

Blessing

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.

Rev. Howard Thurman says that God places a crown above our head and we spend our life trying to grow into it. This crown is placed by no doing of our own, yet it gives us something to reach for. When we join together in beloved community we are reaching and growing into our promises, and our covenant together. This covenant that tells us who we aspire to be, and how we wish to be in the world. Within this covenant we discover the inherent blessedness within belonging and are transformed.

In contrast to the societal expectations of perfectionism, we strive to accept each other as we are, and have opportunities to do this with each encounter. The ministry of Jesus was about encounters; every encounter he had was a blessing. Jesus gave blessings of speaking truth to power, and told people they were worthy and loved. Today, choosing to be people of faith is ministering to this broken and hurting world in a myriad of ways. We choose to seek the blessings inherent within this life, and seek to be a blessing to others, much as Jesus did.

How do you choose to bless the world? Many of you have stories of reaching beyond yourselves to do something for another. We do things for others often because of shared values, because of a love for each other and the planet. We have our principles guiding our actions, with our faith rooting us as we move in the world.

We find blessings in the lessons found here in this community, and in the ways we apply our learnings to life outside of Unity Church Unitarian. The blessings

found here are like a prism, they are reflected out into the world by the ways this church has changed us, and into the ways that we grow into the crown above our heads. No amount of evil can take away your ability to be a blessing to the world. Evil and sin are present, and depending on your news source can be at the forefront of your mind for a large percentage of your day. We can make other choices though. We can choose blessedness as a way of being.

By being intentional about moving in the world with humility and gratitude we are better able to realize the blessings we have before us. Through naming these blessings with each other we are able to widen our own worldview. Being in relationship with each other changes us, through learning each other's stories we enter into each other's lives. We can choose to bless another, but we have no control over the blessings coming our own way. Blessings remind us of powerlessness and how powerful we are, all in the same moment. We get to chose meaning making from our lived experience, we get to choose to make meaning in this place, in this community, each on our spiritual path.

We consecrate and bless each other and this earth, by being present in ways that exceed our identities. In contrast, so much of this human existence is about claiming our identity. What does it mean to be a Unitarian Universalist? What does this faith ask of you? There is no simple answer, and the task for all of us is to name what this is for ourselves. This task is naming what

Unitarian Universalism means to each of us personally, and how that is reflected in our actions in the wider world. Humility and gratitude help us to claim our identities and go beyond them when needed; to recognize it is not either/or but both/and.

All of our lives we are growing into the crown, growing into the person we strive to be; all the while reminded that we are blessed just as we are. We hold both of these when we try live our values of integrity, service, and joy. As Mary Oliver says "What will you do with your one wild & precious life?" May you bless the world, one day, one moment at a time.

Hallman Ministerial Intern Jessica Clay
with this month theme team:
Nic Cable, Janne Eller-Isaacs,
Rob Eller-Isaacs, Lisa Friedman,
KP Hong, Ruth Palmer

Blessing Theme Resources

BOOKS

Gilead by Marilynne Robinson
Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall
Kimmerer
Blessed Unrest by Paul Hawken

CHILDREN'S BOOK

On The Day You Were Born by
Debra Frasier

MOVIES

Lion (2016)
Collateral Beauty (2016)

Just Words



We will never leave animals alone, even the tiniest one, ever, because we know we are one with them. Their breath is our breath, their beginning is our beginning, their fate our fate. They are among us and within us and of us, inextricably woven with the form and manner of our being, with our understanding and our imaginations. They are the grit and the salt and lullaby of our language. — Pattiann Rogers, *Animals and People*

Six mornings a week, rain or shine, subzero temperatures or humid and oppressive heat, we make our way to the Minnehaha dog park to walk our overly energetic border collies. It is a walk we began as an obligation, but now it is a cherished part of our morning devotional practice. We need it as much as our dogs do and we both miss it when we are traveling or early morning obligations make it impossible to walk. Often we walk in silence, lost in our own thoughts. Some days we process the problems of the world or our faith. We listen and watch as we walk and notice the seasonal changes around us that are always occurring. We are blessed to recognize most of the folks and their dogs who often walk at the same time as we do. Most of them are gracious about the misbehavior of our wild girls. We are blessed by the animals with whom we come in contact. We have actually seen a red fox three times now. And once we saw coyotes while walking along the sidewalk looking down at the river. We have come to know the calls of the birds who inhabit the woods and nearby nests. We love the pileated woodpeckers who are the nagers of the forest. Mostly, I listen for the songbirds and eagles. We look at the nests we know about every morning, and most of them are now full of eaglets anxious to test their new awkward wings.

As I listen for the calls of the eagles, I think about their particular gifts, one of which is their remarkable vision. If you swapped your eyes for an eagle's, you could see an ant crawling on the ground from the roof of a ten story building. You could make out the expressions on basketball players' faces from the worst seats in the arena. Objects directly in your line of sight would appear magnified, and everything would be brilliantly colored, rendered in an inconceivable array of shades.

The more scientists learn about eagle vision, the more impressive their vision appears to be. I have watched an eagle soaring over the river and dive suddenly down and grab a fish visible only to it with its sharp talons. I feel blessed every time I walk through these familiar woods.

Since the teachings of the Transcendentalists, the roll of nature in the religious life has always been significant. We can learn a lot simply by listening and watching. We actually have more in common with the animal world than one might imagine. I encourage you to carve out time in this emerging spring to experience the blessing of the natural world around us. We are animals after all.

— Janne Eller-Isaacs



Summer Worship

From May 28 through September 3 there is just one service each week at 10:00 a.m. Lay-led worship services begin June 25. Summer Sundays in the Garden (a program for children and youth held during worship) also begins on May 28.

Flowers for Summer Worship

If you would like to bring flowers from your garden for a summer service, please contact Martha Tilton at 651-228-1456 x105 or martha@unityunitarian.org for available dates (June 18-September 3) and details.

