

## IMAGINATION

*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.*

Change is in the air, within our personal lives, here at Unity Church and well beyond. We find ourselves in a land charted as “*terra incognita*,” where the only path through it is one that begins in the imagination. We reach for words, and words too fall short, except perhaps for a few useful phrases, such as:

*I don't know.*

and

*Take my hand.*

In her acceptance speech, receiving the 1996 Nobel Prize for Literature, the Polish poet Wislawa Szymborska noted the importance of “that little phrase ‘I don't know’.” She explained, “It's small, but it flies on mighty wings. It expands our lives to include the spaces within us as well as those outer expanses in which our tiny Earth hangs suspended. If Isaac Newton had never said to himself “I don't know,” the apples in his little orchard might have dropped to the ground like hailstones and at best he would have stooped to pick them up and gobble them with gusto.”

How easily does the phrase “I don't know” come to you? Have you recently felt its winged lift, or does it cause you to dig your heels in, refusing to leave the ground you have known before?

Every day, even the most routine, opens its invitations to the imagination, asking us to participate in creating something that did not exist before. But often, shackled by what we think

we know, or by our insistent need to know, we shy away from these invitations to step into *terra incognita*. To see the world and one another with new eyes. To imagine ourselves in right relationship with others and with creation itself. To recover our belonging, not only to one another, but to the past that brought us here and to the future that beckons. It is an invitation into wholeness.

A common myth about imagination is that it starts with nothing. More often, imagination is a rearrangement of what we've known before. Or a recollection of what was written into creation in a language we lost long ago.

If we wish to imagine and create a new future, writ large or small, we might begin by remembering the wider web of creation in which we all belong. Though we may not have adequate words for naming it. Though we have no map to follow in getting there. Though we know no strategy guaranteeing our arrival. We have the gift of imagination to lift us from the ground of what we know today and reassemble what has been in a new design of what might yet come to be.

Another phrase useful to the imagination, of just two limber words, extends like a springboard from this and every moment, offering us loft — and a release from the gravity of this day. Will you take my hand, on this springboard? Can we take this winged leap, together?

Two words, calling up our wildest imagination as a true act of faith. Remembering where we've come from and where we hope to go, let's let these two words lift us, together, into the open space that awaits us now:

What if.....

*By Karen Hering on behalf of this month's theme team: Andrea Anastos, Tom Duke, KP Hong, Kathy Hurt, Shay MacKay and Laura Park.*

### IMAGINATION THEME RESOURCES

For further reflection on this theme, a variety of resources are listed in this month's Chalice Circle packet available at [www.unityunitarian.org/chalice-circles.html](http://www.unityunitarian.org/chalice-circles.html) and by request from [karen@unityunitarian.org](mailto:karen@unityunitarian.org).

# INTERIM REFLECTIONS / FAREWELL FROM REV. KAREN



## Interim Reflections

I first appreciated the real power of imagination when I watched Marcel Marceau, the French mime, perform on some television variety show. As Marceau began to create a scene, I forgot that all the elements of that scene, the table he banged his shin on, the dog who pulled him around on the leash, were “just” imaginary; they

became absolutely real, so that my reactions to Marceau’s encounters with his imaginary scene were also real, as real as if everything was happening right in the room with me.

At some point in our early years, well-meaning adults begin to teach us as children the importance of distinguishing between what is real and what is “just” (and that adjective, just, is a frequent part of such lessons) present in our imagination. The monster under the bed, the wizards at Hogwarts, maybe even traditional church images of heaven and hell: again and again we learn that an absolute difference exists between reality and imagination, and the realm of the imagination, for all its power and frequent beauty, is ultimately less, a realm that we can enjoy as we like, a realm in which we should not spend excessive amounts of time because life mostly unfolds in the realm of reality.

And where, in those opposing realms, does the world of religion and church dwell? Given that some religious traditions include, say, tales of miraculous events which we might discount as imaginary stories, is religion mostly the work of our imagination? How does reality enter church, and when it does enter, what happens to the imaginary elements?

When I remember how “real” Marceau’s scenes became, I find myself skeptical of any ultimate distinction between reality and imagination. So much of my present life would seem too fantastic to be real if my grandparents could see it; so much of the realm of the imagination has been shown to be powerfully influential on our actions, maybe even more influential than all we typically assign to the realm of the “real” world. Which leads me to being resolved to allow plenty of space in my experience for what I might classify as “just” imaginary — and then to watch, as I watched Marceau, to see how my actions are shaped by my imagination.

In faith, hope, and love,  
Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt

## The Wheel of Life

### In Memoriam

**Martha Eaves**, November 5, 1945 – May 12, 2022

**Bob Michaels**, November 28, 1921–April 14, 2022

## Farewell Message from Rev. Karen Hering



In this last month as your associate minister of pastoral care, I now face the challenge of saying farewell. It does not come easily.

Though I am clear that it is time for me to return to my ministry of words and teaching beyond the walls of this congregation, I will miss you fiercely. It has been an honor to share with you the joys and losses, the discoveries and uncertainties of this interim time. When I leave on June 30, the congregation’s pastoral care will be led by a new associate minister to be named soon and will continue to be beautifully tended by the Congregational Care Team, whom you commissioned in April.

