaning

Nelson Moroukian
Coordinator of Children and Family Ministries

A big part of being a Unitarian Universalist, as we learn early on in religious education, is the free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Children may not know the words of the principle by heart, but they know that they are allowed to ask questions, and wonder, and come to their own understanding of things. This search for truth and meaning can be exciting, especially for a child learning something for the first time. Those new experiences are everywhere for the children in our lives. But the search for truth and meaning will inevitably also be overwhelming, and at times even terrifying. Both together and alone, we will encounter difficult, saddening or scary truths about the world. Sometimes these hard truths clash with other truths we hold, like the truth of our place in the interdependent web. Climate change and the systematic extraction of the resources of this planet is one of those hard-to-grasp realities. I know that even as I read, do research, practice hope, and take action, it doesn't get easier to relate to the truth that our planet's ecosystems are deteriorating. There is sometimes the lurking inclination to try to protect our children, and ourselves, from the parts of these harsh realities that we don't quite know how to process. But the hard truths will become apparent to our children with time. What may not always be so apparent are the truths about themselves and one another — the truth of their fullness, their dignity, and their unshakeable place in the interdependent web.

Practicing a free and responsible search for truth and meaning has been one of the main reasons I have kept coming to church, but it wasn't until I started working here that I started to clearly see one of the key practices that makes that search possible. It is a practice which is abundant on the lower level of our church building — stepping into wonder. Kids are exceptionally good and creating worlds that uproot things that we might take for granted. I'm sure you've heard the wild suggestions resulting from a six-year-old stroke of genius: "Why don't we just build slides to get around everywhere?" Or: "Why don't we just float our house on the lake so we can swim whenever we want to?" As funny as these moments are, that kind of wild imagination is a way of thinking that we need. Children wonder about everything, from the ways we get around, to the food we eat, to the way we talk and mourn and celebrate. The truth is, they offer us a reminder we all need from time to time. A reminder that the kind of wonder called *science-fiction* can look like silly slides and floating houses, but it can also look like new ways of being together in community that heal us, and our planet in turn. When we affirm the deeper truths of our children's inherent worth, the fullness of their experience, and their place in the web of community, we give space for their wonder to flourish. To practice that kind of truth telling, and that kind of wonder, is a magical act — and a needed one.



Chalice Camp Registration opens soon!

Week 1: July 7-11

Week 2: July 14-18



Chalice Camp is offered Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., for children and youth ages 5-13.

Campers going into 7th or 8th grade will be part of our senior camper program.

If your child would like to serve as a Chalice Camp counselor, please watch for an application when registration opens.

Campers will explore the heritage and history of Unitarian Universalism through varied and engaging activities, everything from puppet shows to field games. Campers will get to participate in traditional camp activities, arts and crafts and lots of outdoor play time, all with an emphasis on learning the basics of Unitarian Universalism—understanding the inherent worth and dignity of themselves, their peers, and the world around them.

Details and registration will be available online at unityunitarian.org/chalice-camp.

Childcare for Church Events

Unity Church offers childcare for church-wide events, free of charge. Nursery care is consistently provided for every Sunday service and Wellspring Wednesday program — no reservation is needed. Outside of these times, reservations for childcare are required. Please request childcare one week ahead of time by completing the online form: unityunitarian.org/childcare-request-form. Katrina Nichols, Unity's Nursery Coordinator, will contact you to confirm the reservation.

MUSIC MINISTRY



Music Notes

Ahmed Anzaldúa
Director of Music Ministries

In 2015, I had the opportunity to travel to Bulgaria to be on the faculty for the International Conducting Workshop. The work was intense and the location was outside of the city, so I got to see very little of Sofia while I was there, and spent a lot of my time being carted back and forth between our rehearsal space and the hotel room.

I remember getting into a cab after a long day of rehearsals and sessions. I sat in the passenger's side and immediately realized that my driver spoke no English at all. I showed him our destination on my phone and settled in for what would surely be an awkwardly silent drive.

"Bulgarian?" he asked.

I shook my head. "No."

He tried again. "Russki?"

"No."

I asked, "English?"

He shook his head. "Ne."

"Sprechen Sie Deutsch?"

Another shake. "Ne."

"Español?"

"Ne."

Silence. After a few minutes of awkwardness, the driver pointed to his CD player and raised his eyebrow. I nodded, relieved at anything to break the quiet. He turned it on and right away, on full blast, the opening vocal harmonies of Queen's "Princes of the Universe" filled the car. That song goes hard, and as soon as the guitar and drums started, the driver and I completely in sync, started headbanging enthusiastically, big goofy smiles on our faces. When the vocals started we sang along, his Bulgarian-accented English and my Mexican-tinged version of the words:

"And here we are! We're the princes of the universe!
Fighting for survival!"