Summer Musicians

Summer is a great time to share your musical gifts with Unity Church members and friends. If you are interested in participating as a musician during a summer service, contact Kathleen Bartholomay at kathleenbartholomay297@gmail.com or 651-343-4764.

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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MAY WORSHIP CALENDAR / 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.

Please note! The summer worship schedule of one service at 10:00 a.m. begins on May 28.

May 7: Arthur Foote Music Sunday

Unity's annual music Sunday features special guest, Dale Warland, along with Unity Choir, Unity Singers, Women's Ensemble, and Children's Choir.

May 14: *I Was All Hers*

Theologian Matthew Fox wrote a book entitled, *Original Blessing*, flipping the notion of original sin on its head. Essentially the book makes a case for unconditional love. Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs and worship associate Rene Meyer-Grimberg will bring us a service for Mother's Day.

May 21: Flower Communion Family Sunday

Join the whole church family and **bring a flower to place on the Flower Communion arch** as we celebrate the resilience and diversity of the Beloved Community. This uniquely Unitarian Universalist ritual recalls the life and ministry of Norbert Čapek who defied the Nazis and died a martyr at Dachau. The 9:00 and 4:30 services will include a ceremony of dedication for older children. Please contact Michelle Hill at michelle@unityunitarian.org if you would like your child to participate (see page 14).

On Family Sundays, children experience the entire worship together with their families in the Sanctuary. A children's message and activity books related to the stories and sermon help children to engage in the experience of worship. Regular religious education programming does not take place on Family Sundays; however, the nursery is open for children under five years of age.

May 28: *On Bended Knee*

One service only at 10:00 a.m.

Sometimes the most courageous gesture is an apology. The three thousand veterans who traveled to Standing Rock to bear witness and provide support did so out of a profound sense of duty. This Memorial Day, Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs and worship associate Terry Linskey will help us to honor those who serve, and the many forms courage can take.

Summer Sundays!

May 28–September 3

One service at 10:00 a.m. only!

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.

May 7: Arthur Foote Music Sunday

Arthur Foote was minister at Unity Church from 1945-1970. Upon his death in 1999 the Arthur Foote Music Fund was created as a permanent endowment to provide an annual music Sunday in his memory. Currently the endowment supports a portion of Foote Music Sunday expenses. Your gifts to grow this endowment are gratefully accepted!

May 14: Minnesota Prison Doula Project

The Minnesota Prison Doula Project is a prison-based pregnancy, birth, and parenting program at Shakopee Women's Prison and Hennepin/Ramsey Country Workhouses. Doulas offer incarcerated mothers one on one counseling and group support before, during, and after birth, including the difficult separation of mother and baby while mothers complete their prison time. Unity Church member Michelle Thomas is an advocate for this project.

May 21: Hallman Ministerial Intern Fund

The Hallman Ministerial Intern Fund is a permanent endowment that provides funding for ministerial interns at Unity Church. At present the internship, including stipend, health and dental benefits, and professional development, costs the church approximately \$25,000 a year. Hallman Interns since 2002 include: Jen Crow, Melissa Carvill-Ziemer, Bill Neely, Katie Lawson, Teresa Schwartz, Justin Schroeder, Matt Alspaugh, Leon Dunkley, Lissa Gundlach, Jason Seymour, Rachel Lonberg, Mae Gibson Wall, Jennifer Nordstrom, Lindasusan Ulrich, Shay MacKay, and Jessica Clay. Other Unity Church interns include Dottie Matthews, Jacqueline Duhart, Jim Foti, and Nic Cable.

May 28: Veterans for Peace Minnesota

Veterans for Peace works to increase public awareness of the cost of war; restrain the government from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations; end the arms race; reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons; seek justice for veterans and victims of war; and to abolish war as an instrument of national policy. To achieve these goals, members of Veterans For Peace pledge to use non-violent means and are trusted to act in the best interests of the group for the larger purpose of world peace. Unity Church members Barry Riesch and Michael Orange actively participate in the work of Veterans for Peace.

Generosity Ministry: Nominate the Plate

Turn to page – to learn how you can nominate your favorite non-profit to be a Sunday offering recipient.

Serve as a Trustee

From Bailey Webster, Trustee



This month, the Board begins seeking nominees to the Board of Trustees for a three-year term, beginning November 2017. Who do you know that is deeply committed to the church? Who has blessings to bestow and enjoys a challenge? Perhaps *you* would be well suited to a leadership role in the church. Maybe you know someone to nominate. Traditional leadership skills need not be a first priority; part of the “Among” End of our church is to “Foster a culture of open, inclusive leadership and meaningful engagement.” The board seeks to enrich its membership with diversity of backgrounds, culture, and experience.

By the time this column is printed, we will have closed the congregational survey for another year. This is the second year that I have paid much attention to the survey—being on the Board of Trustees requires one to sit up and pay attention to the health of the church, and the congregational survey is one of its vital measurements. Getting the results of the survey back last year was rich and informative. The survey has been crafted to monitor progress towards the church’s stated Ends, the guiding document that the Board reworks with painstaking intention every five years.

I am on the Board’s Evaluation sub-team, the team responsible for tweaking the congregational survey and putting it out to the congregation to collect responses. Being a part of that team has further deepened the significance of the survey for me. We focused on wording the survey just right to get the highest quality feedback possible. We chose to include the Spirit Map to inform the Ends renewal process which will take place next year. And last but not least, we offered the enticement of a free donut, that most sacred of Sunday morning treats.

The results of the congregational survey have shown improved performance on every End from 2014 to 2016. Loyalty to the church was at its highest in 2016 since the survey was started in 2007. Although I don’t have the results of the 2017 survey at the time of this writing, I can say with confidence that they will shape the conversations we have and the questions we ask as we go into the Ends renewal process next year.

As a nurse takes the pulse and blood pressure of a patient, so too does the Board of Trustees keep close tabs on the vital signs of the church. It is a role that challenges and enriches. As a member of the Nominations Committee, I encourage you to think deeply about who you would like to see on the Board of Trustees in the coming years. I have felt blessed to be part of such a passionate, committed group of people.