My final worship service will be Sunday, June 12, with a farewell gathering afterwards. That Friday, June 17, at 7:00 p.m., you are also invited to Parish Hall for a book launch for my new title, *Trusting Change: Finding Our Way through Personal and Global Transformation*. I hope you’ll come to one or both of these events, so we’ll have a chance to say goodbye.

What’s next for me? I must honestly say, I don’t know. In the fullness of my work at Unity, I’ve not had time to imagine or plan exactly where my next steps will take me. Like the writing prompts I offer others, my ministry now opens like the first half of a sentence followed evocatively by ellipses. Here at Unity Church, I have been a literary minister, a pastoral presence in times of joy and loss, a tender of thresholds, chalice circles, small group ministries and community outreach, an embodied practitioner, and a worship leader. In one way or another, I will continue these roles in both familiar and new ways after I leave. I’ll still send my Faithful Words blog and email messages (which you can sign up to receive at [karenhering.com](http://karenhering.com)). I will continue leading Open Page writing sessions, online and in person (not at Unity but elsewhere), and leading retreats and programs for writers and people and organizations living through significant change. But first, I plan to pause. To take a few months off for rest, for recharging, and for re-imagining where my ministry will go now as I follow the ellipses into the future.

After June 30, as is common practice, I will step back from congregational life at Unity, while your new ministers establish their relationships with you. In time, I will return as a member. And in between, know that I will carry you in my heart, where you will always remain. My love of this community has grown as I’ve been privileged to serve as your minister, and I expect it will continue to grow in the years to come.

Be well and take care, until we meet again.

# SUNDAY SERVICES / OFFERING RECIPIENTS

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Join us in-person and via livestream at 10:00 a.m. for summer Sunday services and religious education with children and youth.

## June 5: Flower Communion Family Sunday

Livestream at 10:00 a.m.: <https://youtu.be/qoKdXxOxMH4>  
Join the whole church family and bring a flower to place on the Flower Communion arch (or email a photo of a flower if worshipping online: [unity@unityunitarian.org](mailto:unity@unityunitarian.org)) as we celebrate the resilience and diversity of the Beloved Community. This uniquely Unitarian Universalist ritual recalls the life and ministry of Norbert Čapek who defied the Nazis and died a martyr at Dachau. The service will also honor Unity's graduating high school seniors with a bridging ceremony.

## June 12: What if – ?

Livestream at 10:00 a.m.: <https://youtu.be/R6YOFGVp1ec>  
Poet Adrienne Rich once called What if – ? “The first revolutionary question the dying forces don't know how to ask.” Our faith calls us into ongoing, life-giving transformation of our personal lives, in our congregation and in the world. In Rev. Karen Hering's final service as Unity's associate minister, she and music director Ahmed Anzaldúa and worship associate Merrill Aldrich invite the congregation to consider the challenging and empowering question, “What if – ?”

## June 19: The End of the World

Livestream at 10:00 a.m.: <https://youtu.be/DASW3LGbtIM>  
Imagination is perhaps most often associated with pleasurable images, lovely fantasies, beguiling alternatives to a dreary reality. Imagination also brings alarming images, particularly when it is driven by fear. Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt, music director Ahmed Anzaldúa, and worship associate Sara Ford consider these two aspects of imagination, particularly how they come into play in our ongoing antiracist work.

## June 26: Heading for Home

Livestream at 10:00 a.m.: <https://youtu.be/zt56feFFvL8>  
Imagination lifts us away from what is familiar and already present, towards what might yet be. Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt, music director Ahmed Anzaldúa, and worship associate Jess Goff explore the power of imagination to drive us towards a whole new way of being, pushing us towards what we say we long to create. This service will link with a livestreamed worship service later in the morning, broadcast from the annual General Assembly meeting in Portland, OR.

### Flowers for Worship

If you would like to provide flowers for Sunday worship, contact Martha Tilton at [martha@unityunitarian.org](mailto:martha@unityunitarian.org).

Each week, seventy percent of our Sunday offering is given to a community non-profit and thirty percent supports the Community Outreach Ministry at Unity Church.

## June 5: Mile in My Shoes (MiMS)

Mile in My Shoes brings people with diverse backgrounds together through the joy of running. Based in homeless shelters, addiction recovery programs, and re-entry centers for people exiting incarceration, MiMS uses running as a catalyst for community building, boosting health and wellness, promoting leadership and self-efficacy, and spurring personal and social action. This collection will support running gear and race entries. Unity Church member Mary Hernandez supports MiMS.  
<http://www.mileinmyshoes.mn>

## June 12: East Side Freedom Library (ESFL)

East Side Freedom Library is a nonprofit organization with a mission to inspire solidarity, advocate for justice, and work toward equity for all. Located in the former Arlington branch public library in the Payne-Phalen neighborhood, ESFL houses non-circulating research collections related to its mission. Its programs are focused on the power of story — the telling and gathering of stories about the work and residential histories of St. Paul's East Side. Now in its ninth year, ESFL is about to name a new director and this donation will be a pledge of support for the continuation of its work under new leadership. <https://eastsidefreedomlibrary.org/>

