

Belonging

The life of a congregation is a rich community tapestry of people, programs, ministries and worship. We lift up the patterns of this tapestry at Unity Church with the threads of monthly themes woven through our worship and programming. These themes deepen our understanding of our own faith and strengthen our bonds with one another in religious community. We explore each theme in worship and in our newsletter; in covenant groups, and religious education; and in our community outreach ministries, our literary journal and programs, and many other opportunities.

It is a basic human desire to belong, and to belong to something that matters. It can be the difference between a life that is joyful and abundant and one that feels empty, lonely, and alienated.

A sense of belonging to a community, family, or place gives us stability and support. We can feel more comfortable questioning reality, planning our future, and exploring our sense of self when we have that kind of stability and support. Knowing we belong somewhere can give us the courage to explore ourselves, our ideas, and the world.

Our societal need for belonging is increasing as more traditional social fabrics (church, neighborhood, extended family, local social groups) are less immediately accessible in a country where more people move more often, live further away from where they work, and the nuclear family has become more isolated. According to Diana Butler Bass, generations ago, people joined churches and committed to shared beliefs, then aligned their behavior with those beliefs, and then achieved a sense of belonging. Today, the order is reversed: people join churches in which they seek belonging first, then they adjust their behavior to fit in, then they address the question of aligning their beliefs with the community.

The costs of not-belonging are high. Historically, belonging to a band or tribe of people often meant the difference between life and death. Contemporary capitalism means it is possible to physically survive as an

individual, but there are still intense spiritual and emotional costs to not belonging. Many of the children who have turned to violence in schools over the past decade share the narrative of never having had a sense of belonging. We all have had moments of feeling like we did not belong, and some of us have had long periods of time where it felt like we did not belong. But what would it feel like to have never felt belonging? How would that change us as people? Belonging is a blessing not everyone shares. Do those of us who have experienced that blessing have an obligation to make it more widely accessible? What would that look like?

Belonging is not static or one-sided. It is a dynamic relationship, and thus involves a process of connecting, making a commitment, evaluating, and recommitting. Like any relationship, we can evaluate how much of a sense of belonging is coming from within, how much is external, and how much is simply about the right match between an individual and a group. Sometimes we find belonging in places we did not expect to find it, and sometimes we do not find belonging in places we did expect to find it. When we decide we belong, do we commit? What is the covenant of that commitment? What are the rules and obligations? What does it mean to be a member of the chosen community/family/church? What happens when the honeymoon is over, and the relationship is challenged by all the real difficulties of life? Do we still belong then?

There are even larger questions of belonging, higher up on a theoretical Maslow-ian hierarchy of belonging. Once our more basic belonging needs are met, like the need to belong to a family or group of friends, a community, or a place, we can consider more existential belonging questions. What is our place in the universe? Do we belong to humanity? Do we belong to a larger vision, like that of the Beloved Community? Do we belong to the universe? To the cycle of life? To God?

—Jennifer Nordstrom
with this month's theme team
Lisa Friedman, K.P. Hong,
and Drew Danielson

Belonging Resources

BOOKS

The Xenogenesis Trilogy (aka *Lilith's Brood*) by Octavia Butler

Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening by Carol Bass

MOVIES

Heathers (1988)

Avatar (2009)

The Outsiders (1983)

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

The Sneeches by Dr. Seuss

Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes

The Divergent Series by Veronica Roth

CHILDREN'S MOVIES

The Way, Way Back (2013)

Stand By Me (1986)

Just Words



*We will not live to settle for less.
We have dreamed of this all our lives.*
— Adrienne Rich

In his fine book *The Inclusion Imperative*, Stephen Frost makes a convincing case for diversity and inclusion being necessary for success. Frost was the inclusion officer for the 2012 London Olympics. London was awarded the Olympic games in large part because their proposal included a radical commitment to full inclusion. They called it “everybody’s games” and they meant it. The Olympic games are the most complex peacetime undertaking in the world. Billions of dollars, a staff of 200,000, an unforgiving set of deadlines and, in the case of the London games, a promise to use the Games to jump-start work place equity and rebuild London’s East End. The book is a detailed analysis of the effort. It claims a measure of success while at the same time making a case for the book’s title that inclusion is not charitable as much as it is essential.

Our faith teaches that the universal salvation of all souls is bound up in Micah’s mandate for living. *For what does the Holy require of thee but to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly together.* But even without a theological mandate to help to build the Beloved Community the demographics are staring us in the face.

There’s no need to go into the specifics. Old, largely white, liberal congregations will either find their way to greater diversity or else become, in the words of the Rev. Dr. Rosemary Bray McNatt, newly appointed President of Starr King School for the Ministry, “a quaint anachronism.”

At the end of April, Janne and I joined a team of staff and lay leaders from Unity Church at the Middle Conference in New York City. The conference, offered each year by the Middle Collegiate Church, provides a learning table for those committed to making progressive congregations reflect the full richness of their emerging communities. Joining our delegation was Pastor Danny Givens of Above Every Name, the vibrant, youthful, African-American congregation that shares our church home. The sense of common cause was visceral. We are developing a truly thrilling vision for working together for change. The conference was inspiring, nourishing, and challenging. We left New York more convinced than ever that the time has come for our church to build on our years of anti-racist self reflection by moving consciously, respectfully, and forcefully toward becoming a truly inclusive religious community. *We have dreamed of this all our lives.*

— Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs

To friends at Unity:

Thank you all for the gift of you! Your many hands open-out in friendship; your arms outstretched in welcome; and your words of kindness all meant so much to me. Thank you for putting me at ease, sharing yourself, your work, your faith and your efforts. But most of all, thank you for the seeds of you have planted in me, just by being yourself, a people in Unity.

Many blessings,
Winnie Gordon



From the Archives...

During the summer the archives team will continue its work. Watch for invitations to help identify people in photographs and sort through the many duplicate videos of Unity speakers and preachers. It should be fun! For more information or to offer support for this ongoing project, please contact Louise Merriam at 612-242-8772 or machias1@gmail.com.

Flowers for Worship

If you would like to bring flowers from your garden for a 10:00 a.m. summer worship service, please contact Marcy at marcy@unityunitarian.org. The flowers need to be arranged in a vase and placed in the chancel by 9:15 a.m. on the Sunday you select.

commUNITY is the newsletter of Unity Church–Unitarian. It is published monthly, except the month of July. 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 per year.

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June 1: Grand Old Day Parking Alert!

Congregants should be aware that street parking will be limited due to the Grand Old Day street festival. The parking lots will be managed by Unity youth and adults so that worshippers can park while fair-goers contribute money toward our youth and community outreach ministries.

JUNE AND JULY SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday Worship Calendar

FROM MAY 25 THROUGH AUGUST 31, THERE IS JUST ONE SERVICE EACH WEEK AT 10:00 A.M. Lay-led worship services begin June 29. Religious Education Summer Sundays in the Garden will be offered during the 10:00 a.m. service. Sermon podcasts and archives are available online at www.unityunitarian.org.