Board terms are three years long. The Ends will be rewritten in 2018, and there will be a large shift in leadership in the coming years as Rob, Janne, Barbara, and Ruth retire. Board service is vitally important. Help us to maintain a high leadership standard on the Board of Trustees—nominate someone today!

Unity Church Board of Trustees

Now Accepting Trustee Nominations

At the annual meeting in November, the congregation will vote to elect three nominees to the Unity Church Board of Trustees. We are advertising widely this year, to give as many people as possible the opportunity to consider this service to our religious community. Board members find service on the Unity Board to be an experience that enriches their relationship with the Unity community and offers opportunities for personal growth. It is a challenging and important role, and requires a deep commitment to the church.

Trustee terms are three years in length. The board meets once a month throughout the year. Meetings alternate between the second Saturday and the third Wednesday of the month. Trustees typically serve on two sub-committees during the year, which range from evaluations to linkage with moral owners. There is quite a bit of information about governance and board work on the Unity website. A trustee job description can be found on Unity’s website at www.unityunitarian.org/board-of-trustees.html.

You must be a voting member of Unity Church to serve on the Board. Board members will be available at a table in the Parish Hall every Sunday in May to answer questions. Interviews will take place in June, and three nominees will be chosen by mid summer. For more information, or to request an application, email Mark Foster at markfoster@msn.com.

Anti-Racism Leadership Team Leading by Monitoring

If you wonder exactly how the ARLT “leads” in the church’s Anti-racism effort, you’d actually be joined by every new member of the team over the past dozen years, and honestly even by the veterans. It’s not a question of purpose — its purpose is to serve the Board of Trustees by monitoring the anti-racism work of the church as expressed in our end statements. It’s the “leading” part that we continually come back to and wrestle to answer!

Though at times frustrating, it’s good that we keep asking. Presently the team has established four liaison relationships with areas of church life and operation: executive direction, worship and ministry, religious education, and adult programming and outreach. The Team has created questions to serve as measures for evaluating how we are addressing and accomplishing the goals of our End statements. It’s rich and fascinating work. We’re never certain we ask the right questions, or if we have meaningful measures. But the asking does provoke our thought, making us try to square our work and our ambitions. With a push and a nudge, we are led.

MINISTERIAL INTERNS

Hallman Ministerial Intern: Jessica Clay



Research, a cookbook, and sticks.

Typically on my day off I like to bake for the staff at Unity, I try new recipes, and the staff enjoys them. One evening while a batch of orange chocolate chip cookies was baking in the oven, I read an article online. I learned that research shows that baking for others has proven benefits for your well-being. I have felt this for years,

but reading about the science and research behind it was a blessing of validation for me.

The next day when I brought the cookies to work I was given a cookbook by a co-worker. This cookbook was owned by someone very dear to them who had recently passed away. When I cook from a cookbook that has been owned by someone else, I feel connected to that person, whether or not I knew them. This connection is blessing of ancestors, and it reminds me of the ways we are interconnected.

Blessings are reminders of the ways we are interdependent and of how we all have a divine spark in each of us. They tell us we are not alone, and that we are all in this journey together. They can vary in size, shape, and form, and are individual to each person. What looks like just a cookbook to one person is something totally different to another.

Recently I was trying to come up with a story for Wellspring Wednesday. After deciding on a story, I realized I needed sticks to liven it up a bit. I inquired in the Religious Education office as they have crafty things in there, but was told they don't have any. After going back to my desk and sitting with it a bit, I decided to take a different route that didn't involve sticks. Going on about my day, I returned to the office hours later and found laid upon my desk two long sticks from KP. I have no idea where he found said sticks but the fact that he took the time to locate them, and bring them to me, was a blessing.

Research, a cookbook, and sticks. All of these that made their way into my life remind me of the ways we are interconnected. Of how what we do matters, how we care for each other matters, and that blessings show up when we least expect them. May you have unexpected blessings come your way this month too.

Please feel free to contact me at jessica@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x109.

Ministerial Intern: Nic Cable



"It's a blessing we were born

And it matters what we do.

What we know about God

Is a piece of the truth.

Let the beauty we love

Be what we do.

And we don't have to do it alone."

Each week, to close Wellspring Wednesday Worship, an all-ages service held in the Ames Chapel, children and adults alike sing this song adapted from the words of Rumi, Laila Ibrahim, and the Rev. Sheri Prud'homme. The kids know this song by heart. Some adults do, too, and a couple take a peek at the words towards the end of it. But we all sing it, all of us, and we know it as true in our hearts. It's a powerful credo, a statement of faith, like the unique credos our Coming of Age youth offer every year.

As a UU minister on the verge of my first called ministry, I have held these words close to my heart in the past few months. I have spent nearly half my life in search for ways to serve this world in love, and the journey has been filled with many blessings along the way. I'm struck by the opening line of this song, "It's a blessing we were born and it matters what we do." I like that these two ideas are connected, but I wonder if there is a missing word that would change the sentence to "It's a blessing we were born and [therefore] it matters what we do." Now, surely, that would not roll off the angelic voices that gather each week as easily, but theologically it feels right to me. As Unitarian Universalists, we celebrate the gift of every new life. A redeemer and a blessing to the world. And from the moment of our birth we are taught to consider deeply what we choose to do in this world because our actions matter.

I am grateful to be in this religious community where together we can be a blessing to the world and think very carefully about how our actions impact others. It matters what we do. It matters how we do what we do. And it matters that we do it together. We are in this work together. When I move to Columbus, Indiana, this summer, I am going there with a heart filled with the blessings of this shared ministry we have had this past year. I am going with the gratitude I feel for each of you. I am going because when I listen deeply to my call, this is where I am called to go. And that matters.

Please feel free to contact me at nic@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x129.