## June 19: Queerspace Collective

Queerspace Collective creates a space for LGBTQ+ youth to feel safe and energized. Its vision is for all LGBTQ+ youth to have a network of support to help them develop a strong sense of pride in who they are, where they come from, and where they want to go. Queerspace works with families and community organizations to create various outreach programs aimed to reduce youth isolation, suicide, and homelessness. This collection will support these outreach programs. Unity Church members Kate and Rob McCready are Queerspace champions. <https://www.queerspacecollective.org>

## June 26: Chalice Camp at Unity Church

Chalice Camp provides a unique summer opportunity for children in grades one through eight to deepen their connections to Unity Church, Unitarian Universalism, and the wider church community. This summer's camp will include worship, small and large group activities, and time for outdoor fun and play. This collection will support scholarship opportunities for Unity families.  
<https://www.unityunitarian.org/chalice-camp.html>

Donations are gratefully accepted online at <https://bit.ly/sundayoffering>.

## Teaching Associates: A New Ministry Program at Unity Church

Debbie Cushman, Clover Earl, and Merrill Aldrich for the Beloved Community Communications Team

In the fall of 2019, twelve Unity Church members joined Revs. KP Hong and Lisa Friedman as the inaugural cohort of Teaching Associates. The group set off to pursue the somewhat daunting journey of becoming “resident theologians” in a new, repeating three-year program initially imagined by Revs. Rob and Janne Eller-Isaacs. Part of the impetus for this new ministry was the desire for lay leaders to support adult faith formation across the congregation. How could we best show up for the faith journey of others and our own, and be truly present within, among and beyond? This was an especially salient question back in 2019, given all the transitions anticipated over the next few years! Little did we know.

As church staffing shifted, the Teaching Associates have also gratefully received support from Revs. Karen Hering, Kathy Hurt and Shay MacKay. The longer-term vision is to continue to expand and enrich our Teaching Associate cohorts such that we have a reach that can continuously supplement adult faith formation and the overall spiritual health of the congregation.

Our study has focused on: foundations of UU theology, honing our interpersonal theological skills with case studies, and developing personal statements of theology. We accomplished this course of study through regular monthly meetings and small group and individual assignments. We wrestled with topics like prayer, liberalism, race, spirituality, conflict and so much more. Integration of the Double-Helix Model and ensuring that we are really digging into the intersection of faith formation and antiracist multiculturalism has also been central to our work.

Here are a few examples of how we are applying ourselves right now:

**Clover Earl:** When I first heard KP say that we were being trained as “resident theologians” I thought about heading for the door! I am so grateful I stayed



Top row: Michael Funck, Susan Huehn, Debbie Cushman, Merrill Aldrich, KP Hong.  
Bottom row: Mike Huber, Mary Baremore, Angela Wilcox

because I can apply the learning of the last three years in my interactions with different groups with whom I am involved. The Hey White People, We Have Work to Do! pilgrimage came out of my work with this cohort. And the recent introduction of the Double Helix Model has deepened my understanding of how important grounding myself in personal spiritual practice is to engaging in the uncomfortable and oftentimes messy work of building beloved community.

**Debbie Cushman:** My engagement with various small groups at Unity is so enriched by the work I’m doing as a Teaching Associate. I’m grateful to be developing a greater breadth of knowledge about our faith’s underpinnings. This supports me in providing more context for all the other curious minds and hearts around me. I have a strong interest in adult faith formation at Unity and this deeper theological grounding is key. In addition, going deep quickly and listening with compassion are necessary skills as a Chalice Circles facilitator, when welcoming participants at Finding Yourself at Unity, and in my work as a trustee.

**Merrill Aldrich:** I have heard from many Teaching Associates how wonderful it is to get this deep dive into our complicated UU theology and history, especially with the guidance

of the ministers. As I engage with other activities at the church like Worship Associates, Chalice Circles, and the Welcome Team, this grounding has become invaluable. I also love this notion of the Teaching Associates “fanning out” into the congregation, which feels right in the spirit of the way Rob and Janne Eller-Isaacs engaged with the congregation, and the larger democratic and inclusive traditions of our faith.

In the 2021-22 church year, a second cohort has formed for the coming three years, and the first class is preparing to wrap up with a celebration in June.

Want to learn more from an actual Teaching Associate? You can find us around the building, online, and in lots of places as our individual involvements span the work of our church community. Look for the Teaching Associate descriptor on our Unity name tags or find us by name: Merrill Aldrich, Mary Baremore, Debbie Cushman, Clover Earl, Michael Funck, Mike Huber, Susan Huehn, Mary Kerres, Barney Kujawski, Angela Wilcox, Tom Zell, Ray Hommeyer, Anna Newton, Marjorie Otto, Mary Pickard, Laura Schlatter, Michael Schwab, Valerie Tremelat, Katrina Nichols, and Laura Park.