JUNE

June 1: *A Deeper Bond of Kinship* — Lisa Friedman

Each of us is a member of many communities — of families, of neighborhoods, of congregations, of networks and more. What invites us into a sense of true belonging? What steps in our journey help us to cross the threshold from a casual observer to an active participant? What does a deeper bond of kinship have to do with growing our own souls? Rev. Lisa Friedman will be joined by worship associate Don Lorr.

June 8: *Belonging in Transition* — Jennifer Nordstrom

Unitarian Universalism is a big tent religion that can hold a broad set of individual beliefs within our principles. Because we believe revelation is continuous, our predominant belief systems shift over time. What does this continuous reformation mean for belonging? How does it affect intergenerational relationships? To what degree do our individual belief systems evolve with unfolding understanding in a group context? Do we have to experience personal belonging in order to experience a larger, existential belonging? In her final worship service of the year, Hallman Ministerial Intern Jennifer Nordstrom and Co-Minister Rob Eller-Isaacs will explore belonging in transition and across generations in this High School Senior Bridging and Dedication of New Lives service.

June 15: *All the Difference* — Rob Eller-Isaacs

Rebecca West in *Black Lamb Grey Falcon*, a book about traveling in the Balkans, writes that men and women worship separately in that part of the world because worship is a terribly intimate time during which one should avoid distractions of any kind. That must be part of why religious communities tend to be culturally specific. But our faith demands we choose a different way, a road less traveled. Rob returns to the pulpit to reflect on where we go from here.

June 22: *In a World Where Everyone Might Belong* — Janne Eller-Isaacs

Many of us have had experiences where long held beliefs or ways of seeing the world were transformed by exposure to new ideas or new ways of seeing the world. Worship associate Ray Wiedmeyer and Janne Eller-Isaacs will explore how their understandings of the shape of justice and equality have changed radically over the years. At the heart of Pat Haff's ministry as Unity's Coordinator of Community Outreach is the commitment to work to create a world where everyone has a place and that vision will be honored throughout the service.

June 29: *Adapt or Perish* — Sherry Essen

A famous Darwin quote says, "It's not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent. It is the one that is most adaptable to change." What does it mean to acclimate to life's relentless evolution without losing our curiosity, positivity, and zest for living? Join Sherry Essen and worship associate Jason Maher as we navigate adapting to our best environment given the conditions that exist in our lives at any given time.

Turn to page 13 for a list of the summer offering recipients.

JULY

July 6: *"My Fellow Immigrants"*

Rick Koyle

So Franklin Delano Roosevelt supposedly addressed the Daughters of the American Revolution. For nearly 400 years, from the time of our religious ancestors, the Pilgrims and the Puritans, immigrants have flocked to these shores. Worship associates Joan and Segundo Velasquez join Rick Koyle to explore why.

July 13: *What Were You Thinking?*

Ray Wiedmeyer

Do you remember the first time you stepped into the sanctuary at Unity Church? What were you thinking you might find? Ray Wiedmeyer reflects on his curious pilgrimage toward a spiritual path, one that starts with that first step. Musician: Brian Henke, guitar.

July 20: *Expanding our Spiritual Comfort Zone*

Mary-Margaret Zindren

We all have spiritual histories, traditions, and habits — some of which we may have questioned and changed, others which we've held onto. What keeps us within our comfort zone of spirituality, and what happens when we test the limits of that comfort zone? Mary-Margaret Zindren and Worship Associate Neil Bray reflect on spirituality as a life-long journey and the risks and rewards of change.

July 27: *Walking Together*

Csongor Benedek

What do we learn when we walk together in community across faith, culture, language, and more? We welcome Csongor Benedek, a seminarian studying for the Unitarian ministry in Transylvania, to our pulpit. Worship associate Diane Ross will also reflect on her experience of participating in the pilgrimage to Unity's partner church in Homorodszepter. Musician: Dawn Baker, piano.

Multicultural Conversations

From Peggy Lin, Trustee



Every other month the Unity Church Board of Trustees devotes a significant portion of our meeting time together to anti-racism and multicultural training conducted by Unity's Anti-Racism Leadership Team. At the May 10, 2014, meeting of the board, Kelley Nelson and Avi Viswanathan encouraged members of the board and the executive

team to imagine, describe and *draw* in color on a large piece of paper the culture of Unity Church — both as we see it and as we believe others see it.

This was no small task for me! I am pretty left-brained and do better executing tasks than articulating abstractions, so I struggle mightily to put my perceptions of culture into words. I struggle even more to reorder my mind so that I can see Unity's culture from the perspective of others. After all, these "others" might include members of the beloved community with whom we are anxious to make connection, to build the future together, and live into a shared vision yet to be fully articulated. This is important work, deserving of deep discernment and care.

Your board earnestly went about this exercise — and here are some of the things we drew:

- An iceberg, representing those parts of Unity's culture that are visible from the surface, and the much larger parts that are underneath;
- A flower, representing the opening of Unity Church to greater possibilities that we hope to realize when we engage across all of our cultural differences;
- A family with parents and children all drawn in different colors, representing some deeply held values that we teach to our children in religious education: all families matter, we are free to learn together, and all people have a voice;
- A wiggly shape with a core, representing the ways in which Unity Church has changed over the years, and also representing the core of Unity, the kernel, the beating heart, which will never change.

Your board continues the important work of visioning the future of Unity Church. We work hard at it, guided always by our ends statements. I am personally also strongly guided by the deep love I have for this place.

Have a wonderful summer, and see you in church!

Complete the Unity Church
Annual Congregational Survey online today!
<http://tiny.cc/ucu2014survey>

Reflections on a Journey for Justice

From Peter Heege, Anti-Racism Leadership Team

Nine of us from Unity Church and Rev. Danny Givens of Above Every Name recently attended the Middle Project Conference *Heal the Soul, Heal the World* at the Middle Collegiate Church in the East Village, New York City. Middle Church is a liberal Christian congregation affiliated with the Reformed Church in America, and is well-known for its leadership in social justice and as a welcoming, consciously multi-cultural congregation. The Middle Project is an affiliated organization formed by Middle Church, and has offered this conference around social justice issues for eight years.

Of particular interest to many of us was a one day pre-conference worship workshop entitled *Rock-a-My-Soul*, on integrating justice work into the worship process. A highlight of that workshop was a panel moderated by Taquiena Boston, Director of Multicultural Growth and Witness at the UUA, with four UU ministers, Rev. Fred Muir (Annapolis), Rev. Rob Hardies (DC), Rev. Marlin Lavanhar (Tulsa) and Rev. Josh Pawelek (East Manchester CT). This was a discussion of the joys and challenges of building as multi-cultural multi-racial congregation, especially as to how that process affects worship practices and engenders congregational resistance and acceptance.

The main conference itself was also extraordinary, with a rock-star lineup of presenters, including (Google these folks) Marcus Borg; Lynne Twist; Valerie Kaur; Elizabeth Lesser; Jacqui Lewis, charismatic Senior Pastor of Middle Church; and others.

