

Brokenness

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.

There's an oft-told story about Buddhist teacher Ajahn Chah who was discussing impermanence with some students. At its most basic, the teaching tells us that all things will change, and that much of the suffering we experience in life is due to our attachment to things and our resistance to the fact of their eventual change. In the course of the conversation, one of the students commented on how even in the midst of this teaching Ajahn Chah himself was attached to the glass he was drinking out of. It's said that Ajahn Chah replied by noting that what the student had said was true — that he did enjoy the glass he was drinking out of. He then continued, saying, "This is my favorite glass, but I do not cling to it, because to me this glass is already broken. I know that my time with it is temporary and precious. So I enjoy this glass while it lasts, but I am fully aware that eventually it will fall from the shelf or be knocked over and shatter. And when that happens I will say 'of course.'"

This month's theme of brokenness invites us into reflection on the impermanence of much of what makes up the world around us. We know that we won't live forever, that someday, the bodies we inhabit will wither, break, or otherwise cease to sustain our lives. It's likely that for many of us, the idea that our bodies are impermanent isn't much of a surprise. What does feel surprising for many is how shaky our society feels at the moment. With the rise of "fake news," a slide toward radical relativism where "anything goes" and "it's just my opinion," an election that was almost certainly hacked and could well be hacked again, and with the emergence of #MeToo, it is easy to feel that our society may have reached a breaking point. And yet, as Pema Chödrön puts

so beautifully in "When Things Fall Apart:" "When things are shaky and nothing is working, we might realize that we are on the verge of something. We might realize that this is a very vulnerable and tender place, and that tenderness can go either way. We can shut down and feel resentful or we can touch in on that throbbing quality."

With brokenness come images of healing and repair. Many of us have seen photographs of Kintsugi —shattered Japanese pottery repaired with gold. Many of us are well familiar with the idea, popularized by Leonard Cohen that "there's a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in." This orientation toward healing and repair tells one story about brokenness. It suggests that in the breaking, there is something positive, some growth or change on the other side of suffering. In doing so, it also backs us into a bit of a theological corner as we find ourselves face to face with atonement by suffering. It's a corner because many of us reject the idea that through suffering we atone for our wrongs and make ourselves open to reconciliation, and certainly many are unsettled by the Christian overtones of such a notion. And yet the idea of atonement through suffering is deeply rooted in our culture. We may reject the theology of atonement through suffering, but like it or not the old stories call us and when we turn to brokenness, we can't help but answer their call.

As we answer that call, we can't help but notice that if we only focus on our individual brokenness and healing, we'll miss the larger invitation of brokenness which asks us to look at the wider world. When we pull back, we're invited to ask what's permanent and what's transient about the society and the culture we live in. Here, the

permanent isn't the actually permanent; we know that all things change. Yet the idea of "the permanent" orients us toward the enduring values that find themselves renewed and recreated age after age. This then points us toward the transient, and we can't help but wonder if the transient shouldn't be broken on purpose, and if we shouldn't have a hand in it. To get concrete about it, our values of freedom, our belief in reason, our need for diversity, and our commitment to relationship and interdependence are some of the enduring values of a free faith that need to be renewed generation to generation. The transient are things like white supremacy, patriarchy, the narrow constraints of a single story or a dogmatic way of understanding the world. Each of these has been part of our free faith in the past. Each of these has been or is being undone so that the permanent may flourish more fully.

In this cycle of breaking and remaking, things may feel shaky. It may feel like much about our democracy is broken. It may equally feel like we're called to break what needs breaking, and renew what needs renewing. To paraphrase Baby Suggs in Toni Morrison's *Beloved* "the only grace we can have is the grace we can imagine. If we can't see it, we can't have it." We are on the verge of something. Our task is to sit in the brokenness of the world, awaken our collective prophetic imagination, and help to cast a new way ahead.

This glass is already broken as this world is already broken. Let us love it immensely.

Hallman Ministerial Intern Arif Mamdani with this month's theme team: Janne Eller-Isaacs, Rob Eller-Isaacs, Lisa Friedman, KP Hong, Andrea Johnson

Just Words



Ritual Intelligence

What is ritual intelligence? It is the understanding that moods and feelings can be woven and encouraged through particular rituals and worship services. When we came to Unity Church we were told that the congregation was not a clapping group. They honored the worship service by receiving it in referent silence. Though exceptions were made, like when the Children's Choir sang or one of the choirs sang something that "blew the roof off." Now, applause often occurs at the end of the service. I believe that there are times when applause in worship is absolutely appropriate. It depends on the mood and the feeling in the room. It is fine to clap when the mood is exuberant, but it can also alter the mood when there is power to receive and silence is the best way to do that.

Scientists of group behavior have documented a communal response known as limbic resonance. It occurs when a group is in sync with one another. This phenomenon has been studied in Sweden as they monitored its particular effect on choirs. The scientists were not surprised when they discovered that the groups coordinated their breathing, but they were startled to discover that their heart beats also synchronized. I know that when worship is effective, there is a synergy that gets created that nourishes us invisibly. Our energy flows between and among, and it feeds us. It doesn't really matter whether the content of the service is meant to be serious or joyful, the result can be the same. Though studies show that laughter is one of the most effective way to create limbic resonance.

I hope that we will grow in our ritual literacy so that we can learn to gage the mood and respond appropriately. It is fine to express joy. Just last Sunday the congregation spontaneously spoke out and or applauded when Alex Askew, the worship associate, delivered his reflection on coming out as a gay man. As Alex spoke, you could feel the congregation listening to him with compassion and care. The applause was absolutely loving and joyful and it was a gift to be a part of that.

There are times, however, when the power of what has occurred musically just needs to be held and felt. When we have the courage to do this, then the feelings and the power of the moment grows.

A few years ago, I was honored to officiate at a memorial service for a community leader. Sharon Vaughan Rice had been a major mover and shaker in St. Paul. Her family and friends wanted 23 people to speak at her service and they also demanded that we not have any music. I encouraged them to cut down on the speakers. "They will stop listening." And once I explained that music provided the place where the soul could rest or grieve in a memorial service, they agreed to allow music.

Music provides the space for us to rest and be restored, inspired and encouraged. Let us learn together how better to worship with all our senses wide open, and then the spirit can soar.

— Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs

Summer Fun at Unity Church!

CHALICE CAMP and CHALICE KIDS

Fun and community during the entire month of July. Turn to page 13.