We’re ready to go deep quickly with you.

# WELCOME NEWCOMERS / WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



## Welcome Words

**Laura Park, Director of Membership and Hospitality**

If you're newer to Unity Church, you'll notice we have a different rhythm in the summer. Join us for worship at our one 10:00 a.m. Sunday service led by wonderful lay preachers in our community. Learn more about the church in Finding Yourself at Unity, which begins at 11:15 a.m. throughout the summer. Connect with others at one of our monthly Wellspring Wednesdays (June 15, July 13, and August 17) and enjoy food, chapel service, and fellowship together. Tend to our garden from seed to harvest in our Summer Sundays in the Garden for children (typically ages 4-12) and their families. Come enjoy a Saints game with congregants and friends August 18 (see the back cover).

As you get to know us in our summer rhythm, I'm here to help answer your questions about congregational life and the pathways you might explore to know the church better and deepen your spiritual life. Contact me at [laura@unityunitarian.org](mailto:laura@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x110. I look forward to meeting you!

## Pathway to Membership Classes

Explore a deeper connection to Unity Church and the commitments and opportunities of membership. Contact Laura Park at [laura@unityunitarian.org](mailto:laura@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x110 with questions or to participate.

**Finding Yourself at Unity • Sundays • 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.**

**Gannett Room in-person and online at [bit.ly/fyuonline](https://bit.ly/fyuonline)**

Finding Yourself at Unity includes eight classes that you can attend in any order to better understand how Unity Church supports our faith journeys, our work to build Beloved Community, and our efforts to bless the world. May offerings:

- June 5: Unitarian Universalist History
- June 12: Social Justice and Community Outreach
- June 18: Congregational and Pastoral Care
- June 26: Faith Formation for Children, Youth, and Adults

**Committing to Unity • Date TBD**

This is how Unity Church talks about its expectations of membership. Does the invitation into this ongoing work resonate with you? Are you ready to make the membership commitment? This session, for people ready to become members, 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 need meets the gifts and joy you have to offer. The class concludes with a ceremony as participants sign the membership book and officially join the church.

## Mentoring at Unity

Would you welcome having a guide to congregational life at Unity Church? Request a mentor! Your mentor will meet with you at least once a month face-to-face and be available for ongoing questions and advice. You can decide together what connection would be most helpful. You might attend Sunday services together or meet to discuss Unitarian Universalism and your spiritual journeys, or attend a church event together, or find another way to connect. Each pair makes a commitment to work together for at least six months. If you have questions, or would like to request a mentor, please email Laura Park, Director of Membership and Hospitality, [laura@unityunitarian.org](mailto:laura@unityunitarian.org).

## Welcome New Members



**Gabi Diefelt Streese** enjoys reading, gardening, traveling, and learning new things. She is a preschool teacher with a have passion for education. Gabi joined Unity Church with her partner Ian, and is very excited to be here!



**Ian Wold** is a software engineer living in Minneapolis. He moved to Minneapolis three years ago from Iowa City, where he attended college. He's excited to be joining Unity Church with his partner Gabi! Ian's interests outside of work include history, playing music, and canoeing.



**Grant Hammond** is passionate about addiction recovery, fellowship, truth, healing, and why we exist in the first place. His life continues to change through daily experience with people and a power greater than himself. Shared values and ethics brought him to Unity Church, and it feels like home.

# WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY / PARISH HALL ARTISTS

## Wellspring Wednesday

Wellspring Wednesday gathers a multigenerational church community to nourish right and holy relationship among us and deepen our life of faith grounded in spiritual practice and antiracist multicultural work. Wellspring Wednesdays will be held once per month during the summer: June 15, July 13, and August 17. The evening includes:

- Sharing meaningful time and a meal together (5:45 p.m.)
- Brief multigenerational worship in the Ames chapel (6:45 p.m.)
- Opportunities to play, learn, and practice with one another (7:00 p.m.)

Childcare is available from 6:30-9:00 p.m. in the nursery.

### June 15 • 7:00-8:30 PM

Chicken or veggie tagine with couscous, Mediterranean salad, ice cream sandwiches

### Family Fun Night!

We'll have games both indoors and out, plus space to just enjoy each other's company. Bring any games you'd like to play!

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## June Parish Hall Artists

A reception for the artists will be held on Friday, June 10, 6:00-8:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall. All are welcome!

### Jane Rosemarin

Paper folding has been part of Jane's life since she received her first origami book as a six-year-old. Her earliest summer job was in a building across the street from the original Barnes & Noble in downtown New York City. With some of her first earnings, she bought a newly published book called *Creative Origami*, written by Kunihiko Kasahara.

Choosing the right paper for a model is no trivial matter. Questions of scale, color and where the model will be displayed must all be considered. Often, Jane decorates her own paper by hand or digitally. She is inspired mostly by paintings and nature.

Jane Rosemarin's work has been exhibited in New York, Ohio, the U.K., Italy, Japan and Germany. Locally, she has collaborated with Emily Hoisington, a woodblock-print artist, on a series of origami vegetables. The group, called "The Work of Growing Food," was exhibited at the Minnesota Center for Book Arts in 2012 and at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design in 2013.