Takeaways:

- *Justice work is crucial, and we are not alone.* The worth and dignity of every person is a foundation of our UU spirituality, and to the spirituality of most main-stream Christian denominations. Regardless of affiliation, everyone at the conference was passionate about doing justice work in their congregation and supporting that work being done by others.
- *Institutional racism is pervasive in American society.* While many of the overt trappings of 19th and early 20th century racism are no longer acceptable and have substantially diminished, institutional racism in the form of unequal access to the basic institutions of society — educational, financial, governmental, housing, justice — has arguably become worse in the last few decades. Code-word racism has become an acceptable form of political dialogue. Part of our justice work needs to expose and challenge this trend.
- *Building a multi-cultural, multi-racial congregation is hard and sometimes contentious work.* We are all, to one degree or another, resistant to change things we are comfortable with. Changes in congregational demographics, worship practices, and programming, all require a reasoned commitment to the work, and will engender strong feelings in some people. As a congregation we need to prepare ourselves to minister to those concerns.

More information about the conference is at www.Middleproject.org/conference-2014.

MINISTERIAL INTERN / HONORING PAT HAFF



Jennifer Nordstrom 2013-14 Hallman Ministerial Intern

I remember my first day at Unity Church: sitting in a quiet office on a sunny summer day, nervously reading Unity's board packet and worship associates materials, wondering where everyone was. Barbara Hubbard promised me it would get busier. And it did. During one of our first Wellspring Wednesday Chapel services, Karen Van Fossan turned to me, grinned, and said, "Here we go!" It felt like that moment as you peak the first hill a big roller coaster, when you have a second to pause, look at the drop, and maybe raise your hands in the air before the rush of the ride begins.

It has been wonderful to spend this year as your Hallman Ministerial Intern. I love this church, and I have loved the work. You have held me through it, taught me, and helped me become a minister. Thank you for that. Thank you for the loving care with which you approach this work of forming ministers. It is important work, and it matters that Unity Church takes it seriously. Our Unitarian Universalist congregations need strong, smart, loving, well-trained ministers, and Unity helps produce them.

You may not know this, but Rob and Janne Eller-Isaacs are known as some of the best teaching ministers in our denomination, and Unity Church is known as one of the best places to be an intern. Seminarians covet you, and with good reason! You are serious about and skilled at forming new ministers in our faith. I believe our Unitarian Universalist faith makes a difference in the world, and that proclaiming the good news of our principles and shared humanity helps create the Beloved Community. You bless the world with your contribution to this process.

As my year here comes to a close, there is much I am taking with me. I am taking the hugs of the children who came up to me at the end of our last Wellspring Wednesday chapel service. I am taking the memory of preaching my first sermon here with Worship Associate Drew Ross as a Beginners Club of two. I am taking all the sweet cards you have sent me over the year—sympathies from when my grandmother died, congratulations from passing the MFC, and some just because you wanted me to know you appreciated me. I have saved them all. I am taking my new Sustainable Agriculture Group-gained knowledge of how to make my own sauerkraut. I am taking the beautiful simplicity of the Christmas Eve morning communion service and the dramatic pageantry of the afternoon Christmas Pageant. I am taking the learning of how to build Beloved Community through Beloved Conversations. And I am taking my connections with all of you. Thank you for everything.

Join us in celebrating Jennifer Nordstrom during her final worship service as Hallman Ministerial intern on Sunday, June 8, at 10:00 a.m. Gratitude and treats will be shared in the Parish Hall following the service.

Unity Church Honors

Pat Haff

and her founding leadership of Unity's Community Outreach Ministry Program



In 2002, Unity Church decided to create and formalize a community outreach program. We were awarded a grant from the Furness Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation, and many Unity members provided matching "program initiative" funds to get the program launched. How lucky we were that Pat Haff, who has a lifetime of commitment to social justice work, applied for the position! Pat has guided the development of the community outreach program and has overseen the creation of many community outreach teams at Unity Church. Her dedicated and steadfast leadership has helped to establish Unity as a credible partner in social justice advocacy both locally and internationally.

Last September, Pat went to part time in her position — in anticipation of retirement from her work at Unity Church at the end of July 2014.

We invite you to join us for a special recognition of Pat and her dedicated work on behalf of social justice on Sunday, June 22, during the 10:00 a.m. service.

The offering that Sunday will be taken for a new Justice Learning Scholarship Fund, created in Pat's honor. This scholarship fund will be dedicated to supporting everyone's ability to participate in the pilgrimages and hands-on work trips which have been an important cornerstone of the Community Outreach ministry. If you are not able to be present for the offering that day, you can still contribute to the fund by sending a check with "JLSF" in the memo line, or by making an online donation at <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=1aadb6> with "JLSF" in the comments section.

In June, Pat will offer some reflections on her experience in this work. Over the next two months, we invite you to take the time to offer your appreciation and gratitude for the gifts that she has shared with Unity Church and our community.



Pat Haff (left) with Unity's Racial Justice Outreach Ministry Team coordinating the Faith Float at the Rondo Days Parade!

PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP / FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Welcome Words

The sweet June days are come again and what a delight it will be to play in the sun! Here at church, our congregational life will relax, but will still be going strong with many opportunities for worship and connection. Come and hear the reflections of our wonderful lay preachers. Take a contemplative spiritual walk in community. Attend a family puppet show. Bring a dish to share at the young adult potluck. Learn about Transylvanian Unitarianism from our visiting seminarian, Csongor Benedek. The summer season is a glorious time to tend to our spirits — there is so much coming into bloom. See you in church!

Rev. Lisa Friedman, Director of Congregational Life

Pathway to Membership

Sign up for Pathway to Membership classes at the Welcome Table on Sundays or contact Rev. Lisa Friedman, Director of Congregational Life, at lisa@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x107. She is also happy to meet with you personally to answer questions and to welcome you into the congregation. Childcare is available by contacting Christy Randall at 651-228-1456 x127 or christy@unityunitarian.org at least one week in advance.

Welcome to Unity: Our Class for Newcomers

Sunday, June 1 • 11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

Sunday, July 20 • 11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

Sunday, August 24 • 11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

If you have been visiting Unity Church and would like to find out more about Unitarian Universalism and our congregation, we invite you to join us for one of these *Welcome to Unity* classes.

Finding Yourself at Unity: A Deeper Exploration

A series of three classes: Thursday, August 21, 28, and September 4 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.

In this series of classes, we will have an opportunity to share part of our religious journey, to take a more in depth look at the history of Unity Church, to discuss the expectations and benefits of membership, and get to know the programs and ministries of the congregation. A light supper will be provided each night.

Committing to Unity: Joining Unity Church

Wednesday, June 4, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

This class explores the deeper meanings and expectations of membership and shared ministry. It offers time to reflect on the meaning of generosity and how you can discover the places in your life where the world's needs meets the gifts and joy you have to offer. The class concludes with a ceremony as participants sign the membership book and officially join the church!

Fellowship Groups

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

A New Look at the Bible: Second Thursday of the month (June 12/July 10) at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528.