The Wheel of Life

In Memoriam

Jane Bose

Helener Currier

August 29, 1921 –

February 1, 2018

In Celebration

Severin Peterson

and Stephanie Hagen

Married January 20, 2018

Isaac Joseph Schicker

born one more redeemer

February 14, 2018

to parents Teresa and Nick Schicker

Brokenness Theme Resources

MOVIES

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri (2017)

A mother personally challenges the local authorities to solve her daughter's murder when they fail to catch the culprit.

Good Will Hunting (1997)

Will Hunting, a janitor at M.I.T., has a gift for mathematics, but needs help from a psychologist to find direction in his life.

BOOKS

Broken for You by Stephanie Kallos

When Things Fall Apart by Pema Chodron

Finding Beauty in a Broken World by Terry Tempest Williams

Lion and the Bird by Marianne Dubuc (children's story)

MARCH SUNDAY WORSHIP / OFFERING RECIPIENTS

Sunday Worship

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

March 4: By Way of Pain

In the seminal book *Man's Search for Meaning*, psychologist and Holocaust survivor Dr. Victor Frankl writes about the universality of human suffering. He suggests that we all experience pain and suffering. The unique opportunity rests in the way we bear our burdens. Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs and worship associate Bryan Smith will approach how we live with those burdens.

March 11: Our Golden Calves • Story Sunday

Religious liberals tend to lack humility. But despite our attitudes of smug superiority, we too fall into idolatry. What exactly are our golden calves? What idols do we need to shatter if we are to break through into wholeness and compassion? Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs and worship associate Angela Wilcox will help us get some sense of what transient forms we need to break.

On Story Sundays, children in grades 1-8 begin in worship with the congregation in the Sanctuary. After the opening hymn, prayers, and A Story for All Ages, Rotations children (grades 1-5) proceed with their Journey Guides to classrooms for religious education programming while junior high youth (grades 6-8) remain in the Sanctuary for the entire worship service.

March 18: Crossing into Wholeness

We are, all of us, living through threshold times — globally, nationally, as a congregation, and many of us individually. In the midst of so much change, when attachments and assumptions are often broken open, Karen and worship associate Suzanne Quinn MacDonald will consider how we might make these passages from the “no longer” into the “not yet” in ways that lead to greater wholeness. The service will include the congregational blessing of the 2018 Thresholds group and others crossing thresholds.

March 25: Palm Sunday, Walking Towards Jerusalem

At the heart of Christian theology is the belief that Jesus's sacrifice atoned for all our sins. On this Palm Sunday, Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs and worship associate Alex Askew will wrestle with the concept of atonement through suffering.



Offering Recipients

Each Sunday, thirty percent of the offering goes to support the Community Outreach Ministry at Unity Church and seventy percent is given to a chosen community non-profit recipient. Please make checks payable to Unity Church.

March 4: MUUSJA

MUUSJA's (Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance) mission is to unleash courageous leadership and collective power to build a just and loving world. Its primary goal is to grow the capacity of Minnesota UU individuals and congregations. To that end, MUUSJA provides a variety of presentations and trainings along with online justice webinars and covenant groups, all of which give MUUSJA a statewide reach. In the past year MUUSJA facilitated public witness at Standing Rock, PRIDE, and Black Lives Matter. Unity Church member Sherri Knuth serves as board co-chair for MUUSJA.

March 11: MORE

MORE is a multicultural, community-based organization providing refugees and immigrants with the education and support they seek to become fully engaged members of our community. MORE's target areas are economic opportunity and security, English education/workforce readiness, and family support. Today's collection will go to MORE's social services program which facilitates navigation through medical, welfare, housing, legal, and educational systems. Unity Church member Cathy Rucci serves as MORE's Executive Director.

March 18: SPIN

SPIN's (St. Paul Interfaith Network) mission is to assist congregations and religious communities in building a culture of dialogue, respect, and cooperation across different religious, cultural, and spiritual traditions. Healing Minnesota Stories, a SPIN initiative, focuses on Minnesota's Indigenous Peoples, aiming to help faith communities encounter stories of both trauma and healing in Native communities. SPIN provides native-led tours to sacred sites and arranges multi-faith congregational and community dialogues. Today's collection will provide honoraria for Native leaders working with SPIN. Unity Church member Tom Duke is the coordinator for SPIN and a co-convenor for Healing Minnesota Stories.

March 25: ARTS-Us

ARTS-Us is a community-based after school program founded in 1992 by a group of African American artists and educators. Located in the Dunning Recreation Center on Marshall Avenue, ARTS-Us allows kids to engage in physical and educational activities that encourage self-expression and confidence. With African American culture at its core and in collaboration with artists, educators, and members of other backgrounds and cultures, ARTS-Us offers “edutainment” programs along with cultural performances and art resources to schools, businesses, and civic groups. Today's collection will purchase materials for the ARTS-Us after-school program.

HERITAGE SOCIETY / ORDINATION / GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Join the Heritage Society

Leave a Legacy for Future Generations at Unity Church

From Barbara Hubbard, Executive Director

Legacy giving is an intentional act that leaves a lasting legacy in your name and sustains the powerful work of this church for generations to come. A legacy gift is a designation from your estate to a charitable organization. Your "estate" is the sum of your assets, including property you own, insurance policies, retirement accounts, cash on hand, etc. Wealthy people may have large estates, but people who aren't wealthy often have the resources to make a legacy gift.

There are many gift possibilities. Each of these gifts allows flexibility, though some requirements apply, and you always retain the right to amend your estate plans.

- A charitable bequest in your last will and testament can be a specific amount or a percentage of what remains after providing for your heirs.
- A life insurance designation names Unity Church of St. Paul as owner or beneficiary of the policy.
- Retirement plan assets name the church as a beneficiary of an IRA, 401(k), 403(b), profit sharing or other retirement plan.
- Other types of legacy gifts include gift annuities, life-estate agreements, and charitable remainder trusts.



By making a legacy gift to Unity Church you will be joining over 200 others who have committed to supporting the church into the future. Our annual Heritage Society Dinner on Friday, May 18, is the church's way of thanking those individuals who have made legacy gifts.

If you have already made a legacy gift to Unity Church (but haven't told us!), if you are in the process of making a gift, or if you would like more information about legacy gift possibilities, please contact Executive Director, Barbara Hubbard, at barbarah@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x116. We have individuals on our Legacy Team who would be happy to advise you in your considerations.

We would love to have you join our Heritage Society!

You are invited to attend the ordination of
Terri Anetta Burnor
into the Unitarian Universalist Ministry

Saturday, March 10, 2018
at 3:00 pm Central Time
(Clergy, candidates and aspirants gather at 2:30 pm)

Ordaining Congregation:
Church of the Larger Fellowship

Hosted by First Universalist Church,
3400 Dupont Ave S, Minneapolis, MN
& Streaming Online

Please RSVP to terriburnor@gmail.com

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI | 2018

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JUNE 20-24, 2018

General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend! If you are interested in serving as a delegate for Unity Church, please contact Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x107.