Currently, Jane is the managing editor of *The Fold*, an online origami magazine with a worldwide audience.



### Jacqueline Leiter, OSB

For as long as I remember, I have been artist. Creating art always helped me go to a quiet place within myself. In my earliest childhood I began with crayons. Currently I am mostly doing digital photography and watercolor.

For me as a Benedictine Sister, art is a way to add beauty to the world and respond to the beauty of God's creation "so that in all things, God may be glorified" (Rule of Benedict 57:9, 1 Peter 4:11). Art and the natural world are ways to encounter the holy in our lives and to invite others to open the eyes and ears of our hearts. God's voice may come to us in a still, small voice when we do not expect it. My photography seeks to connect with this voice. Gazing on the beauty of the world, of land, sky, water, and on the beauty of each other becomes a way to encounter the holy in our lives and invites us to open our hearts to something new. This invitation is also present in scripture, poetry, and stories and in our lived experiences.

I mostly work in the geometric shapes that I encounter in nature, triangles, squares and circles. For me, the circular, square, and triangular images have a sense of invitation to gaze within to a quiet place in the center.

Through my work I seek to represent the experience of listening to the voice we hear within. This voice may encourage and strengthen us; it may challenge us and surprise us. Sometimes this voice leads me to express what I am hearing in poetry. My hope is that my images will help each person to find this place within and hear this voice with the ear of the heart.



# LIBRARY-BOOKSTALL / FELLOWSHIP GROUPS



## Rev. Karen Hering's New Book!

*Trusting Change: Finding Our Way Through Personal and Global Transformation*

Shelley Butler, Library-Bookstall Team

The transformation of a Monarch caterpillar into chrysalis into a gorgeous adult butterfly is nothing short of miraculous and is a befitting metaphor for the transformation that organizations, communities, countries, and individuals go through before, during, and after significant change. Change is often uncomfortable at the least and deeply painful at the most, but no matter where you are on the threshold of change, Karen invites you to listen for the echo change brings and embrace the change. *Trusting Change* will help you find your way with the expansive wisdom and knowledge of Rev. Karen Hering, who has been facilitating threshold groups at Unity Church and around the country for many years.



This deeply thoughtful and well-researched book is divided into three main sections, "No Longer," "The Pause," and "Not Yet." Ten skills are divided among the sections; each one includes reflections on components of the skill with meaningful personal experiences and lessons, as well as insight from poets, writers, ministers, philosophers, naturalists, and activists. Each reflection is followed by a highlighted box called "Chrysalis Space" and here is where you'll find even more potential for personal growth.

Chrysalis Space encourages you to take time, relax and let go, and to consider a wide range of questions, with specific ideas on how to explore them, and suggestions for how to pay attention, notice, and think about your experience. Within this space, there are writing prompts, cues to notice your body, and recommendations to remember, practice, move, navigate, use natural materials, create touchstones, open doors, and to let yourself feel.

Even though much of the work of finding your way through transformation is individual and personal, the book includes suggestions for buddy or group discussion. As Karen reminds us, "The important thing is to remember that we are not meant to move through change alone.... The transformative possibilities of our current thresholds will depend on our ability to share the uncertainty and chaos of these times with another." *Trusting Change* is right on time for us all.

**Join us for the launch of *Trusting Change: Finding Our Way Through Personal and Global Transformation* with Karen Hering on Friday, June 17, at 7:00 p.m.**

If you cannot join us in person, please do attend on Zoom—register online at <https://bit.ly/June17KarenHering>. The book will be available at the event and in the Bookstall thereafter on Sundays. If you happen to be in Portland for General Assembly, Karen will be signing books in the Skinner House booth in the Exhibit Hall on Thursday, June 23, at 3:00 p.m.

**New in The Justice Database: "Broken Doors"**

The Washington Post recently published a six-part investigative report on the use and misuse of no-knock warrants in the U.S., both in print and in podcast format. Find a link in the Justice Database: <https://bit.ly/JusticeData>.

## Fellowship Groups

For more conversation about getting connected, contact Laura Park at [laura@unityunitarian.org](mailto:laura@unityunitarian.org).

**Afterthoughts** offers time immediately following the 9:00 service to discuss the service.

**Caregivers Group** meets on the third Thursday of the month.

**Evergreen Quilters:** This quilting group meets the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00-9:00 p.m. and fourth Saturday of the month.

**Families Living with Mental Health Challenges** meets the first Saturday of each month, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

**Five Animal Kung Fu** meets Saturdays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

**Living With Grief Group** meets on the third Tuesday of the month.

**Men's Breakfast Group** meets monthly on the first Saturday for breakfast from 8:30-10:00 a.m.

**Men's Coffee Group** meets every other Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. for light-hearted conversation.

**Men's Conversation Group** meets Mondays, June 13 and 27, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Men's Retirement Circle:** Monday, June 6 and 29, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

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

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

**Textile Arts Group** meets online the first and third Wednesday of each month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Bring your knitting, embroidery, etc.