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

Caregivers Group: An informal support group for caregivers. Third Thursday of the month (June 19/July 17) from Noon–2:00 p.m.

Evergreen Quilters: Second Tuesday of the month (June 10/July 18) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and fourth Saturday of the month (June 18/July 26) from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Contact: Peggy Wright at 651-698-2760 for more information.

Job Transitions/Networking Group: Every Monday at 9:00 a.m. in the Anderson Library.

Living With Grief Group: A group for people living with grief and loss. Third Tuesday of the month (June 17/July 15) from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Men's Retirement Group: Monday, June 2, 16, 30, and July 14 and 28, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact: Phil Morton at 952-934-3578 for more information.

Unitots!: A drop-in playgroup for families (parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles) with kids through preschool age. Every Monday, from 9:30 a.m.-noon, in the nursery. Contact Christy Randall at christy@unityunitarian.org for more information.

Unity Book Club: Second Tuesday (June 10/July 8) of the month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Watch for announcements about upcoming book titles or contact Jack Hawthorne at jack.hawthorne@comcast.net for more information.

Unity Bridge Club: First Friday of the month (June 6) at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Priscilla Swartz at 651-454-3209.

Women's Retirement Group: Second and Fourth Thursday of the month (June 12 and 26/July 10 and 24) from 1:00-3:00 p.m. See page 7 for details or contact Leah Doherty at doher001@umn.edu.

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



Contemplative Nature Walk

Are you one of those people who most deeply connects with Self and the Beyond out in nature? Come outside and join Spiritual Director Sarah Cledwyn for a contemplative hike on Saturday, June 14, at 10:00 a.m. There will be a short introduction followed by a quiet walk through the Woodview County Open Space in Roseville.

This event is free and open to all. Please RSVP to Sarah Cledwyn at sarahcledwyn@gmail.com for directions and more information.

Women's Retirement Group

The Women's Retirement Group continues to meet throughout the summer on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 1:00–3:00 p.m. Upcoming topics include:

June 12: Books we've read and recommend

June 26: Mental health and aging

July 10: Aging and humor

July 24: Outing to Sugar Lake

All are welcome. Contact Rev. Lisa Friedman at 651-228-1456 x107 or lisa@unityunitarian.org for more information.

Young Adult Group

Join us on the fourth Tuesday for the month, June 24 and July 22, for a 6:30 p.m. potluck in the Center Room. All are welcome! The young adult group has also started a Thursday night book club that meets at 7:30 p.m. in downtown St. Paul. The book club is open to people of all ages. Contact Susan Kelnberger at smkeln@gmail.com for more information.

Join Unity Gardeners

Help is needed maintaining the church gardens during the summer! Contact Ethel Griggs at c.griggs@comcast.net or 651-429-0064 to learn more.

RED YARN & FAMILY PRESENT THE DEEP WOODS

Wednesday, June 18

5:30-7:00 PM

Unity Church-Unitarian

All families are welcome for food and fellowship at 5:30 PM.
Show starts at 6:00 PM!

Red Yarn is a dynamic family performer who weaves folksongs and puppetry into engaging shows for all ages. Performing alongside his wife Jessie (more familiar to us as Janne and Rob Eller-Isaacs's daughter) on their summer 2014 tour, Red Yarn is spreading positive values while reinvigorating American folklore for younger generations.

In this energetic musical puppet show, Red Yarn & Family will lead audiences into the Deep Woods, a magical forest where all the animals of American folksongs live together. Families will sing, dance, laugh, and experience the joy of community as they celebrate our shared cultural heritage.

Check out the website: www.redyarnproductions.com.



MUSIC MINISTRY

Music Notes

From Ruth Palmer
Director of Music Ministry



Dear and wonderful musicians of Unity Church, families and supporters,

I send my deepest thanks to each and every one of you for enriching our community with your musical gifts! From every note sung, tapped, tweeted and twanged; danced or stationary; serious or smiling, you have gifted us with the sounds of this community, lifting and nurturing our spirits. Thank you, from my heart! Have a magnificent summer. Looking forward to touching base in our scheduled summer rehearsal times.

Always with cheers,
Ruth

Walk-in Choir

All are welcome!

Come and sing in our annual Walk-In Choir on Sunday, June 8. Rehearsal at 9:00 a.m. in the Foote Room. Easy-to-learn music will be rehearsed and sung in the 10:00 a.m. service. Bring friends and family.

Come sing with us!

WANTED!

Summer Musicians

Summer is a great time to share your musical gifts with Unity Church members and friends. Summer lay-led services begin on June 29 and continue through August 31. If you are interested in participating as a musician during a summer service, please contact Kathleen Bartholomay at kathleenbartholomay297@gmail.com or 651-343-4764.

June Parish Hall Artists

Denise S. Tennen

I am a sculptor and public artist. My practice of 26 years includes fulfilling public and private commissions, leading community-participation art projects, and creating individual sculptures. With this exhibition I am delighted to introduce you to my Poetry Orbs, the heart of my individual sculpture work. Here is their story:

I went to Duluth to bring my son home from college in Spring 2011. While he was packing, I went out to Park Point, that wonderful vastness of Lake Superior shoreline. I spent the cool, grey day walking the quiet streets and strolling along the empty shore. Along the way, my Poetry Orbs were conceived. They are shaped by four things:

Poetry fragments on wood scraps I saw in a front yard
Smooth oval rocks I found along the shore
An inner calm I discovered in the face of the unknown future
Desire to bring forth something new as the mother of a grown son

I build each form from clay, coil by coil, connecting the coils to create smooth surfaces; working with the structural tolerance of the clay, I create recesses within the form. I finish the form so that it is seamless; the interior is completely enclosed and appears as if filled with breath. I glaze the forms to have a matt finish, or a sheen similar to wet clay. Hand-held orbs are designed to nestle in the recesses of the larger orbs. These may be inscribed with poetry fragments, however the importance of literal text has ebbed as I've realized these pieces express their own poetry of form.

There's a sensation I feel in my body when my sculptures, at any scale, are "just right." That sensation is my compass in creating all my work, from hand-held to architectural installation. I hope these Poetry Orbs give you that "just right" sensation as well.

Savita Bettaglio

My current work is a visceral exploration of energy. I am intrigued by the possibilities of the human experience. I strive for literal and emotional depth through my technique of layered movement and use of bright colors. I am inspired by Latino art as well as the magic of tribal symbols

My paintings are born during meditation and when a particular shape or color appears I paint with those shapes and colors and soon the creative process forms my work.

Art making is an evolving practice of faith and staying present in the moment. I see painting as a journey in turning the eye inward. My paintings are abstract and yet very personal narrations that have grown out of my desire to discover, deepen, and enliven. My hope is that my work will welcome you into the elements of Self.

July Parish Hall Artist

Peter Freeman

The juxtapositions and interrelationships among elements in a visual field – light, shadow, line, shape, texture, pattern, directionality, color, tone, and context – continually capture my attention and excite me, whether I have a camera in hand or not.

I am fascinated by what I see when I really notice the world around me with a sense of reverence and appreciation. I notice how the visual elements relate to each other and, in turn, how I relate to them. It is a way for me to be mindful, to feed soul.