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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2017-18 MINISTERIAL INTERNS

Hallman Ministerial Intern: Arif Mamdani



Daily spiritual practice, an (almost) daily trip to the gym, Sunday worship in the sanctuary, and regular one on one moments of connection with people I care about — add all that up and you've got my recipe for "finding and keeping my balance" as we say on Sunday mornings. What's yours?

These last several weeks, a small group of us — sometimes eight, sometimes 15, sometimes more, sometimes less, have been gathering on Wednesday nights in the Robbins Parlor to work our way through the 12-week Faith Forward curriculum on Spiritual Practices. Through these sessions, we've been introduced to the idea that our spiritual lives are made up of daily practice, weekly worship, monthly service, a yearly retreat, and a once in a lifetime pilgrimage. In the course of our time together, we've had the chance to learn and practice a variety of spiritual practices. Also, and perhaps more importantly, we've become a community of practice with and for each other, sharing our experiences with the practices we're working with, supporting each other in the obstacles that inevitably crop up in our spiritual lives, and learning together how to better listen to and follow the still small voice inside.

So, wonderful as this may be, you're probably wondering why I'm sharing this with you.

One reason is that I'm hoping you'll consider joining one of the many opportunities here at Unity Church and in the wider community to deepen an existing spiritual practice, or learn a new one. Here at Unity, we encourage spiritual practice because we know that in our busy lives, robust spiritual practice is a key way to stay connected to and grounded in the values and beliefs that help us live lives of integrity, service, and joy. Equally important though is the community that forms in classes like the Spiritual Practices class, our meditation sangha, or other opportunities for collective practice.

And that's the other reason I'm sharing this. In the article "The Transformative Power of Practices," Ng'ethe Maina and Staci Haines write, "We are all practicing something... Are we conscious of what we're practicing?" This matters because any kind of personal or collective change, be it patters of racism and white supremacy or patterns of patriarchy require that we bring to the forefront behaviors that were previously unconscious. My contention (and a handful of studies support this), is that spiritual practice can help us change our habits above and beyond the spiritual practice itself because they build our ability to inhabit our lives more consciously.

So, as we work together to create a world that reflects the values and beliefs we hold in our hearts, I invite you to dedicate, or rededicate yourself to spiritual practices that connect you more deeply to what you care about, and that help you to inhabit your life with more awareness, that we might build our ability to practice in the world what we long for in our hearts. See you at church!

Ministerial Intern: Andrea Johnson



On the Tuesday before the Super bowl a call was sent out to all Twin City area UU ministers asking if we'd be willing to show up for a direct action that the Black Visions Collective (the new incarnation of the Minneapolis Black Lives Matter chapter) was planning for Super Bowl Sunday. The call was a clear ask: would we white folks be willing to risk arrest and literally use our bodies as shields, by shutting down the light rail, to create a safer environment so the message of The Black Visions Collective could be centered and heard? After consulting with my family, my ministerial internship committee, and the ministers here, I decided to say yes and answer the call of love that my faith compels.

My Christian roots call me to follow Jesus' teaching of loving God by loving our neighbor and his example of being in solidarity with the least of these. My Unitarian Universalist faith proclaims that we spring from a common source and share a common destiny, and offers the promise of shared salvation for ALL. This inclusive faith without a creed is reflected in the first and seventh principles of our association. If I truly believe that every person is sacred and worthy of dignity (1st Principle), and if I accept that we are all in this together — one human family, one planet, one common destiny (7th Principle) then I am called to embrace my neighbor's full humanity and to listen to their truths and experiences and let them shape my soul as we work together to create a world that is worthy of our children's common destinies.

The message (see video <https://vimeo.com/254334251>) the Black Visions Collective delivered that day was a powerful one. They demanded that we divest from policing and big events for a few and invest in communities of color and Trans folks who are in vastly more need than the people sitting in the stadium. They demanded we treat sex workers as victims and end the cash bail system that makes poverty a crime. They will not stop until our city is not just safe but full of joy and possibility. They invited us to imagine a different future where there is a roof over every head; where black children can dream big and can live free and healthy lives; where black bodies are not used as currency on the field, in prisons or in wars.

Being with this collective during the three days of training it took to prepare for the action changed me. I now know it's possible to build the world we say we want to build. There we were — a multi-racial, multi-cultural, intergenerational group of folks who had never met one another before but who developed trust, followed Black leadership, and took risks for justice we had never imagined possible. As we stood there, arms locked across the rail lines, we also witnessed joy: The Collective singing, dancing, and demanding of their full humanity.

WELCOME WORDS / FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Welcome Words

Rev. Lisa Friedman, Minister of Congregational and Community Engagement



Our Universalist ancestors preached a big tent embrace of humanity. I recently came across this quote from the Rev. Gordon "Bucky" McKeeman written in 1959: "The hallmark of Universalism, as I see it, [enables] us to include peoples of vastly different points of view within our church and our concern, without

demanding conformity to creed, cult, culture or method; ... to insist that there is always hope, never final despair, absolute alienation or damnation; to value rational and non-rational approaches to Universalism. In an era of paralyzing fear and crippling anxiety, this religious point of view is to me of crucial importance." His words resonate today and I am grateful for this faith which teaches me both to honor difference and to share a larger hope. What does a big tent embrace of humanity mean to you? See you in church!

Pathway to Membership Classes

Sign up for Pathway to Membership classes at the Welcome Table on Sundays or contact Rev. Lisa Friedman, Minister of Congregational and Community Engagement, 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 request at least one week in advance.

Finding Yourself at Unity: A Deeper Inquiry

Finding Yourself at Unity is offered on a regular basis on Sundays, from 10:15-11:15 a.m., in the Ames Chapel. These sessions can be attended in the order that works for you and will offer participants the opportunity to share part of their 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. Childcare is available in the nursery.

March 4: Religious Education for Children and Youth
March 11: Pastoral Care
March 18: Q & A with a Minister
March 25: UU History, Principles, and Sources

Committing to Unity: Joining Unity Church

Tuesday, March 6 • 7:00-9:00 p.m. ~ also offered ~
Saturday, May 5 • 9:30-11:30 a.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 finding the place where the world's needs meet the gifts you have to offer. The class concludes with a celebration ceremony as participants sign the membership book.

Fellowship Groups

Groups are open to all members and friends of Unity Church.