ALL CHURCH TALENT SHOW

Wednesday, May 10 • 7:15 PM • Sanctuary

Sign up online today: www.unityunitarian.org/talent-show.html

LIVING ORGAN DONATION / HERITAGE SOCIETY

Giving a Part of Yourself

From Mary Wilson, Unity Church Member



I have two birthdays. The first occurred almost 67 years ago. The second occurred July 18, 2009, when I received a kidney transplant. I had been on dialysis for over three years when that day arrived, and I knew I was lucky: I'd been advised the average wait was five years, which means many wait longer than that, and many don't survive the wait. The word "miracle" is no understatement. The ideas that "we are all connected" and "we are all one body" are no longer abstract, but visceral truths in my life, in my body. I want this miracle to be more available to others in need.

When I learned that a group of Unity Church members was meeting to explore how we could support living organ donation within our community, I jumped at the chance to participate and lend the voice of my experience. Although we recognize the need for blood, plasma, tissue, and organ donation of all sorts, we have decided to focus our initial efforts on providing information about living organ donation, with a focus on kidney donation. We are initiating this effort for several reasons: to consider ways we might make Unity Church a safe place for members and friends to make it known if they have a need for a donated kidney, to help you think about whether living organ donation might be an opportunity for you to practice radical generosity and to literally heal a bit of the world, and to identify ways we as a community might offer support to those among us who may choose to make this astounding gift.

The need is great. Currently, there are 110,000 patients registered on the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) kidney transplant waiting list in the United States; of these, 60% are designated as "active status," which means they are eligible for a transplant if a kidney is offered. Every ten minutes someone is added to the waitlist, and on average 22 people die each day while waiting for a transplant. Although the waitlist is growing, the number of people coming forward to be living donors has remained steady at about 5,800-5,900 per year. Generally, a living-donor kidney is more desirable than a deceased-donor kidney for transplantation because the recipient experiences better kidney function for a longer period of time. Also, the delay and uncertainty of waiting for a deceased donor is eliminated. Family members and non-related persons, such as spouses, friends, co-workers, and acquaintances may be accepted as living donors. Potential donors go through extensive screening to make sure they are healthy enough to consider the procedure. [Information in this paragraph provided by Hennepin County Medical Center Transplant Program; see www.hcmc.org/transplant]

Look for additional information in future newsletters and an educational presentation on the subject sometime next fall. In the meantime, here's another resource that may be of interest: *The Most Good You Can Do: How Effective Altruism is Changing Ideas About Living Ethically* by utilitarian philosopher Peter Singer (chapter entitled "Giving a Part of Yourself"); Yale University Press, 2015.

Join the Heritage Society

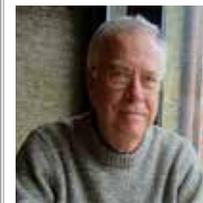
Legacy giving is an intentional act that leaves a lasting legacy in your name and sustains the powerful work of this church for generations to come.

A legacy gift is a designation from your estate to a charitable organization. There are many gift possibilities including bequests, life insurance, gift annuities, and retirement plans. Each type of gift allows flexibility, though some requirements apply, and you always retain the right to amend your estate plans.

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 May 5 is the church's way of thanking those individuals who have made legacy gifts. Bill Doherty, educator, researcher, therapist, speaker, author, consultant, community organizer, and Unity Church member will be our guest speaker.

For more information about legacy gift possibilities, contact Barbara Hubbard at barbarah@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x116.

Heritage Society Dinner Friday, May 5

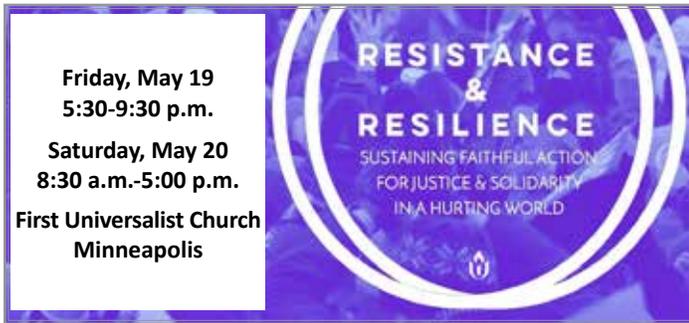


Unity Church member Bill Doherty is Professor in the Department of Family Social Science and

Director of the Citizen Professional Center at the University of Minnesota. In his community work, Bill has helped health care and human services organizations develop ways to engage patients and clients in the mission and legacy of the organization—as productive contributors rather than just as consumers of professional services. It's a different way to think about the everyday practice of democracy.

If you are interested in joining the group Mary describes, the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 30, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., at Unity Church. For more information, please contact Patricia Ohmans at patricia.ohmans@gmail.com.

MUUSJA / WHITE SUPREMACY TEACH-IN



Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance Resistance and Resilience

An invitation from Ashley Horan, MUUSJA Executive Director

How are we—progressive people of faith—called to respond to the urgent needs of this political moment? Why does it matter that we approach our work as religious people, and as members of congregations and faith communities? What does solidarity look like with people who are most directly impacted by injustice? How do we speak authentically, morally, and rootedly from our many diverse religious traditions about why justice is our moral imperative? And how do we sustain our spirits, our energy, our communities when there is so much to drain us and fill us with despair?

Join MUUSJA, in partnership with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, for *Resistance & Resilience: Sustaining Faithful Action for Justice & Solidarity in a Hurting World*.

We will explore these questions and more, with the help of local and national organizers, religious leaders, artists, musicians, and activists. The program will include moving interfaith worship, plenary discussions with religious leaders and political visionaries about the spiritual-political times we are in, collaborative strategizing for action and impact, a wide variety of workshops led by experienced justice leaders, and opportunities to build relationships with one another through reflection and discussion. Confirmed presenters include Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Zr. Alex Kapitan, Nora Rasman, Rev. Sean Dennison, Rev. Paul Langston Daley, Rev. Kelli Clement, Rev. Steve Newcom, Liz Loeb, Arif Mamdani, Rev. Ashley Harness, and Rev. Ashley Horan — full workshop listing coming soon!

This event is open to all people of faith who are interested in building skills, relationships, theological grounding, and power to transform the world for justice. In particular, we encourage social justice teams from congregations around the state to consider traveling together to participate in this powerful, connective, capacity building event!