I take portraits of the world. The frame of the photograph allows me to capture interactions among elements: how they hang together and play off each other. Elements combine to become a complex subject at once very familiar and yet unfamiliar, something *uniquely common*. I can still look at any image and discover something new, something fresh, a reframe.

I am a Jungian psychotherapist and organization and executive consultant in my private practice, Full Circle Dynamics. I am married to cellist Laura Sewell.

Turning Over A New LEAF

Unity Church Raffle Grand Prize

100% ELECTRIC NISSAN LEAF



100% ELECTRIC CAR
84 miles per charge
Zero tailpipe emissions

WIN THIS CAR!!

UNITY CHURCH-UNITARIAN
INTEGRITY, SERVICE, AND JOY
Turning over a new LEAF
The 2014 Unity Church Fundraiser



Tickets go on
sale in June!

Turning Over A New LEAF Raffle Details

- Raffle tickets will go on sale in June
- Ticket cost: \$20 each (must be purchased by cash, check, or debit card)
- You must be at least 18 years old to purchase raffle tickets
- Tickets will be available for purchase at the church, through an online order form, and from individuals on our fundraising team
- Raffle drawing will be held Sunday, September 28 (winner need not be present)
- Additional earth-friendly prizes that promote healthy living will be announced throughout the summer — stay tuned!
- A limited number of tickets will be sold— the odds of winning will be GOOD!
- Unity Church will cover the cost of tax and license fees
- Visit www.unityunitarian.org/2014-raffle.html for details about purchasing tickets, prizes (including car specifications), and how you can get involved. Questions? Contact Barbara Hubbard at barbarah@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x116.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)

Order Up: Workers' Rights

Economic justice is essential for securing basic human rights. Recognizing that workers' rights are human rights, UUSC is committed to defending and supporting living wages, fair trade, and workers' right to organize — and you are essential to these efforts. As a consumer, you have the power to make a difference in the lives of workers every day when you choose services and products that align with your values of justice and equality. UUSC's Choose Compassionate Consumption (CCC) initiative helps you figure out how to do that.

Take the U.S. restaurant industry, one of the fastest growing sectors with the lowest paying jobs. Sustainable food and ethical eating means more than local and organic — it also means sustainable wages and working conditions for food workers. Current industry norms are unacceptable:

- Gender inequality
- Racial discrimination
- No paid sick days or health insurance
- Tipped minimum wage that has been stuck at \$2.13 per hour for more than 20 years

Food workers deserve more than scraps, and you can be part of changing the industry when you press the restaurants you frequent to do right by their workers. In collaboration with grassroots workers' organizations, UUSC gives you the resources and skills to do that. Fair conditions for food workers — raising the minimum wage, ensuring basic benefits — are not incompatible with thriving restaurants, successful business owners, and happy customers.

In its work to advance economic justice and engage people in choosing compassionate consumption, UUSC focuses on defending the rights of the following people:

- Restaurant workers, especially tipped workers
- Workers who are women and people of color
- Small farmer cooperatives

Featured projects

- Pressuring U.S. lawmakers to raise the federal minimum wage, including the minimum wage for tipped workers
- Engaging activists and congregations in educating their peers and urging restaurant owners to treat their workers with respect
- Partnering with workers' centers to protect the rights of workers throughout the food chain
- Supporting small farmers around the world through the UUSC Coffee Project, in collaboration with Equal Exchange and UU congregations
- Offering ethically sourced products through shop.uusc.org, which supports UUSC's human rights work

For more information go to the UUSC web site www.uusc.org

Volunteers needed this fall!

Minnesota Reading Corps at Obama Elementary

During the 2013-14 school year, Unity Church volunteers, in partnership with the Minnesota Reading Corps, have tutored young children in reading and math at Obama Elementary School across the street from the church. The following story features the tutoring experiences of one of this year's volunteers, Ron Prieve. Unity Church tutor recruitment for the coming school year, 2014-15, will begin this summer. For more information, contact Pat Haff at pat@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x126.

The presence of children is so delightful and energizing for me. I have no grandchildren or young nieces/nephews in my life, so tutoring the young scholars at Obama Elementary is an opportunity to be near that high-energy life force! As a retiree looking for constructive ways to fill my time and be of service to my community, becoming a reading volunteer with elementary students seemed a natural fit between what gifts I bring to them and what a source of joy and rejuvenation they are to me. As someone who reads a lot and appreciates how reading can open up the world of possibilities, I want to instill this love of reading in the students I work with.

I spend a couple hours, two times a week at Obama Elementary. I usually work with one or two students during each hour. To see them grapple with—and master—the challenges of learning to read is so rewarding. And to see the progress made throughout the year — by those who really have had difficulty and once hated to read — is such a joy. Several of the kids now love to read aloud to me for a longer stretch of time, and that is icing on the cake.

I really encourage any of you who have even an hour to spare during the week—and the desire to have a positive impact on a child who may be struggling—to volunteer to be a reading tutor. The rewards are great, both for you and the kids. – Ron Prieve

Summer 2014: Have Fun! Nominate!

From Unity's Generosity Ministry Team

While loosing yourself in summer luxury please keep one eye and ear open for a possible Sunday offering recipient. No special search. Just be open to what falls into your line of sight. If something grabs you, go to www.unityunitarian.org/nominate-the-offering.html to *Nominate the Offering!* Complete the really simple form and click SUBMIT!

A simple process. We on the Generosity Ministry Team promise you, once you click SUBMIT you will be overcome by an unstoppable rush of GRATITUDE!!

Don't hesitate!! Nominate!!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

WE DID IT TOGETHER!

Throughout the church year, Unity's Outreach Ministry Teams provide hands-on service projects and education opportunities for people to serve or learn more about the justice issue a team is committed to. In addition, many teams participate, and invite others to join them, in advocacy activities or finding ways to address the underlying reason for an injustice. This year's advocacy work took place as teams gathered signatures on postcards or petitions and encouraged people to send emails and phone calls to their elected city and state officials to support particular legislation. Some team members also spent considerable time at the state capitol learning how to lobby for the policy changes their team supported. Below are the results from their advocacy work at the 2013-14 Minnesota legislature.

Safe Schools for All

On May 9, the "Safe and Supportive Schools Act" was signed into law. For two years, the **Unity Church Rainbow Chalice Alliance Team** has worked for this policy change with the leadership of Unity Member and Minnesota Representative Jim Davnie. This comprehensive law takes Minnesota from having the weakest anti-bullying law in the country to the strongest. It provides educators, parents, and students with tools and resources they need for bullying prevention and intervention.

Criminal Records Expungement and Voting Rights Restoration Bill

On May 14, the juvenile and criminal records expungement bill was signed into law that is designed to help individuals rebuild their lives after contact with the criminal justice system. This legislation will provide thousands of Minnesotans with meaningful second chances. In partnership with their community partner, Amicus and the Second Chances Coalition, the **Unity Church Racial and Restorative Justice Team** supported this legislation. The Voting Rights Restoration Bill did not pass this year so will be re-introduced in next year's session.