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

Caregivers Group: An informal support group for caregivers. Third Thursday of the month (March 15) from noon-2:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at janne@unityunitarian.org

Elders Circle: Meets the third Tuesday of the month (March 20) from 1:00-3:00 p.m., in the Center Room. This month Jeannine Robinett will teach the health benefits of Tai Chi

Evergreen Quilters: Second Tuesday of the month (March 13) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and fourth Saturday of the month (March 24) from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Contact: Peggy Wright at 651-698-2760

Kung Fu: Saturday mornings in the Body Room from 10:00 a.m.-noon. Recommended for ages 15 and older. Contact Bryan Kujawski at barney.kujawski@gmail.com

LGBTQ+ Group: First Sunday of the month (March 4) from 12:30-2:00 p.m. and the third Sunday of the month (March 18) from 6:30-8:00 p.m. All are welcome!

Living With Grief Group: For people living with grief and loss. Third Tuesday of the month (March 20) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at janne@unityunitarian.org

Men's Retirement Group: Monday, March 12 and 26, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact: Phil Morton at 952-934-3578

New Look at the Bible: Second Thursday of the month (March 8) at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528

Textile Arts Group: Meets the first and third Thursdays of each month (March 1 and 15), from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Bring your knitting, embroidery, needlepoint, etc. Contact: Linda Mandeville at lindamandeville41@gmail.com

Unity Book Club: Second Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Contact Jack Hawthorne at jack.hawthorne@comcast.net. March 13: *White Rage, The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide* by Carol Anderson

UU History Book Club: Third Wednesday of the month (March 21) at 7:00 p.m. March discussion: *Fruitlands* by Richard Francis

Women In Retirement: This group meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month (March 8 and 22), from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org

Young Adult Group (ages 18-35, approximately) is open to all newcomers. Meetings are held every other Thursday, 7:30-9:00 p.m. (March 1, 15, 29) Email kp@unityunitarian.org to be added to the email list.

Zen Meditation: Find renewal and grounding. Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m., in the Ames Chapel. Instruction offered on March 6 at 5:00 p.m. Contact KP Hong at kp@unityunitarian.org.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Danny Givens, Jr., pictured with Rob and Janne Eller-Isaacs and Lisa Friedman

Danny Givens, Jr.

What does it mean to become a member of Unity Church? Unity has been my sanctuary, a place where I can be my full self as a Christian while building community with the larger tapestry of faith.

Becky Gonzalez-Campoy

Rebecca grew up in the First Unitarian Church of Duluth. Mom, wife, and medical clinic administrator, my other loves are reading, writing and practicing yoga. The need to find a meaningful way to respond to today's abnormal world brings me back to my roots and to Unity Church.



Becky Gonzalez-Campoy

Mentoring at Unity

A Path to Deeper Connection

Unity Church has a mentor program available to all visitors and new members. A mentor serves as a guide and a resource in the congregation. They pledge to meet at least once a month face to face, and be available for ongoing questions and advice for at least six months. Each mentor/mentee team can decide what is most helpful — to have a buddy with whom to attend services and events, or a partner with whom to discuss Unitarian Universalism and each other's spiritual journeys, and more.

If you have questions, or would like to request a mentor, please stop by the Welcome Table in the Parish Hall on Sundays or contact Rev. Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x107.

Anne Morgan, Michelle O'Brien, Marla and John Simmet



Anne Morgan

Anne returned home to Minnesota after 32 years in San Diego where her last business enterprise was headhunting for the wind energy and solar power industries. Approaching retirement, Anne cashed in her California real estate and moved back to Minnesota where she continues to do career transition coaching. A lifelong United Methodist, Anne discovered Unity Church through Barbara Hubbard. She quickly found that she'd probably been a Unitarian Universalist all along, finding great comfort and ease with the covenantal doctrine of Unitarian Universalism.

Michelle O'Brien

Michelle O'Brien lives in St. Paul's Highland Park neighborhood with her daughter Meghan. She works as a family physician at HealthPartners Health Center for Women. Michelle chose to join Unity Church because of the focus on social justice and the support for families.

Marla and John Simmet

Marla and John live in Woodbury where they raised their family. John is now semi-retired after operating a family business. Marla continues to use her counseling skills as a volunteer. Together they love to dote on their grandsons and travel as much as they can. They feel they have found a spiritual home here at Unity Church.

Bond of Fellowship

As those who believe in religion,

*As those who believe in freedom,
fellowship, and character in religion,*

*As those who believe that the
religious life means the thankful,
trustful, loyal and helpful life, and*

*As those who believe that a church
is a community of helpers, wherein it
is made easier to lead such a life;*

*We join ourselves together, name,
hand, and heart, as members of
Unity Church.*

— William Channing Gannett,
March 9, 1879, adapted

WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY

Wellspring Wednesday is a multi-generational opportunity to gather midweek at church for food, fellowship, and fun. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m., worship in the Ames Chapel at 6:45 p.m., and programming begins at 7:10 p.m. Childcare is available and you do not have to sign up in advance.

MARCH 7

A Step Toward Reconciliation: How One Congregation Apologized for Racism with Reverend Sharon K. Dittmar

In 2001 the UUA, Northern Hills Fellowship, and First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati and its minister, the Reverend Sharon K. Dittmar, formally apologized to over 100 descendants of the Reverend W. H. G. and Beulah Carter during Sunday worship services. In the 1930s, the UUA and local Unitarian congregations and clergy shunned Carter due to his race and the location of the congregation. How did First Unitarian Church prepare themselves for something some did not want to address? How did they earn the interest of the Carter family? What changed when multiple stories were connected? What can we learn from this event fifteen years later while striving to dismantle systematic white supremacy? www.uuworld.org/articles/a-step-toward-racial-reconciliation

Singing Together with Brenna Everson

Do you love or long to sing? This is pure fun, no performance. You'll learn songs by oral tradition — no instruments (except your voice) and no music in front of you. By the end of three sessions, you'll walk away with songs in your pocket.

Spiritual Practice: Hospitality and Belonging

This ongoing course offers participants the opportunity to develop regular practices of the spirit, helping them connect with the sacred. Each session focuses on a particular practice and provides a forum for learning and sharing.

New Family Religious Education Orientation

Led by Director of Religious Education KP Hong, this session is for families new to Unity Church who would like to learn more about religious education for children and youth.

Above Every Name Soul Session

Join Pastor Danny Givens, Jr., and members of Above Every Name for a soulful journey through scripture in the Bible.