To register, visit <http://muusja.org/event-2516736>. Scholarships will be available for those who need financial assistance; if you'd like to request a scholarship, please register for the event, and select the cash option at checkout. Please email Rev. Ashley Horan at muusja1@gmail.com to request a partial or full scholarship.

UU White Supremacy Teach-In

Unitarian Universalism is changing. We are striving to redeem our history by working to become a far more inclusive, anti-racist, multi-cultural community than we are today. In hope of helping us take one more step, we are joining more than five hundred Unitarian Universalist congregations across the country in offering a teach-in about white privilege, white fragility and what we mean when we talk about white supremacy. This call to reflection comes from many in our movement, including the UUA Board of Trustees, Black Lives UU, the Minister's Association, and more.

Two Teach-Ins have been scheduled:

- Wednesday, May 3, 7:15-8:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 6, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Childcare will be provided at both events. If you have a moment, please visit www.unityunitarian.org/adult-learning-spiritual-practice.html to let us know that you'll be attending. Everyone in the congregation is encouraged to attend at least one of the sessions. The workshops will be complimentary, please plan to attend either or both as you are able.



Beloved Community Staff Team

In 2016, the Beloved Community staff team was formed at Unity Church to strengthen and coordinate Unity's anti-racism and multi-cultural work, and to share the stories of this journey with the wider community. We commit to sharing the struggles, the questions, and the collaborations here at Unity and in the wider world of our faith and city. The current members of the team include Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs, Rev. KP Hong, Drew Danielson, Rev. Lisa Friedman, Pauline Eichten, and Erika Sanders.

The first article in the series is on BLUU (Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism) and is the beginning of an ongoing series of reporting out current events and developments in our aspirations to realize the Beloved Community more fully in our lives.

A link to this article and future reporting can be found at the top of Unity's home page: www.unityunitarian.org.



WELCOME WORDS / FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Welcome Words

Rev. Lisa Friedman, Minister of Congregational and Community Engagement



This April, a group of us gathered for a class to write our own UU elevator speeches. How would you explain Unitarian Universalism in the time it takes to ride an elevator? It is a challenge for both new and long-time UUs alike! We found it helped greatly to have a supportive community in which to practice, and we learned some tips I'd like to share. I invite you to think about the values and gifts you have experienced in this faith and congregation. Then practice completing one of these sentences: "Unitarian Universalism is...." "My faith says...." "We believe..." See what you discover! Practice with a friend or family member. It doesn't need to be ornate — just words from your own experience and heart. 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 to answer questions and to welcome you into the congregation. Childcare is available by request.

Welcome to Unity: Our Class for Newcomers
Sunday, May 21 • 12:30 – 1:30 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 a Welcome to Unity class.

Finding Yourself at Unity: A Deeper Inquiry

Finding Yourself at Unity is now offered on a regular basis on Sundays from 10:15–11:15 a.m. in the Ames Chapel. **During May, Finding Yourself at Unity will also be offered after the 4:30 p.m. service from 5:45-6:45 p.m. in the DeCramer Room.** These sessions can be attended in the order that works for you. In these 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. Childcare is available in the nursery.

May 7: No morning class due to Foote Sunday. Afternoon class will be: Social Justice & Community Outreach

May 14: Unitarian Universalist History, Principles and Sources

May 21: Membership 101 and Congregational Life

May 28: No class for the Memorial weekend holiday

Committing to Unity: Joining Unity Church
Wednesday, May 24 • 7:00-9:00 p.m.

This class explores the deeper meanings and expectations of membership and shared ministry and concludes with a celebration ceremony as participants sign the membership book and join the church!

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 (May 18) from noon–2:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at janne@unityunitarian.org

Elders Circle: Tuesday, May 16, 1:00-2:30 p.m., Center Room. Contact: Jessica Clay at jessica@unityunitarian.org

Evergreen Quilters: Second Tuesday of the month (May 8) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and fourth Saturday of the month (May 27) from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Contact: Peggy Wright at 651-698-2760

LGBTQ+ Community and Support: First (May 7, 12:30 p.m.) and third Sunday (May 21, 6:30 p.m.) of each month. Contact: Jamie Bosc at bosc.jamie@gmail.com

Living With Grief Group: For people living with grief and loss. Third Tuesday of the month (May 16) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at janne@unityunitarian.org

Men's Retirement Group: Monday, May 8 and 22, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact: Phil Morton at 952-934-3578

New Look at the Bible: Second Thursday of the month (May 11) at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528

Textile Arts Group: All ages and levels of experience are welcome! First and third Wednesdays (May 3 and 17), 7:00-8:30 p.m. 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. Upcoming discussions:
May 9: *Spirit Car: Journey to a Dakota Past* by Diane Wilson
June 13: *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr

Unity Bridge Club: First Friday of the month (May 5) at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Priscilla Swartz at 651-454-3209.

Women In Retirement, The Choice Years: This group meets the second and fourth Thursday (May 25) of the month from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org

Young Adults: Potluck on Tuesday, May 23, 6:30 p.m., Center Room. Contact: Nic Cable at nic@unityunitarian.org

Zen Meditation: Find renewal and grounding. Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m., in the Ames Chapel. Instruction is offered on the first Tuesday (May 2) beginning at 5:00 p.m. Contact Ken Ford at kenfaure@gmail.com

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

May Parish Hall Artist

Pete Ross

Peter Ross is the Parish Hall artist for the month of May. He is excited to present to you a group of work inspired by animals and nature. Peter loves to use his imagination to make each piece unique. He has been thrilled to hear people tell him his artwork is like a "meditation." Most of the pieces in this show are acrylic paintings and mixed media pencil and acrylic paintings on paper. Enjoy the show!

UUA General Assembly

New Orleans, LA • June 21-25, 2017



General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. If you are interested in attending GA or serving as a delegate, contact Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org.