Affordable and Supportive Housing Funds in the Minnesota Bonding Bill

At the end of the legislative session, the state bonding bill was passed with a bipartisan vote in both the House and the Senate and included \$100 million for affordable and supportive housing across the state. As "Beacon Citizens" in partnership with their community partner, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, the **Unity Church Affordable Housing Team** advocated and campaigned for this funding. This legislation plays a large part in securing the resources to build/rehab an estimated 5,000 homes for our lowest income neighbors. Beacon Interfaith Housing developments such as Prior Crossing, a new housing unit for homeless youth in St. Paul, could benefit from these resources.

THANK YOU! to all who made phone calls, emails, and visits with their legislators. These many successes demonstrate that our voices do matter in making a better life for all of us.

Honoring Unity's Community Outreach Coordinator

Pat Haff

Pat Haff will retire from her work at Unity Church at the end of July. Please help celebrate her ministry!

A special recognition of Pat Haff and her dedicated work on behalf of social justice will be held on Sunday, June 22 during the 10:00 a.m. service. All are welcome!

Evergreen Foodshelf

The third Sunday of every month is Evergreen Food Drive Sunday. Donations can be brought anytime and should be placed in the barrels located at both the Holly and Portland Avenue entrances. June 15 suggested items: cooking oil, small bottles of detergent (dish or clothing).



Habitat for Humanity Summer Build

Unity Church members will be working a home building project with Habitat For Humanity again this year. As before, we will do this with other neighborhood churches as a group called Faith Builders. Sign up is available online at: <http://bit.ly/faithbuilders2014> This will be new construction in the Midway area of St. Paul. Work weeks are July 14-18 and 21-25. You may contact Chuck Griggs at griggscb@msn.com or 612-408-0486 with questions.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Creating a world where everyone has a decent place to live.



2014 National Night Out

Tuesday, August 5, 2014

If you are interested in helping members and friends of Unity Church with the National Night Out event that is held in cooperation with House of Hope Church, please contact Mary Cardinal Peterson at petecardfive@q.com.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Queer Prom • Youth Pride • Pride Parade

From the Unity Church Rainbow Chalice Alliance Outreach Ministry Team

The Rainbow Chalice Alliance (RCA) team has a busy May and June! First up will be Queer Prom on Friday, May 30. Queer Prom is an amazing event where LGBTQ youth and allies ages 14-20 get to have a full and inclusive prom experience. RCA is the majority sponsor of the Queer Prom event this year. Contact Billy Navarro at billy.navarrojr@spps.org if you are interested in volunteering.

Youth Pride will be on Thursday, June 5, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at Matthews Park in Minneapolis! Youth Pride is a fun event with music, games, food, community resources, and an open mic. The Minnesota School Outreach Coalition (a community partner of the RCA team) organizes the event and says they are looking for volunteers for set-up (3:00-4:00 p.m.) and takedown (6:30-7:30 p.m.). Contact Jason Bucklin at Jason.Bucklin@mpls.k12.mn.us for more info.

And of course, the Unitarian Universalists of the Twin Cities and surrounding areas have been selected to have a marching unit in the Pride Parade this year! Despite a new more stringent admission policy, Unity and other churches were selected to be in the parade. We are looking for marchers, drummers, and Chinese dragon handlers to participate this year. On Sunday, June 29, we will plan to meet at the Hiawatha lightrail station for a light breakfast and travel down to the parade together. Contact Elizabeth Giffin at egiffin19@yahoo.com if you wish to march or to sign up for the RCA informational newsletter.

Children's Defense Fund Freedom School

Support children and youth living in Unity's neighborhood!

In collaboration with St. Paul Public Schools and the St. Paul Promise Neighborhood, the Children's Defense Fund Freedom (CDF) School will take place from July 14–August 21, 2014.

The national CDF Freedom Schools program provides summer enrichment that helps children fall in love with reading, increases their self-esteem, and generates positive attitudes toward learning. This summer's St. Paul Freedom School will serve 850 (mainly children of color) students and will take place at Capitol Hill Gifted and Talented School, American Indian Magnet School, and the Riverview Elementary School of Excellence.

Past Unity Church volunteers reported positive and rewarding experiences working in a variety of roles with the students. Recruitment for this year's Summer Freedom School volunteers will take place on June 8, 15, and 22, in the Parish Hall. For more information please contact Unity member Jane Thomson at thomson028@tc.umn.edu or 651-290-2549 or Judy Rieke at jlrieke@yahoo.com or 651-222-0765.

9th Annual Unity Church Pilgrimage to New Orleans

Join in the 9th Annual Unity Church Pilgrimage to New Orleans from November 15-22, 2014. This is an opportunity to participate in a service and educational pilgrimage to the city of New Orleans where many of its citizens are still rebuilding their homes and communities after the devastating floods following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The week-long trip includes hands-on service projects for participants, meetings with community leaders who are working to rebuild the city, connections with new and old friends, and opportunities to explore the rich and unique culture of the Crescent City. Each pilgrimage also offers time for reflecting on major themes of racial and economic justice in New Orleans related to our communities back in St. Paul.

For more information or to sign up for the pilgrimage, contact Pat Haff at pat@unityunitarian.org or 641-228-1456 x126.

Sustainable Agriculture Group at Unity Church

Sustainable Agriculture Group Meeting

**Thursday, June 12 • 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Gannett Room**

Unity's Sustainable Agriculture Group will continue our "mouths-in" discussion of "what, exactly, is sustainable food?" Participants are invited to bring a potluck item that satisfies their definition of sustainable (and will be asked to explain!). We will also do a bit of work in the Children's Garden if needed, talk about church composting and food buying systems, and bid a fond farewell to Jennifer Nordstrom who leaves the team after a year of fabulous staffing.

Compost Brigade!

Want to know more about Unity's attempts to green its systems? Join the Sustainable Agriculture Group's "Compost Bucket Brigade!" Our church food system includes compost that we use in our children's garden. We sustain this system through volunteers and need people to sign up to maintain the system over the summer. We empty the buckets into our garden's compost bins once a week. If you sign up, you can either choose to be paired with a regular, who will walk you through the process, or sign up on your own and follow the directions in the kitchen. We need volunteers throughout the summer, so sign up as many times as you like, and help keep Unity green and sustainable over the summer months! You can sign up here: <http://bit.ly/compostbucketbrigade>.



SUMMER OFFERING RECIPIENTS

June 1: Camp Tamarack

Camp Tamarack is a non-profit, non-denominational, overnight summer camp for boys and girls in the Twin Cities. The camp was founded in 1970 by St. Albert's the Great Church for the purpose of giving urban children the opportunity to experience a rural environment and to learn positive life lessons. The camp takes place during the first two weeks of August and is located in Annandale, MN, on Lake Sylvia. Camp Tamarack prides itself on being an affordable, exciting, and memorable experience for our young campers. Unity member Dick Buggs supports Camp Tamarack.