Embodied Spiritual Practice

Join Yogi Gabe Brindle for Wellspring Wednesday Yoga. Classes this month blend yoga asana (postures) and therapeutic-in-nature somatic movements. The intention of our practice will be to unite the mind, body, and spirit in order to maintain balance throughout our daily lives. All levels of yoga experience and all body types are honored. Bring a yoga mat.

Learn and Play Go

Join Unity Church member Bob Ruud for an evening of learning and playing the Chinese Board game, Go. Anyone above the age of 10 is welcome to play.

Tween Group: Grades 5-7

MARCH 14

Open Page Writing Session with Rev. Karen Hering

***How the Light Gets In* • 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

We'll explore the places where we experience the world or ourselves as broken, and consider how we can find our way to wholeness. How is brokenness healed? And how does it sometimes open us to the truth and the light we are seeking?

Community Singing with Brenna Everson

Spiritual Practice Class: Work and Service

Above Every Name Soul Session

Embodied Spiritual Practice: Yoga

Learn and Play Go

Tween Group: Grades 5-7

MARCH 21

Testimony: How Unitarian Universalism Transforms Lives: A Book Reading with Rev. Meg Riley, Senior Minister of the Church of the Larger Fellowship

Testimony is a new Skinner House anthology filled with personal stories from Unitarian Universalists. This evening will be a discussion of how personal testimonies are more powerful than "elevator talks" to introduce our faith to more people. That is, rather than describe what we believe, we testify about what difference Unitarian Universalism has made in our life. There will be a mixture of sharing voices from the book and inviting participants to practice telling their own stories of transformation. Co-sponsored by Unity's Library & Bookstall Team.

UU History Book Club

An exploration of theology and heritage. March's discussion is on *Fruitlands* by Richard Francis.

Community Singing with Brenna Everson

Spiritual Practice: Retreat and Pilgrimage

Above Every Name Soul Session

Embodied Spiritual Practice: Yoga

Learn and Play Go

Tween Group: Grades 5-7

MARCH 28

Better Angels: Bridging the Red/Blue Divide in Communities

We may live in the most divisive time since the 1850s. In this session you will see how people with very different political viewpoints can come to understand one another beyond stereotypes and find common ground. You will learn a couple of specific skills for talking with loved ones on the other political side. And you will have a chance to link up with the Better Angels local and national effort to show how we can have sharp political differences without denigrating and demonizing one another. Bill Doherty is a Unity Church member, University of Minnesota Professor, and co-founder of Better Angels, a nonprofit aiming to depolarize America.

Spiritual Practice Class: Life as Spiritual Practice

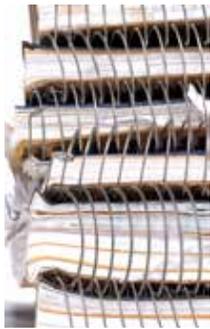
Above Every Name Soul Session

Embodied Spiritual Practice

Learn and Play Go

Tween Group: Grades 5-7

Open Page Writing Sessions



Led by Consulting Literary Minister Karen Hering, Open Page writing sessions are opportunities to correspond with the "still, small voice within." Using stories, poetry, images and objects as well as wisdom from religious teachings, science and history, participants reflect on the month's theme in their own words and on their own pages. No writing experience is necessary.

All sessions are free and are held at Unity Church. Please email karen@unityunitarian.org if you plan to attend.

How the Light Gets In: Writing about Brokenness Wednesday, March 14 • 7:00-8:30 p.m.

"There is a crack in everything," observed Leonard Cohen. "That's how the light gets in." We'll explore the places where we experience the world or ourselves as broken, and consider how we can find our way to wholeness. How is brokenness healed? And how does it sometimes open our lives and our world to the truth and the light we are seeking?

Welcoming Transformation

Wednesday, April 18 • 7:00-8:30 p.m.

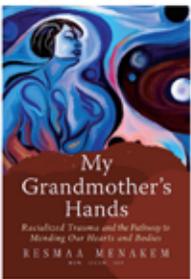
Wendell Berry poetically pays homage to the continual transformation occurring in the natural world: "bud opening to flower / opening to fruit opening / to the sweet marrow / of the seed." How might we too witness and pay homage to the transformation occurring within our lives? We'll pause to notice the transformative forces moving within our hearts and within our world.

Choosing Hope

Wednesday, May 16 • 7:00-8:30 p.m.

"Hope is not merely an emotion that comes and goes. It is a virtue, resulting from a conscious, deliberate choice and long practice," says writer Mary McDermott Shideler. Where do we find hope in the world today, and how might we choose it and practice it?

The 2018 Unity Congregation Book Read



My Grandmother's Hands

Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies

Book Discussions:

- Feb. 28 @ 7:10 pm
- March 4 @ 12:30 pm

Last chance to participate in discussion!

Meet the Author: Spring TBA

Available in the Bookstall and Anderson Library



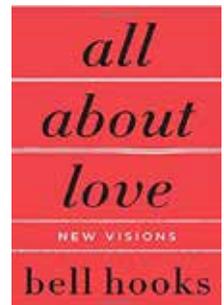
In the Library, Bookstall and Pulpit

All About Love: New Visions by Bell Hooks
William Morrow, New edition 2018.

As the title indicates, we want to live in a culture where love can flourish. We yearn to end the lovelessness that is so pervasive in our society. This book tells us how to return to love. *All About Love: New Visions* provides radical new ways to think about the art of loving, offering a hopeful, joyous vision of love's transformative power. It lets us know what we must do to love again.

Gathering love's wisdom, it lets us know what we must do to be touched by love's grace. —From the Introduction.

In the Anderson Library (second floor, Eliot Wing) and the Unity Bookstall (open Sunday mornings in the Parish Hall), and mentioned in Janne's excellent February 11, 2018, sermon, "Transformative Love."



Spring 2018 Literary Festival of Events

Sunday, March 4, 12:30 p.m.: The 2018 Unity Congregation Book Read Discussion of *My Grandmother's Hands*. Watch for notices of author appearances this spring and summer.



Wednesday, March 21, 7:10 p.m.: Author and Church of the Larger Fellowship Senior Minister Meg Riley reads from her new book, *Testimony: The Transformative Power of Unitarian Universalism*, Skinner House, 2017.

Friday, April 20, 7:00 p.m.: The 10th Anniversary Café Unity Poetry and Music Salon! Contact us if you are interested in reading, performing, or volunteering for this showcase of Unity's literary and musical talents: library@unityunitarian.org.

Tuesday, May 15, 7:00 p.m.: Unity's own Susan Bartlett Foote reads from her important new book, *The Crusade for Forgotten Souls: Reforming Minnesota's Mental Institutions, 1946-1954*, UM Press, 2018.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The 2018 Legislative Session

Why State Bonding is Important to All of Us

From Unity's Sustainable Living Team

The state of Minnesota sells bonds to pay for *major* capital projects — construction or renovation of buildings and facilities and the purchase of land. Key legislative work in 2018, the second year of the biennium, will include consideration of a capital bonding bill.