WANTED

Unity Church Application Developer

Unity Church staff and volunteers have begun the process of developing a Unity Church app for iOS and Android. The project team is seeking an individual who would be interested in serving as the developer for the Android version of the app. Students, interns, professionals, and retirees with experience in Android app development (IDEs, SDK, and good object-oriented practices) are encouraged to contact us. Experience with agile techniques/tools, REST, and Git/GitHub is a plus. The hope is that this would be a volunteer position but a small stipend might be available. Interested? Know somebody who might be interested? Contact Martha Tilton at martha@unityunitarian.org.

Pilgrimage

Boston: October 17-22, 2017

Janne and Rob will lead a pilgrimage to the Unitarian Universalist homelands of New England. We'll visit Plimouth Plantation and wander the streets and back lanes of Boston and Concord. We will explore the historical roots of our faith and our democracy and walk the paths that our religious ancestors walked. The trip is limited to 20 participants will cost between \$1700-\$2100, exclusive of airfare. A \$100 deposit will hold your spot. Interested? Email Janne at janne@unityunitarian.org.

Transylvania: Summer 2018

Watch for more information.

LGBTQ+ Community and Support Group

Sunday, May 7 • May Day Parade, Contact Jamie Bosc

Sunday, May 21 • 6:30 p.m. • Room TBD

A place for you to come and be in community with other LGBTQ people, wherever you are in your journey. This group meets at Unity Church and is an intergenerational place for good and difficult times, all ages and identities welcome, including but not limited to transgender, gender non-conforming, genderqueer, bisexual, lesbian, gay, and queer people. Questions? Contact Jamie Bosc at bosc.jamie@gmail.com.

Elders Circle

Join us for our final elders circle of this church year on Tuesday May 16, at 1:00 p.m., in the Center Room. We will be saying goodbye to Hallman Ministerial Intern Jessica Clay. In honor of this we are having a dessert potluck. If you are able, please bring a favorite dessert, the recipe, and story to share about it. We will reflect on the sweetness of life together. All are welcome. Questions? Contact Jessica Clay at jessica@unityunitarian.org.

Young Adult Group

The Young Adult group is growing! Join us on Tuesday, May 23, for a 6:30 p.m. potluck at the church. All are welcome! Contact Nic Cable at nic@unityunitarian.org to be added to the email list to receive Young Adult news and announcements.

Grand Old Day

On Sunday, June 4, street parking will be limited due to the Grand Old Day street festival. Unity's parking lots will be managed by volunteers so that worshippers can park while fair-goers contribute money toward Unity's Habitat for Humanity build. Share the news with your neighbors that they can park with us and support a great cause! If you are interested in volunteering for a parking shift, please email Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org.

Save the Date for the Contemplative Walk

Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 17, 10:00 a.m., for a Contemplative Walk with Spiritual Director Sarah Cledwyn. We will gather for an opening circle and walking meditation outdoors. If you are someone who connects most deeply with the Holy in the natural world, this gathering is a wonderful chance to experience that connection in community. This gathering will be especially wonderful for people who want to ponder physical activity as spiritual practice. Consider contributing a gratitude offering for this one hour walking meditation. Sign up or ask more questions by contacting Sarah at sarahcledwyn@gmail.com or 651-699-9948.

Unity Church Social Media

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/unityunitarian/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UnityUnitarian>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/unityunitarian/>

WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY / OPEN PAGE

Wellspring Wednesday

Wellspring Wednesday is a multi-generational opportunity to gather midweek at church for food, fellowship, and fun. Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m., followed by worship in the Ames Chapel at 6:45 p.m., and an evening of rich programming beginning at 7:10 p.m. Childcare is available and you do not have to sign up in advance. The cost for dinner is \$7/adult, \$4/child ages 5 to 12, \$2/child ages 2 to 4, and \$20/family. Children under the age two are free. Email lisa@unityunitarian.org for financial assistance to help cover the cost of dinner.

May 3

Dinner: TBA

White Supremacy Teach In

Unity Church is joining more than two hundred Unitarian Universalist congregations across the country in offering a teach-in about white privilege, white fragility and what we mean when we talk about white supremacy. Two Teach-Ins have been scheduled: Wednesday, May 3, 7:15-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 6, 1:30-4:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided at both events. Everyone in the congregation is encouraged to attend at least one of the sessions. The workshops will be complimentary, please plan to attend either or both as you are able.

UU History Book Club

Join the monthly UU History Book Club. May's discussion will be on the book *Three Prophets of Religious Liberalism: Channing, Emerson, Parker* by Conrad Wright

New R.E. Family Orientation

This session with Rev. K.P. Hong, Director of Religious Education, is for families new to Unity Church who would like to learn more about religious education for children and youth.

Textile Arts

Bring your knitting, crocheting, tatting, embroidery, needlepoint, and cross stitch for an evening of fellowship and service. All ages and levels of experience are welcome!

Yoga: Chakra Tuning • 7:15 - 8:30 p.m. (75 minute practice)

In yoga, chakras are seven wheels of energy throughout the body from the base of the spine to the crown of the head. Chakras help to regulate all of the body's processes from organ function to the immune system and emotions. When the chakras are balanced we experience our greatest sense of health and wellbeing. This practice will include breath work, movement and meditation and is suitable for all body types. Bring a yoga mat if you can, a few will be available for loan.

Project Home Volunteer Training

Learn and Play Go: A Chinese Board Game

Last Tween Group of the year before next week's Talent Show!

May 10

Dinner: BBQ chicken, coleslaw, baked beans, potato chips, and dessert

All Church Talent Show

Do you have a talent or hobby you'd like to share with the congregation? Join us for our annual picnic followed by the Unity Talent Show. We'll enjoy music, dance, jokes, readings and more... it's a fun evening for all ages! Performers of every age are welcome and acts should be appropriate for a family event. Sign up for a slot at the Welcome Table in the Parish Hall or online at www.unityunitarian.org/talent-show.html. **May 10 marks the last Wellspring Wednesday of the church year. Programming will resume in September.**

Learn & Play Go: A Chinese Board Game

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.