June 8: Booth Brown House Housing Program

Booth Brown House serves as a safe place for about 52 youth in two St. Paul programs. The overnight shelter program seeks to provide emergency beds for homeless youth between the ages of 18-21, while the Foyer Housing program helps vulnerable or disadvantaged youth ages 16-25 transition from dependence to independence. This offering will help with the creation of a small garden at their Como Park facility that will serve as a resource for healthy food and produce, an area for teaching youth about sustainable food, and a site for fostering community participation by the youth. Unity member Patricia Ohmans supports the work of Booth Brown House.

June 15: PFund Foundation

PFund is a community foundation that works for long-lasting social change and is a vital resource and community builder for LGBTQA communities across the Midwest. This is done by awarding grants and scholarships, developing leaders, and advocating for more responsive philanthropy in the area. This offering will go toward the Queer Youth Initiative which awards grants to partners working exclusively with LGBTQ identified youth and their allies. Unity members Kate Heider, Laura Schlatter, and Laura Smidzik support the work of PFund.

June 22: Justice Learning Scholarship Fund

This new scholarship fund is created to honor the dedicated leadership of Pat Haff in her 12 years of creating Unity's community outreach ministry. This fund will be dedicated to supporting everyone's equal access to participation in the pilgrimages and hands-on work trips which have been an important cornerstone of the community outreach programs.

June 29: Teenwise Minnesota

For over 22 years Teenwise Minnesota has worked with partner organizations across the state to change the way adults work with teens in the area of sexual health. While Teenwise tracks and documents rates of pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and other "poor sexual health outcomes", they consider and address these issues within the broader context of sexuality. In this context, sexual health is seen as a positive state of being in relation to one's own body, in relationship to others and where there is no coercion, discrimination, or violence. Unity member Heather Farber-Lau serves on the Board of Directors for Teenwise Minnesota.

July 6: Camp Tamarack

See June 1

July 13: Booth Brown House Housing Program

See June 8

July 20: Minnesota Prison Writing Project

The Minnesota Prison Writing Project (MPWW) teaches creative writing in prisons throughout the state of Minnesota. MPWW's main program places teaching artists in Minnesota prisons to offer quality creative writing instruction to incarcerated individuals. Additionally, MPWW facilitates a mail-based mentoring program for writers who have taken at least one MPWW course. Most students also participate in final readings and class presentations. Unity member, Kelly Hansen Maher is a teaching artist with MPWW and says this about her work, "I believe art and words matter; they are testimony for the inherent work and dignity of every person."

July 27: Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance

The Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA) works with UUs from all over the state who want to organize for social justice change. MUUSJA seeks to bring a UU religious voice to the public square. Currently, its working groups focus on racial equality, environmental sustainability, LGBT issues, voting rights, reproductive choice, homelessness, and health care. This offering would pay for most of MUUSJA's travel expenses for one year, allowing attendance at General Assembly, and pay for staff mileage. Unity member Sherri Knuth serves on MUUSJA's board of directors and Unity member Laura Smidzik is serving as MUUSJA's Acting Executive Director until the fall of 2014.

August 3: Pfund Foundation

See June 15

August 10: Crossroads Mission-New Orleans

Crossroads Mission is a non-denominational religious organization that coordinates volunteers who come to New Orleans to help rebuild housing. They are authentically involved with many churches and neighborhoods in New Orleans to locate individuals and organizations that need help in rebuilding their housing. Crossroads Mission coordinators live from donated "salaries" from their home churches and friends. Unity Member, Don Arnosti, became a supporter of their work during his participation in the 2013 Unity Church New Orleans Pilgrimage, when Crossroads Mission was the "project facilitator" and tool-provider for the housing rebuilding project.

August 17: Teenwise Minnesota

See June 29

August 24: Minnesota Prison Writing Project

See July 20

August 31: MUUSJA

See July 27

What's New in the Library and Bookstall!

From Louise Merriam, Libraries and Bookstall Team

Although the church year has ended and the libraries and bookstall are available only after the one summer worship service, the work continues. Books are ordered, cataloged and processed for the libraries. New titles are added to the bookstall offerings. Projects continue, including cataloging the historical collection in the Anderson Library.

Recently Added to the Libraries


There are new titles for adults and children to check out or purchase during the summer. These include:

- Two volumes of poetry recommended by literary minister Karen Herring, *Tsunami Years* by Juliet Kono and *No Choice but to Follow* by Christy Passion and others. Anderson Adult Library.
- *The Myth of Race/The Reality of Racism: Critical Essays* by Mahmoud El-Kati. Anderson Adult Library.
- *Crusaders for Justice: A Chronicle of Protest by Agitators, Advocates and Activists in their Struggle for Civil and Human Rights in St. Paul, Minnesota 1802 through 1985* by Arthur C. McWatt. Anderson Adult Library.
- Children's books by Unity's very own Mike Huber that include *Rita and the Firefighters*, *All in One Day*, *The Amazing Eric* and several others. Whitman Children's Library.
- *Shoua and the Northern Lights Dragon* by Ka Vang. Whitman Children's Library.
- *The Future According to Luz*, a series of graphic novels by Claudia Davila. Whitman Children's Library.

Recently Added to the Bookstall

- *Whistling Vivaldi: How Stereotypes Affect Us and What We Can Do* by Claude M. Steele
- *Gaining Ground* by Unity's Joan Velasquez
- *Hannah, Delivered* by Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew
- *Belief without Borders: Inside the Minds of the Spiritual but not Religious* by Linda A. Mercadante
- *Meditation Illuminated: Simple Ways to Manage Your Busy Mind* by Joy Rains

Whether you buy a book at the bookstall or check out a book from one of the libraries, keep on reading!



Cairns Vol. 6 2014
 For early consideration, submit by
 June 9, 2014.
 Keep creating and submit again by the
final deadline: October 6, 2014.
*You contribute. We publish.
 The congregation is enriched.*

Cairns

The Unity Church Journal of the Arts: Vol. 6, 2014

From Shelley Butler, Cairns Editor

There are so many ways to be involved in Unity Church; new members often say it is overwhelming and I recall feeling that way myself when I joined.

With so many options, why contribute to *Cairns*?

To be heard; to share your experience, wisdom, and insight with the congregation; to give back to a church that gives us so much.

It's been said before that being in community together is a shared commitment to explore spiritual and religious terrain together. Contributing to *Cairns* is one of many opportunities for this in our church but it is the only one in which you can choose your mode of creative expression and have it published. The drawing of the cairn above was done by Connie Oace from a photo taken by Ann Hite for the first issue; it has become the *Cairns* cairn. As with others, even though Connie is now gone, her work is now a permanent part of the record of the church she loved through several issues of the journal she always supported ("Isn't it just marvelous?").

Cairns is an annual arts journal, published each December. *Cairns* is also an affirmation that your voice is important and should be heard. As Karen Hering wrote in the first issue six years ago:

We are adding to the scriptures of our world, making the witness more complete. Building new cairns along the road to mark where we have been, to remember what we've lost, to set down the stones of our wide and varied human experience, to find our way....