Early action is focused on the House Capital Investment Committee since bonding bills must originate in the House. If you have a little time, listening in on this committee is a fascinating way to spend a couple hours. You will hear compelling presentations about crumbling university and state-owned buildings, failing water systems in small towns, and projects of key importance to cities small and large.

Governor Dayton released his bonding proposal in January. His \$1.4 billion list of projects includes \$542 million for colleges, universities, and technical college buildings across the state. **Additionally, it includes a number of social justice and environmental priorities including:**

- \$100 million for affordable housing for non-profit housing providers
- \$162 million for aid to cities that are rehabilitating water and wastewater systems
- \$30 million for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program for purchase of easements on farms to protect water quality, primarily in the Minnesota River Valley
- \$52 million for testing and clean-up at a closed landfill adjacent to the Minnesota River in Burnsville
- \$50 million for a new bus garage for Metro Transit and \$50 million for busway projects

A major difference between the Governor's proposal and a likely Republican bonding bill will be the size — with the Republican's calling for a smaller bill.

Please communicate with your legislators and the Governor about the size of the bill and your bonding priorities.

If you want to attend a hearing in person, the House Capital Investment Committee meets Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m. in room 5 of the State Office Building (starting after February 20). An easy way to get to the House, Senate, or Capitol is the Green Line Light Rail.

You can also watch hearings on your home computer or on public television. You can learn more on the legislature web site <https://www.leg.state.mn.us/> Many more details about the Governor's bonding proposal can be found at <https://mn.gov/governor/>.

Upcoming meetings of the Sustainable Living Team are March 13 at 7:00 p.m., and March 25 at 10:15 a.m.

Gun Sense Ministry Team Update

From Barbara Ford, Gun Sense Ministry Team

For nearly 30 years, it was my privilege to teach first grade in St. Paul. First grade is a time of dramatic growth in self-awareness and cognitive skills — do you remember learning to read? Six-year-olds are eager to experience life, doing many things for the first time. (One child said to me, "This is the best **A** I have made in my **WHOLE LIFE!!**) They learn to navigate the social scene and to trust people outside their immediate families. What a challenge it was, some years ago, to explain to these young children that we would practice a new kind of drill: the Lockdown Drill. Doors locked, lights turned off, window shades pulled, children silently on the floor in an area farthest from windows. "Why?" they asked. "To keep us safe in case a dangerous person gets into the school," I responded. It was a lesson I wished my trusting students did not need to learn.

Our Unity Gun Sense Ministry Team is committed to making our schools, churches, and public spaces safer by encouraging sensible gun policies that will make it more difficult for people who wish to harm others to have possession of guns. Many Unity Church members and friends joined other concerned communities at the State Capitol on February 22 to talk with our legislators and raise awareness of the need for thoughtful laws relating to gun violence.

Now that the Legislature is in session, the Gun Sense Ministry Team will have information about pending bills such as *Stand Your Ground* that would endanger many in our community. Stop by the table in the Parish Hall to get ideas for contacting your legislator. Together, we can make Minnesota a safer place for everyone.

For information about joining Unity's Gun Sense Ministry Team or supporting the work of the team, please contact Sue Conner at sue.conner@comcast.net or Joan Duke at joanduke@comcast.net. To learn more about statewide efforts for a safer Minnesota, visit www.protectmn.org.



Food Shelf Donations

There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread.

— Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)

Hallie Q. Brown, the food shelf supported by Unity Church members and friends, distributes 25 pounds of food per month, per qualified family member. Last year they distributed 568,183 pounds, 25 pounds at a time. This year they have served over 19,000 people in the neighborhood.

Food shelf collection trunks are located at the Holly and Portland Avenue entrances. Non-perishable food, toiletries, and pet food are all gratefully accepted.



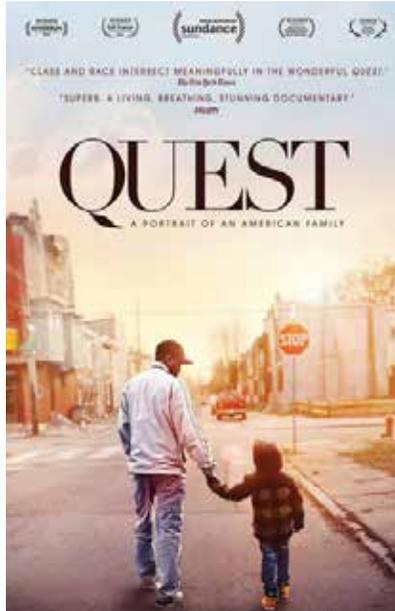
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Racial Justice Movie Night

QUEST: A Portrait of an American Family

Friday, March 9 • 7:00 p.m. • Robbins Parlor
Join Unity Church members and friends for an ongoing film series to further our growth in the understanding and challenging of white supremacy and structural racism. Popcorn will be served and there will be time for conversation after the film.

The *New York Times* review begins: "Barack Obama is not the subject of *Quest*, Jonathan Olshefski's new documentary, an intimate and patient portrait of a North Philadelphia family. But the film, which begins and ends with presidential elections — Mr. Obama's in 2008 and his successor's eight years later — is shadowed, in some ways haunted, by his presence and his temperament. At one point, he appears on television, in the wake of the massacre of school children and their teachers in Newtown, Connecticut. 'These neighborhoods are our neighborhoods,' he says, referring to the places that have been devastated by gun violence. 'These children are our children.'"



Pick Up Your Pi Day Pie! Thank you for your support!

Pick up your pie! If you ordered a pie during Unity's Rainbow Chalice Alliance annual Pi(e) Day Bake Sale, pies will be available for pick up on Sunday, March 11, after each service. Your pie purchases make it possible for RCA to support Q-Quest (a yearly festival for LGBTQA youth) as well as help fund Queer Prom and Youth Pride.



Book Fair at Obama School

Purchasing books for your own children and friends would be an easy way to support the scholars at Obama Elementary school. Obama's Scholastic Book Fair will be open on Thursday, March 15, between 6:00-7:15 p.m., and located just inside the front door on Holly Avenue across from Unity Church. A percentage of book sales is returned to the school library. If visiting Obama on March 15 won't work for you, a link for online sales will be provided as we get closer to the 15th. Watch for it! Thanks!