To Bless and Be Blessed

Monday, May 15, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Foote Room at Unity Church

RSVP to karen@unityunitarian.org

A blessing, according to John O'Donohue, "is a circle of light drawn around a person to protect, heal, and strengthen. . . . A blessing awakens future wholeness." Join in a session of writing and reflection exploring the healing and wholeness of blessing.

Sabbath: A Time for Rest

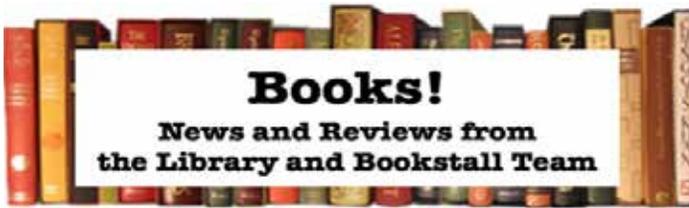
Thursday, June 1, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Foote Room at Unity Church

RSVP to karen@unityunitarian.org

A day of rest can be hard to come by. But an empty day, like an empty page, can open sacred and creative possibilities. "All creation springs from emptiness," says writer Wayne Muller. In our busy 24/7 lives, this writing session reflects on the gift of Sabbath rest and other sacred time and space.

For more information about writing programs offered in other locations, visit karenhering.com.



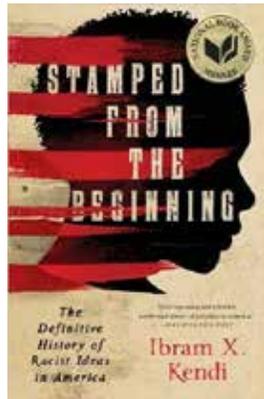
What's the "Right Fit"?

From Shelley Butler, Library and Bookstall Team

Christina Rivera, a Latina and UUA Trustee who was a final candidate for a UUA Regional Lead position, was told that she was fully qualified for the job and that the deciding factor would be a decision as to who was the "right fit for the team." That the "right fit" turned out to be a white male led Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) to identify this as "a moment of crisis for our faith," and issue a call to action to explore and resist white supremacy. Learn more about the UU White Supremacy Teach-Ins at Unity Church on page 7.

I don't know the answer to the question, but it is worth exploring by reading, talking, and attending a teach-in. To read more about racism, faith, and antiracism, consider browsing the Bookstall and the "Right Fit" display in the Anderson Library. Among the choices of good reading:

- *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* (National Book Award Winner) by Ibram X. Kendi, 2016 (Anderson Library 305.8 K)
- *Islam and the Future of Tolerance* by Sam Harris, 2015 (in the Bookstall)
- *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America* by Michael Eric Dyson, 2017 (Anderson Library 305.8 D)
- "Religious Duty to the Negro" by Fannie Barrier Williams (1855-1944), p. 512 in *Standing Before Us: Unitarian Universalist Women and Social Reform* (261 E in the Anderson Library and for sale in the Bookstall); recommended by the UU White Supremacy Teach-In team



To read and talk with children, consider *Through My Eyes* by Ruby Bridges, the autobiographical story of the first black children to attend an all-white school in New Orleans during a desegregation crisis in 1960. So many felt so strongly that Ruby was not the right fit that she had to be escorted to school by U.S. Marshals who also made sure that she only ate the food that she brought from home for fear of poisoning. Thank you to the generous Unity Church member who donated this book to the library.

CHALICE CAMP AT UNITY CHURCH

Friends Fun Crafts ART Singing GAMES

Week 1, July 10-14: The opportunity to combine the typical fun of summer camp with learning about our UU history is what makes Chalice Camp so great. Through skits, books, and stories, children will learn about how Unitarian Universalism came to be and how it is still growing. We will also learn about the seven UU principles and how to apply them to everyday life. This is a fun and educational way to help kids learn about their Unitarian Universalist heritage.

Week 2, July 17-21: During week two of Chalice Camp we will begin to tackle some of the current social issues in our community. Chalice Camp offers children a safe, child-friendly environment to be exposed to topics such as racial inequality, gender, and social class, while incorporating the fun and excitement of typical summer camp activities.

Week 3, July 24-28: The newest addition to Chalice Camp: a third week! We will focus mainly on art and using art to better our community, from projects as small as friendship bracelets or coloring pages to bigger projects like spreading art beyond the church walls.

Senior Campers! Come experience Chalice Camp in a whole new way! You will work with Hannah Eller-Isaacs and Drew Danielson to develop leadership skills (including acting as a CIT as needed), AND have a great time with your friends!

COST

\$200/camper/week if registered and paid by May 1
\$250/camper/week after May 1
\$100/Senior Camper/week (entering 7th or 8th grade 2017)

REGISTRATION & DETAILS

www.unityunitarian.org/chalice-camp.html

QUESTIONS?

Contact Hannah Eller-Isaacs at 651-442-2180 or chalicecamp@unityunitarian.org.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Sustainable Living Team

Second Annual Plant Exchange & Sale

Sunday, May 21

Children's Garden

Plant Drop Off: 7:00-9:30 a.m.

Exchange: 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Sale: 12:00-1:00 p.m.



Mark your calendars! Unity's Sustainable Living Team is hosting the second annual plant exchange and sale! An exciting way to usher in spring and add new life to your yard and garden!

How It Works

People are encouraged to split plants from their yards and exchange them for new varieties to add to their landscape. Don't have plants to split? Just starting to add plants to your yard? No problem! Once the "exchange" is over we welcome folks to purchase plants that catch their eye! Plants for sale are reasonably priced, and all proceeds go to supporting the work of the Sustainable Living Team!

We are looking for volunteers to help us make this a successful day. Please come to our table in the Parish Hall for more detailed information on the exchange and to volunteer! You can also email Jessica Zimmerley at jjimm0813@gmail.com with questions or to sign up to help!