We spent the entire drive singing loudly to several of Queen's greatest hits. It was the highlight of my trip. Universal truths about the human condition apply regardless of culture, gender, or race. Somewhere in Sofia, there's a taxi driver named Asen who understands one of the greatest of universal truths: Freddie Mercury kicks ass.

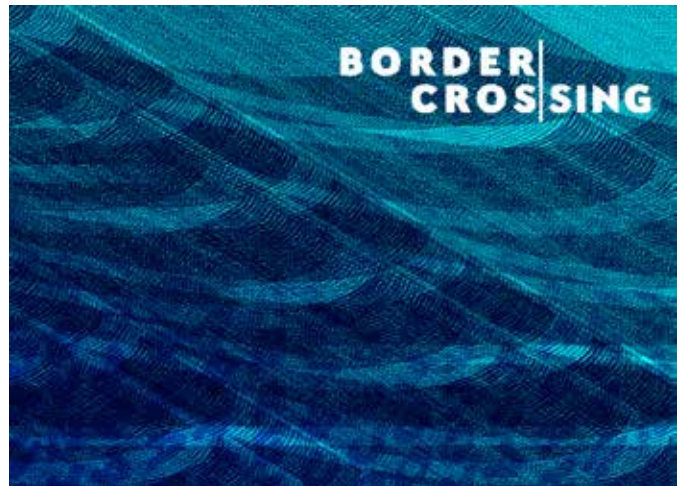
Hymn Sing | Wednesday, February 18
7:10 p.m. | Robbins Parlor and Zoom

At each session group members sing the hymn, discuss its music, text, history, and theology, while also sharing personal reflections on the music and its meaning.

Unity Church Youth Musical

Performances March 20, 21, 22

Volunteers from the Unity Church community, ages 6th grade to adult are welcome to help with the crew, staging, costumes, tech, and marketing. For high schoolers, this can count towards service hours. Interested? Contact Berry Farrington berryfarrington@hotmail.com.



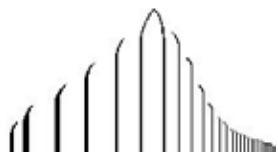
Border CrossSing Presents

Oceana

Saturday, April 5 | 8:00-10:00 p.m.

Ordway Concert Hall | Tickets coming soon!

"Oceana" is a reinvention of the Bach cantata form for a modern age by the celebrated Argentine composer Osvaldo Golijov. It is a prophetic work, setting texts by Pablo Neruda where "crashing waves have disappeared, the seas and the songs of travelers have passed away." It is a work that celebrates the mystery of the oceans and laments their demise using the same transcendental language and musical resources that Bach employed to celebrate God and the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus in his sacred music. In this program, Border CrossSing pairs Bach's monumental motet "Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied" BWV 225 and watery cantata "Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam" BWV 7 with Golijov's cantata "Oceana" and motet "Demos Gracias," illuminating rarely highlighted connections and common ground on an epic scale.



UNITY CHURCH-UNITARIAN

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

Rev. Dr. Oscar Sinclair, Senior Minister
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The Unity-UU Common Read 2024- 2025
Authentic Selves
Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families

New Day & Time
Authentic Selves Workshop
Led by Rev. Oscar Sinclair & Rev. Lara Cowtan
Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 6:00 - 8:00pm
In the Robbins Parlor and on Zoom: <https://bit.ly/UCUAuthenticLvs>

Authentic SELVES
Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families

*"Love glows from every page."
—Joni and Jonette Jennings*

Authentic SELVES
Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families

Interviews by Peggy Gillespie

Authentic SELVES
is available in the
Unity Bookstall (Parish Hall)
and
Anderson Library (2nd Floor)

Imagining Our Future: Ends Renewal



Participants will connect with one another and share experiences and ideas that will help shape Unity's ends statements and future ministries. Sign up today!
bit.ly/ucuendsrenew25

In The Justice Database

bit.ly/JusticeData

UUA Resources of Support for Trans and Nonbinary + People Find here support groups, multimedia resources, information on where to find more help, and programs for your congregation.



Bring food for the foodshelf during February!

During the winter, foodshelf donations typically drop-off — so let's double our giving! Needs this month include non-perishable food items, toilet paper, paper towels, disinfectant wipes, all-purpose cleaner, shampoo, conditioner, body lotion and wash, and hand soap. Donation boxes are located at the Portland and Holly Avenue entrances. Financial donations to Hallie Q. Brown Foodshelf can be made online at hallieqbrown.charityproud.org/donate.