**Unity Book Club** meets the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00-8:30 p.m. June 14 discussion: *So Help Me God* by Forrest Church.

**Women In Retirement** meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

## UU Wellspring Sources Program

**Retreat: Saturday, August 27 • 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**  
**Meets most second and fourth Tuesdays, September 2022 through June 2023.**

UU Wellspring is a year-long program of spiritual deepening connected to the Six Sources of our living Unitarian Universalist faith tradition. Through reading and reflection, daily spiritual practice, spiritual companionship, and small group process that holds space to hear our deepest thoughts, the UU Wellspring Sources program is a deeply meaningful way to explore what Unitarian Universalism means to you and how you want your faith to guide your life and your work for justice.

Comments from previous participants:

*From the very beginning, the Wellspring readings and resources, reflection questions and group discussion filled a need I didn't realize I had... Creating a daily spiritual practice gave me permission to make time to reflect, to pause, to appreciate. I refined my own ritual as I learned how each of my fellow spiritual travelers designed their individual practices. Change starts with listening and learning — in my case, through the amazing Wellspring program. And then follow the road wherever it leads.*

*The UU Wellspring program has helped me cultivate [Peace in oneself, peace in the world] further and I would consider it a pivotal experience for adults in our community. . . As the world calls on us to address its most pressing needs, it is imperative for us to tend to our own individual spiritual development so that we can have the capacity to answer and show up. UU Wellspring is one path along this journey.*

To find out more, contact Laura Park at [laura@unityunitarian.org](mailto:laura@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x110. Registration opens in August.

## Antiracism Literacy Partners

**Wednesday, June 22 • 7:00 p.m.**

Online, register here: <https://bit.ly/ALPJun22>

What does it take to be racially literate and engaged in antiracism in a day-to-day way? Where do we find resources and support in our ongoing learning about systemic racism and the work of dismantling it? Whether you attended previous sessions or are just checking it out now, this program is an easy entry into finding antiracism books, podcasts, and videos, as well as discussion partners for talking about them. Come to choose a resource, sign up for a buddy or small group, and receive discussion guidelines. This program is part of Unity's Finding Our Next Right Action efforts.

*Act for the Earth*

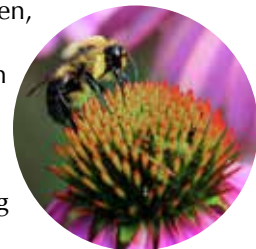
## Pollinator! Electric Vehicle! Canopy Connector! PARTY

**Friday, June 10 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

**Green space and parking lot at Unity Church**

### Pollinator Garden

Tour Unity's very own pollinator garden, learn about "the birds and the bees," and why native plants matter. Kids can meet a giant bumblebee and play a bumble bee game! Light, bee-inspired refreshments will be provided. Take home a few plants and tips for creating your own pollinator garden.



### Electric Vehicles and Bikes

Come and see electric vehicles (EVs) in the parking lot adjacent to the pollinator and children's garden. If you have one, please bring your electric vehicle or bike to show off to visitors. Come to speak with owners and/or share your own experience as an electric vehicle owner.



### Canopy Connectors

View our gravel bed now planted with 75 trees being nurtured for adoption and planting in the fall. Volunteer for this year's outreach and promotion in the Rondo area, and join in the joy of adding to natural beauty, temperature moderation, habitat, and sequestration to St. Paul's less-well canopied neighborhoods.



## Have Coffee with Unity's Act for the Earth Team

Join Act for the Earth — Unity's environmental community outreach team — for coffee after the service! Come meet the team, hear about opportunities in our different projects and action teams, and just hang out and enjoy a cup of coffee. We will meet on the first Sunday of the month, directly after the service. Our next gathering is Sunday, June 5, after the service, in the Center Room. Bring your coffee and come on by! Contact [unityactfortheearth@gmail.com](mailto:unityactfortheearth@gmail.com) with questions.





# COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

## Obama School End of Year Update

Obama School Team



Nearly twenty Unity Church members were involved in celebrating those who work at Barack and Michelle Obama Elementary School during Staff and Teacher Appreciation Week in May. Highlights of the week included an empanada lunch, laminated bookmarks featuring a photo of the school, a pot of pansies for each person, small gifts in their mailboxes each day, and an ice cream social at the end of the week. The staff were very grateful and enjoyed the week!

We look forward to next year, when the school will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the building. The staff has asked for our assistance. If your family members attended the school in past years, please look for old yearbooks or other memorabilia we could use for a display. More information will be available in the fall.

## Mano a Mano School Supply Collection

Mano a Mano collects lightly used school supplies, either from local schools when lockers are cleaned at the end of the school year, or from families whose children no longer need them. Specifically, the Mano a Mano Outreach Team seeks donations of pencils, crayons, colored pencils, pens, markers, scissors, and rulers. Donated supplies will be gifted to Bolivian children who live in the marginalized rural Bolivian communities in which Mano a Mano builds schools, clinics, wells and other projects.