Coming Soon to the Parish Hall

Evergreen Quilters Spring Auction

Remember how much fun you had using Click Bid at the Share the Bounty Fundraiser in November? Well, get ready to use it again and often during the month of April. The Evergreen Quilters will have their biennial silent auction of lovely hand made quilts starting April 1. This year the quilt show is called "Once in a Blue Moon." You will be able to use this online bidding program — even from home — to secure your favorite quilt. There will also be a raffle for a very spectacular quilt made by members of the Evergreen Quilt group. More information will be coming in the April *commUNITY* Newsletter.



USED BOOK SALE

March 24-25



Benefit from our congregation's shared love of reading while supporting youth ministries! Donations of good used books, CDs, DVDs, electronic and board games can be dropped off in the Foote Room through March 23. Please no reference or text books.

Saturday, March 24
8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 25
9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
\$5 Fill-A-Bag on Sunday
from 2:00-3:30 p.m.

MARCH ART EXHIBITS

March Parish Hall Artists

Ron Germundson • www.rongermundson.com

Over the years my photography has gone through a transformation, from traditional to more painterly photo impressionism. I continuously strive to make my images uniquely different. A good friend of mine said that I'm a, "photographer with a painter's soul" a phrase that describes me very well. I have been a photographer for over 30 years and I have seen big changes in the last fifteen years. Photography has moved from traditional film to the digital age. Computers and imaging software have expanded photographers' horizons and many of us are riding the crest of this new frontier. It feels good to me to be part of this exciting experience. Where this journey will lead, I haven't got a clue, but I am enjoying the ride! The process of creating my work is not magic, though observers do wonder at times. It can, however, be a struggle at times to create my vision. The camera is a vessel that captures my idea. When that image is slipped into Photoshop it allows me to transpose it into an image that many times amazes even me! Photoshop is to me what the painter's palette is to a painter. My photographs flirt with an assortment of artistic styles. I have been told by others, that many of my images reflect the painters of the past. What it boils down to is, I don't make the art the art makes me.

Tony Hilscher • www.tonyhilscher.com

My dedication as a painter, as someone who needs to translate the real world into a visual poem, is a life-long journey.

My goal is to express my own emotional response; to capture the essence and mood of the natural world through the language of painting. To me, painting is not a literal translation of nature but a personal impression conveyed through the foundations of composition, value relationships, color harmony, edges, and brushwork. These elements are what give a painting credibility.

Plein air (open air or outside) painting is the perfect blend of painting and the outdoors. It's nature's classroom where the concept of light and its effect on the visual world can be studied and observed. Because of the ever-changing light conditions, I am forced to concentrate on the essentials of the scene without any unnecessary details.

I have always had a deep appreciation for nature. It is a privilege to express that connection with artist's tools. I am inspired by the late afternoon sunlight on the treetops along the water's edge or the rugged snow covered mountains of the west. If I can convey this emotional response to the beauty in nature to the viewer and elevate their value of the natural world around us with a sense of truth, awe, and respect, I have done my job.

Because of the current state of politics in our country and man's relentless monetary greed and lack of foresight regarding our environment, it's imperative to our collective future to protect and preserve our gift.

Youth Artists of Unity Exhibit

In March and April, the Unity Art Team is featuring two talented youth artists from Unity Church — both photographers who's works are showing in the west hallway of the Eliot Wing, main floor. Please take a look at their exhibit.

Sophie Fried

I go to Central High School in Saint Paul where I take classes in math and black and white film photography as well as a variety of other subjects. Being a photographer has helped me explore the human body, mind, and soul. The theme of this series of photographs is self-discovery through others. The medium of film was used in the series mainly because of the camera I have and the experience provided by the classes available at Central; however, this was never a constraint: black and white printing seems to work well with the theme.

The people in these images are important to me in one way or another. Each individual symbolizes something different. The process of taking, developing, and printing the photographs was unique to the subject: everybody has their own story. If I had to describe what photography means, the answer would be "a way to understand the world, and to be understood by society. Witnessing and/or producing a perfect photograph is like reading a book or solving an equation: you want to do it over and over again."

Maddy Breton

A photo captures the reality of a moment and the beauty of a split second; color, contrast, emotion, and light come together to form a perfect picture. Or a not so perfect one. The job, or the gift, of a photographer is to find the balance and preserve it. I see beauty in a glass of ice water, a rear view mirror, a Christmas ornament. To photograph the unexpected beauty of our often-ugly world is my motivation. I started photographing little things: flowers, pets, fragments of my life. Then I expanded, adding texture and focus and branching out from my Saint Paul home to places like New York and London. I try to capture perfect moments everywhere I go.

I have selected just a few of my many photographs for this exhibit. Each captures a unique emotion in a unique place: the warmth of summer, the joy of our pets, the nostalgia and comfort of Minneapolis and Saint Paul. But each photo separately couldn't amount to the impact of them all together. I invite you to take a step back and see the exhibit as one unified work of art, connected by our inherent recognition of the beauty in our lives.

Call for Parish Hall Artists

The Unity Church Art Team is now seeking artists to exhibit in the Parish Hall gallery during the 2018-19 church year. The application deadline is May 1. More information and the application form can be found online at www.unityunitarian.org/parish-hall-artists.

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Summer Fun at Unity Church!

CHALICE CAMP 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Week 1: July 9-13

Week 2: July 16-20

Chalice Camp is celebrating our 10 year anniversary! We are so excited to be offering two weeks of Chalice Camp, each with a different curriculum, and both with the same fun you have come to expect. The first week will focus on Unitarian Universalist history and how we are living out our values in the present. The second week we will dive into an exploration of our own identities and our community. Chalice Camp runs Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., and is open to all kids and youth entering grades K-8 in the fall of 2018. The cost for Chalice Camp is \$200/week/child. Full and partial scholarships are available.

NEW THIS YEAR: CHALICE KIDS!

Week 1: July 23-27

Week 2: July 30-August 3

Introducing Chalice Kids! Chalice Kids is a drop in program for kids entering kindergarten through sixth grade. Programming will also be provided for junior high youth through our partnership with Drew Danielson. Parents can choose to send their kid(s) for just a few hours, or all week. Chalice Camp staff will provide programming where we will build community, explore our neighborhood, and so much more! Chalice Kids will be available Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. The cost for Chalice Kids is \$10/hour for the first child, and \$5/hour for each additional child. Full and partial scholarships are available.

Registration at www.unityunitarian.org/chalice-camp.html.