"The art of writing," Emerson said, "consists in putting two things together that are unlike and that belong together like a horse and a cart. Then we have somewhat more goodly and efficient than either."

No scripture is completed by what is there, by the words themselves. More important is the invitation of what lies between, the space where breath enters, where new words can follow in response and new cairns will appear along the path, old stones stacked anew, again and again and again. Like this, the horse and cart are hitched, and we move on together.

You are invited to submit your stories, photos, poems, drawings, paintings, reflections, prayers, sermons, memoir, sculpture, collage, music, lyrics, hopes and dreams, joys and sorrows. All are welcome here.

For early consideration, please submit by June 9, 2014. Final deadline: October 6, 2014. For more information, please visit the Cairns page on the Unity website or find a brochure in the kiosks at Unity or contact us, cairns@unityunitarian.org.

You contribute. We are honored to publish. The congregation is enriched.

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Pitter-pattering Questions

From K.P. Hong, Director of Religious Education

Acoustic considerations for exceptional spaces, from concert halls to cathedrals, require precise attention to the movements of sound along invisible, mysterious paths of echoes and reverberations. An echo is a reflection of sound with sufficient magnitude and delay, or reverberation time, to be perceived by the human ear. In designing concert halls, the idea is not to eliminate echoes but to choreograph and sculpt them for definition, timbre, clarity, dynamic range, dimension, envelopment, and silence. An acoustic space with too much echo sounds unclear and cluttered, as echoing interferes with new sounds. Yet a hall without any echo sounds muffled and lifeless. Concert halls typically have a reverberation time of two seconds, while cathedrals may reverberate for up to eight seconds for a less clear but more mellow, resonant sound. But whatever the space, echoes give it voice and tonal character, layering sound into song into communication into meaning. And where there is no echo, our descriptions of space, and most assuredly love, become thin and barely discernible.

So I find myself pondering echoes at the conclusion of a remarkable year of religious education. The word used by the early church for the religious education of children—*catechesis*—has at its core the Greek *ēkhē* that literally means “to echo.” The early church understood its catechesis as echoing the teachings, life, and way of Christ in their own lives; catechesis as a sort of echolocation for their own faith journey. But what exactly is echoed in our own catechism with children, given no dogma, no single authoritative text, and the non-creedal nature of Unitarian Universalist faith? Yes, the history and tradition set by remarkable forebears of the faith. Yes, the *Principles and Sources* that shape and guide the journey. But for me, beyond these and other defining matters, what echoes at the core of our catechism is something far more remarkable, demanding, and daring: that elusive and peculiar “way of being” called *covenant*. Our covenant is our catechism, our shared promises that describe the kind of faith community we aspire to be.

But what meaning and resonance does that word “covenant” have for us? Does it echo and reverberate with the high-definitional qualities of an exceptional sacred space, or is it sacerdotal jargon to be trivialized and dismissed? This matters immensely, for a *covenant* fundamentally differs from *contracts* prevalent all around us, with terms and conditions in fine print for every conceivable situation. Covenants are entered into as acts of trust rather than distrust, and there are no disinterested third parties to whom appeals can be made or brought in to adjudicate; only the same people and community with whom we are in covenant. Perhaps most outrageous of all, the question for those entering into a covenant is not whether you know what you are promising, but whether you are the kind of person who can be held to a promise made when you did not know what you were promising. How crazy is that?!

Crazy courageous, every time I think about our remarkable teachers who have embodied that covenant this year, whose catechism is the echoing of that sacred covenant in every play with children. The promises we make, knowing what we are promising, can only achieve what we know. Who would disparage that? But to step beyond into the immensity and promise of their birthright, our children require nothing less than a catechism that everywhere echoes our sacred covenant. To enable our children to hear echoes of an unconditional love and unshakable belonging, discernible even there in the cosmic echoes from the big bang itself... whatever else would teaching be?

Sharing immense gratitude and questions that pitter-patter across our sacred journeys...

UU Families Summer Potluck Gatherings

Casual potlucks with family-friendly games and an opportunity for families (adults and children) to connect around a shared desire to raise our children in this faith community. Sunday, June 8, and July 13, immediately after the 10:00 a.m. service.

Helpful Reminders!

Religious Education steps into summer with our **Summer Sundays in the Garden** program, weekly at 10:00 a.m. We are still looking for teachers to assist — no garden experience necessary — just a desire to share and learn with children. To sign up and for more information, please visit: www.unityunitarian.org/summer-sundays-in-the-garden.html

Senior Bridging is Sunday, June 8:

Families of graduating seniors will receive invitations to participate in this tradition that acknowledges our graduates and blesses them in their ongoing journey. Please contact Drew Danielson with questions: drew@unityunitarian.org // 651-228-1456 x112

Register for summer camps at Unity Church!

Chalice Camp: www.unityunitarian.org/chalice-camp.html

Arts Camp: www.unityunitarian.org/arts-camp.html

For anyone who may have missed the spring R.E. enrollment sessions for the 2014-15 church year,

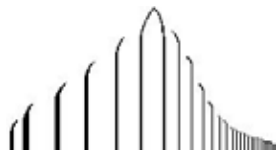
please watch for an early-September enrollment opportunity or contact KP Hong and for more information: kp@unityunitarian.org

Registration for Coming of Age

2014-15 is now online at: www.unityunitarian.org/coming-of-age-registration.html. COA is our year-long, signature spiritual growth and enrichment program for 9th graders.

Registration for Our Whole Lives

2014-15 will happen this fall following family orientations on August 27 and September 2. Families will be receiving more information soon. OWL is a year-long sexuality and spirituality program open and appropriate for grades 7-9, though most often taken in the 8th grade.



UNITY CHURCH-UNITARIAN

Sanctuary Entrance: 733 Portland Avenue • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104
Business Entrance: 732 Holly Avenue • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104
651-228-1456 • fax: 651-228-0927 • www.unityunitarian.org • unity@unityunitarian.org

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**TIME SENSITIVE
MATERIAL**

Fill out the Unity Church 2014 Congregational Survey online today!

We need to hear from you!

The 2014 congregational survey (<http://tiny.cc/ucu2014survey>) is on-line and waiting for you to tell the Board of Trustees how you feel about this religious community, the work we are doing, and its impact on your life and the lives of others. The survey is our board's essential tool to evaluate our progress on our mission. We need to hear from everyone for the information we gather to be meaningful and effective. The deadline is June 15.

The Children's Garden

Unity's children will be planting, weeding, watering, harvesting and tasting in the Children's Garden on Sundays all summer long while their parents are in services. We expect to grow plenty of produce to share with neighbors in need too.

Volunteer Opportunity

We are looking for adults and youth to help teach on Sundays in the summer. A willingness to share a love of the out-of-doors in general and gardens and food in particular with children is all that is required. Online sign up: <http://bit.ly/gardenteachers>

Donations Needed

The Children's Garden seeks extra seed and plants as well as produce containers (what strawberries come in) for packaging our donations. Contact Anna Newton at 651-483-2986 or newtona@comcast.net if you have something to donate, or for more information.