To contribute to this collection, please bring supplies to church on Sunday, June 19 and 26, drop them off at the Mano a Mano office on 925 Pierce Butler Route in St. Paul, or phone Carmen at 651-457-3141 to request help picking up supplies from you or your school.

Watch for more information about an invitation to participate in a Wellspring Wednesday storytelling and school supply sorting event in August. Thank you for your support!

## Food Shelf Needs for June

Our donations to Hallie Q. for the month of April totaled 228 pounds. Thank you so much!

For the month of June the food shelf needs sunscreen, toilet paper, paper towels, aluminum foil, window cleaner, oven cleaner and disinfectant spray and of course, food items.

## Volunteers Needed

### 2022 Habitat for Humanity Work Week

Affordable Housing Team



The Unity Church Affordable Housing Outreach Ministry Team is co-sponsoring a Habitat for Humanity home construction work week in June. For many years members of Unity have volunteered with other area church members as part of "Faith Builder's" to build Habitat housing for eligible families. This year we are working Monday, June 27, through Friday, July 1. You can volunteer for one day or multiple days. You do not have to be an expert carpenter to volunteer. All skill levels are needed and we have professional staff on hand to guide us. You, family members, and friends will learn and have fun. For this year's project we will build wall panels for new homes at the Habitat for Humanity panel shop in Northeast Minneapolis. The home site we had planned to help with will not be ready for us.

Please sign up to volunteer: <https://www.unityunitarian.org/affordable-housing.html>. If you have questions please contact Chuck Griggs at [griggscb@msn.com](mailto:griggscb@msn.com) or 612-408-0486 (text or call) or Dutton Foster at [duttonfosters@comcast.net](mailto:duttonfosters@comcast.net).

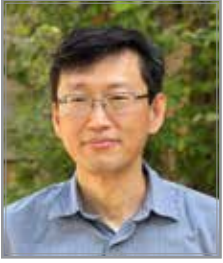
## Gun Sense Outreach Ministry Team

Sandy Lucas, Gun Sense Team

As I sit down to write this piece, another mass shooting has rocked our country, this one an overtly racist hate crime, in a small community in New York. It is the 19th week of 2022, and already there have been 187 mass shootings in America — almost ten every single week.

With more guns in the United States than people, the work of this team often feels daunting, but also important. We have decided to take a two-pronged approach to our work when we return in the fall: we will look at the practicalities of what gun safety might look like in our homes and community, and we will consider how best to address the continuing need for reasonable gun legislation. To those ends, our team will be partnering with two organizations, Moms Demand Action and Protect Minnesota.

We will be doing our homework, bringing our findings to you, and sharing specific ways that we hope will help us and you, proceed with some sense of agency in this ongoing work.



## Pitter-pattering Questions

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

Rev. KP Hong, Minister of Faith Formation

At the margins, it may be natural to imagine the world otherwise

but it is also exceedingly difficult to sustain this imagination given the power and violence of racialized existence within white dominant culture. Despite the odds, prophetic voices emerge from the margins, from Anna Julia Cooper and Ida B. Wells to Paul Robeson and Frantz Fanon who believed in that religion Malcolm called the religion of the field Negro. "The house Negro works with the racial and religious categories that are given by the white world; the field Negro seeks a new set of categories, scrambling the old divisions and allowing for an effervescence of new concepts emerging in light of political struggle." (Vincent Lloyd) Such prophetic figures have always lived under surveillance, their prophetic imagination under constant threat of being housebroken, domesticated, co-opted, whitewashed clean of its exhaustive and exasperating critique. Too many interpretations of Martin Luther King, Jr., have rendered him innocuous, a dreamer and safe civic icon for our children and school curricula, assigned a holiday that abets amnesia more than it encourages critical remembrance:

*Thirty feet high, arms folded, with a steady, piercing gaze, Martin Luther King Jr. now stands on the National Mall [with] fourteen engraved quotations from his sermons, speeches, and writings. Justice, love, and peace are recurring themes [but] amazingly, nowhere among these quotations is there mention of God, sin, Jesus,*

*heaven, or hell. King the Christian preacher is absent. Even more astounding, there is no mention of the plight of the African American community for which King so vehemently fought. The only mention of race is in a quotation suggesting that King advocated forgetting it: 'Our loyalties must transcend race.' King's mainstream success, it seems, has come at the cost of his own religious and racial identity [through the] careful management of race and religion... King's critical voice was not just a moral voice. It was a theological voice, a black theological voice. This is the voice muted and managed by the secular and postracial regime of America [where] race and secularism are entwined. Put more starkly, whiteness is secular, and the secular is white. (from *Race and Secularism in America*, Vincent Lloyd)*

Secularism not as an absence of religion, not what is left after religion fades, but secularism which manages religious life while somehow imagining itself neutral. Secularism which determines what counts as legitimate, acceptable religion in the same way that whiteness determines who counts as an acceptable body or recognizable human. A *secularist-racializing* worldview (in contrast to Unity's *religious-antiracist* double helix view) which imagines some colorblind state of affairs complemented by a well-mannered civil religion sanitized of religious authority, sharia practices, or other religious claims incompatible

with social scientific, humanistic, or individualistic idioms. Religious imaginaries that ought to know to stay in their lane given the established modern divisions of housing, employment, healthcare, education, criminal justice, and the state, categories all managed by whiteness. Social imaginaries are world-making projects, but how does the unseen and unmarked white secular apparatus mark every other imaginary and sphere of value?