Pitter-pattering Questions

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



From KP Hong, Director of Religious Education

We found ourselves enthralled, moved, and broken open — youth and staff alike gathered from partner congregations for the February Youth Con — screening a video segment from the *Cosmic Voyage*, with the voice of the late Carl Sagan narrating our place among the stars, our “pale blue dot” in the ancient and unfathomable cosmos:

After millennia of philosophical debate, the issue was settled decisively in favor of “the plurality of worlds.” They might be profoundly different from our planet. None of them might be as congenial for life. But the Earth was hardly the only one. This was the next in the series of Great Demotions, downlifting experiences, demonstrations of our apparent insignificance, wounds that science has, in its search for Galileo’s facts, delivered to human pride... We have good reason for humility.”

Dramatic perspectives of cosmic proportions that wound our pride and break open our paltry presumptions. Modern science and our voyage across the constellations have indeed been lessons in humility, and many of us would rather have stayed home. But for the gathered youth, the summons to break from the self-sufficient “I” stirs from the very exigency within their nature that intuits “we” as the primary ground of life. Our children and youth intuitively know that “to be undone by another is a primary necessity, an anguish to be sure, but also a chance — to be addressed, claimed, bound to what is not me, but also to be moved, to be prompted to act, to address myself elsewhere, and so to vacate the self-sufficient ‘I’ as a kind of possession.” (Judith Butler) For the “I” always comes into being through prior conditions and is dispossessed from the start. In conversation with one youth, she assumed that the proverbial search to find herself would largely be an introspective project “in here” somewhere. Yet with each step, the search called her to break the sovereignty of self and step “out there” into her history, ancestors, culture, race-class-gender, and constellation of innumerable fingerprints left everywhere by her community upon her being. Her search for *her-self* turned out to be preamble for a larger *we-self* than she had originally imagined.

Admittedly, youth deploy identity as a form of experiential truth seeking recognition while simultaneously protesting identity’s carceral logics. And in the fraught space between the “we” that is too constricting and the “we” that is desired beloved community, the “I” ever presents itself as the safest bet. Who would blame them for making that safe bet? Among the constitutive elements of neo-liberalism (from privatization to deregulation to the free-market economy) is not the beneficiary of rights and liberties still the individual political subject? But staring at the “pale blue dot,” a mote of dust suspended in a cosmic sunbeam, our youth wondered if “I” was ever safe. They wondered about their incompleteness not as liability but more truly as gift, of vulnerability not as weakness but as breaking the ethical and epistemic closure toward the very possibility of their becoming. When so much in their world today pivots on the question of relational possibilities — from racial justice to gun violence to objectification of women — our youth are anxious with hope, asking how to break open and imagine themselves large.

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

MUSIC MINISTRY

Music Notes



From Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministries

"Make Music with Your Life"
— Bob O'Meally (from *Teaching with Fire*)

Make music with your life
a
jagged
silver tune
cuts every deepday madness March
Into jewels that you wear
Carry 16 bars of old blues
wit/you
everywhere you go
walk thru azure sadness
howlin
Like a guitar player

Yes, we all need inspiration, new ideas and reminders of our original intent and the fire that propels our lives and work. Sometimes we do need to, "howl like a guitar player!" Use and allow music to inspire, comfort, companion, clarify ideas, and sort through emotions. It is a great way, as are all the arts, to celebrate the joyful times and also help to trudge through the difficult, broken times; to express and feel your center when articulation is not yet possible; to join with you in the search of the moment; to help you be your most human while also reaching your most spiritual self.

I recently attended the Regional American Choral Director's Association in Chicago. In one particular concert, I was shaken by the way in which the relevancy of our deepest experience can be held so vividly in artistic expression. This particular concert featured a piece called "Please Stay," an anthem of hope, meant to destigmatize struggles of mental health, and speaking words of youth who chose to live rather than choose suicide. It holds a pathway to experience our feelings and share both the brokenness and hope within such journeys. It was performed by a Minnesota high school choir of some 80 members. By some astonishing coincidence, it was exactly 17 youth who stepped forward from the choir to speak these lines of hope. By an unspoken and shared revelation among many of the audience members, these 17 lives of spoken hope also became memorial to those lives taken in the Parkland, Florida, school shooting — just one week earlier — an almost unspoken grasp of holding tragedy within the continuous human challenge of working through our broken selves while also holding these youthful moments of hope. Music certainly does not solve this quandary. But, it does help us live its very presence in a feeling, communal and relevant sense of awareness. The piece, "Please Stay," by Minnesota composer Jake Runestad, coincidentally had already been programmed for our upcoming Foote Music Sunday. Please plan to come and hear music and words that realize and hold our moments of deep searching and move us toward the choice of hope.



Martenitsa 2018

Mila Vocal Ensemble, Nomadi,
Orkestar Bez Ime, and Traki

Saturday, March 3
6:00–10:00 p.m.

Amsterdam Bar and Hall

6 West 6th Street, St. Paul 55102

Celebrate spring Bulgarian-style with a dance party, featuring live music on two stages by Mila Vocal Ensemble, Nomadi, Orkestar Bez Ime (OBI), and Traki, co-hosted by the Bulgarian School of Minnesota. New this year: make your own martenitsi! Kid-friendly until 10:00 p.m.

Tickets:

\$15 at the door or \$12 in advance
\$5, kids 12 and under

<http://bit.ly/martenitsa2018>

HOPE AS ACTION

Arthur Foote
Music Sunday
May 6, 2018

Please save this date
and plan to be with us!

Unity Church-Unitarian presents the 29th Annual Children's Musical

CLOSE TO HOME

A peek into the struggles facing an immigrant family displaced by climate change.

Unity's 6th, 7th, and 8th graders
Music and Lyrics by Sandy Waterman
Written and Directed by Mary Blouin Auffert



Thursday, March 1 • 7 PM

Friday, March 2 • 7 PM

Saturday, March 3 • 5 PM

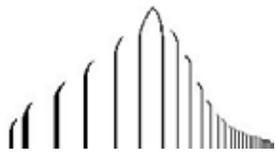
In the Sanctuary at Unity Church

Buy tickets in the Parish Hall on Sundays,
online at www.unityunitarian.org,
and at the door on the night of the show!

\$5/child • \$10/adult • \$20/family

Children under age 5 are free.





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**

The 29th Annual Unity Church Children's Musical I

CLOSE TO HOME

A peek into the struggles facing an immigrant family displaced by climate change.

March 1 and 2 at 7:00 p.m.
March 3 at 5:00 p.m. *See page 15 for details!*



Seeking Professional-Quality
ARTWORK
To Display in Our Parish Hall Gallery
Beginning in October
 Great exposure — Hundreds of viewers
 Great sales potential — Low commission
Application Deadline: May 1

www.unityunitarian.org
for details and an application