Contrary to the secular logics of whiteness where *All Lives Matter* and *God is postracial*, critical race theology not only echoes that Black Lives Matter but radically imagines that *God is Black* and found nowhere else than with the systematically oppressed. Prophetic imagination dares to probe those habits of mind managed by supremacist imaginaries and secularism that would foreclose the possibility that theology has anything unique to say about the world. Yet it has always been prophetic imagination summoning us to the wisdom of the weak, marginal, and afflicted, daring us to imagine the world otherwise. Was it not the deep, unmanaged instinct of a child who saw the emperor deceptively arrayed by a collective diseased social imagination, and spoke the troubling naked truth? How do we reclaim that sacred birthright? What do we need to keep alive the ministry of prophetic imagination?

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

# MUSIC MINISTRY



## Music Notes

**Ahmed Anzaldúa, Director of Music Ministries**

In June the music ministry at Unity Church is delighted to welcome 29:11, a South African ensemble and music ministry that facilitates hope and reconciliation through music and fosters cross-cultural relationships. The existence of 29:11 is both response and contribution to South Africa's ongoing post-apartheid story and has made six tours of the U.S. in the last ten years sharing their experiences of life in a multi-racial nation. Members come from many tribal and ethnic identities and together speak at least twelve languages. Their goals align perfectly with Unity's dreams and vision and I am very excited for the possibilities of our collaboration during their time here. I had the privilege of working with 29:11 several years ago during their residence with the University of Minnesota and with the Minnesota Chorale, and they have also worked very closely with our organist, Laura Potratz, during her trip to South Africa in October. We are now delighted to welcome these marvelous musicians to Unity Church!



29:11 will lead a joint workshop with an adult focus on the evening of Thursday, June 16, and a session oriented towards youth the morning of Saturday, June 18. Additionally, they will provide much of the music at the worship service on Juneteenth, Sunday, June 19. All of 29:11's sessions are open to everyone at Unity Church as well as friends, family, and community members. It is not necessary to be part of the choirs nor to be a "musician."

My hope is that 29:11's work inspires hope and forgiveness. My experience with this ensemble is that they create an environment where we can become aware of our shared humanity and of the possibilities of reconciliation both with each other and with ourselves. With their music they carry a powerful lesson about race relations from a perspective that is outside of the United States and from which listeners and participants will have much to learn.

## One Voice Mixed Chorus Presents Sound Mind

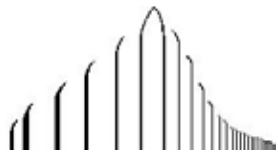


One Voice Mixed Chorus will perform their Sound Mind concert at the Ordway Concert Hall on June 18 and 19. Sound Mind uplifts Queer voices exploring mental health through song, story, and art. This will be the choir's first in-person performance in two years and they are excited to share this powerful experience with you! Details and tickets are online at <https://www.onevoicemn.org>. Use promo code FAITH for 50% off the purchase of your ticket!

## Hymn Sings on Zoom

**June 11 and 25  
10:00-11:30 a.m.**

These are Zoom conversations about the hymns in our hymnal *Singing the Living Tradition*. We sing each hymn and discuss its history, poetry, music, and theology. We started with hymn #1 last year, and now we are more than a hundred hymns in! Anyone can join at any time. These sessions are open to everyone, including family and friends, and will continue to be offered as an alternative to singing in-person. Interested? Please email [ahmed@unityunitarian.org](mailto:ahmed@unityunitarian.org).



# UNITY CHURCH-UNITARIAN

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**You Are Invited to a Book Launch!**  
**Friday, June 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**



**Karen Hering**  
**TRUSTING CHANGE**  
**Finding Our Way Through Personal and  
Global Transformation**  
*with Hilary James, cellist*



Join us in person at Unity Church or on Zoom  
Registration link on Unity website: [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org)  
Unity Church-Unitarian 733 Portland Ave., St. Paul | 651-228-1456

## Take Me Out to the Ballgame

**Thursday, August 18 • 7:00 p.m.**  
**CHS Field • Tickets \$18**

Join Unity Church congregants and friends to enjoy a St. Paul Saints baseball game at CHS Field. We have pre-purchased a block of seats together at \$18 per ticket. You can purchase your ticket(s) at <https://bit.ly/saints22> or by contacting Laura Park [laura@unityunitarian.org](mailto:laura@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x110. Purchase tickets by July 15. All are welcome!



## General Assembly • June 22-26 • Portland, OR

General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. If you would like to attend General Assembly as a delegate from Unity Church, please contact Laura Park at [laura@unityunitarian.org](mailto:laura@unityunitarian.org).