Education Ministry

Volunteer: 2017 St. Paul Freedom School

Summertime offers the opportunity to volunteer at the Children's Defense Fund Freedom School, a learning and cultural enrichment program for children in the Promise Neighborhood in St. Paul (held in partnership with the St. Paul Public Schools). Many Unity Church members and friends have helped in summers past by sorting books and teaching reading and math. The term



is July 17 to August 25, at the Capitol Hill Magnet location in the Rondo Education Center. You can choose to help the whole term or part of it. Book sorting will happen during the week of July 10. For more information, contact Jane Thomson thoms028@tc.umn.edu or Judy Rieke at jlriek2@gmail.com.

Evergreen Quilters

Hallie Q. Brown Food Shelf Collection

May Collection: Hygiene Items

Think of oral, personal, and pet hygiene items when bringing donations for the Hallie Q. Brown Food Shelf to Unity Church during the month of May.

Donations of tooth brushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, dish and laundry detergent, toilet paper, paper towels, baby oil, and diapers. And don't forget pet hygiene! Look for the wicker collection trunks, with quilted food shelf signs, located near the Holly and Portland Avenue entrances.



Hallie Q. Brown Community Center Food Shelf provides non-perishable foods plus fresh produce, hygiene, baby and pet products to those in need in our church neighborhood. Evergreen Quilters encourages Unity Church members and friends to contribute throughout the year. If you don't have hygiene items, bring a can of soup!

Generosity Ministry

Nominate the Plate

Each Sunday, seventy percent of our collective offering is given to small or struggling community organizations whose values we share and mission we support. Recent donations have gone to groups ranging from AGAPE, a secondary educational program for teens who are pregnant and/or parenting, to First Step Initiative, an entrepreneurial program for women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

So how, you might ask, are those organizations chosen? By YOU! As a Unity member, you can nominate any organization that you believe would benefit from a no-strings attached donation (typically around \$1,200.)

It's easy! Just fill out the online nomination form at www.unityunitarian.org/generosity-ministry.html. Tell us why your nominee is so wonderful, and how they will use a contribution.

The Generosity Ministry Team reviews nominations regularly. All nominations are considered! However, the Team places a special emphasis on smaller non-profits whose annual budget is \$500,000 or less, where \$1,200 will make a substantial difference.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Affordable Housing Team

Project Home is Days Away: Volunteer Hosts Still Needed

From Ann Russell on behalf of Unity's Project Home Leadership Team

During the month of May, the lower level of Unity Church is transformed into a safe place for homeless families who are desperately trying to find a permanent place to call home. The concept of being "homeless" creates certain images for each of us. Just who is the homeless family? Do we really know? You might be surprised to learn that many of the families we host were in a home or apartment until just days before arriving... children sometimes talk longingly about their bedroom or yard.

Eviction, the Pulitzer Prize winning book by Matthew Desmond, dramatically illustrates that being poor and without a home is a full-time job. Finding and keeping work, getting kids to a school that might be miles away, moving from shelter to shelter, and surviving with minimal clothing and personal items are all daily struggles. Even with the help of a social service system (although ever-shrinking and often maddeningly uncoordinated), families frequently face life without the safety of a home. There is much for us to learn and personal interaction with homeless families offers the opportunity to bear witness to their struggle, resilience, despair, and hope. During these brief volunteer commitments, we are simply present in community with our guests.

Fill a shift with Project Home in May: <http://bit.ly/projecthome2017>

Project Home is now well-known to many in this community and is part of the rhythm of our congregational life. We need 150 volunteers, and to date we have recruited over 100 people. Volunteers will be present from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. to welcome families when they arrive, provide whatever hospitality is needed (snack, entertaining children, conversation or simply a caring presence) until 8:30. Two volunteers (many couples choose this assignment) arrive at 8:00 p.m. to see families to their rooms (lights out at 9:00 p.m.), spend the night, provide a simple breakfast, and send off families by 7:00 a.m. on weekdays and 9:00 a.m. on weekends. **Overnight and weekend — especially Memorial weekend — hosts are still needed.**

If you are new to Project Home, you will receive a simple orientation and training. Many who have volunteered in past years have told us that it is truly meaningful engagement, an opportunity to not just "do for" but truly "be with" people in need.

Evergreen Quilters

Mother's Day Gift Sale

Sunday, May 7

After morning services, Parish Hall

Following morning services on May 7, Evergreen Quilters is again offering gifts priced right for Mother's Day giving! Surprise Mom with a handmade treasure created by one of our church's quilters. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to The Family Place, a day shelter for homeless families; Hallie Q. Brown Food Shelf, serving the Rondo/Frog town neighborhoods; and other programs with similar missions supporting women and children.

Evergreen Quilters also invites you to join our group even if you have limited quilting experience. Quilters meet each month on the second Tuesday (7:00-9:00 p.m.) and the fourth Saturday (10:00 a.m.-noon) at the church. For more information contact Peggy Wright at 651-698-2760.

Habitat for Humanity

The Unity Church Affordable Housing Outreach Ministry Team is co-sponsoring a Habitat for Humanity build as an interfaith partner in Faith Builders.

A Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity "green" build integrates building practices that reduce detrimental impacts on the natural environment, promotes healthy indoor air quality for occupants, and reduces energy costs while increasing the long-term affordability of homes and improving neighborhood housing stock.

Watch for opportunities to sign up in the Parish Hall after morning services during May, and also online. Volunteer opportunities include construction work, crew leader, and lunch helper. Work weeks are July 24–August 4, from 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. The location will be a two-story new build at 1105 Third Street, Saint Paul Park. Questions? Contact Chuck Griggs at griggscb@msn.com or 612-408-0486.



2016 Faith Builders
Habitat for Humanity Home



Food Shelf collection returns to Unity Church!

See page 12 for details.

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH

Our Whole Lives: Truth and Love

From Drew Danielson, Coordinator of Youth and Campus Ministries



Below is the introduction from the 2017 Our Whole Lives closing ceremony as delivered by Drew Danielson.

Welcome to the 2017 Our Whole Lives, or OWL, closing ceremony. As I said in my last email, I feel like it has gone quickly! I don't know how the class feels about that!

It seems a short time ago that my son — I have a son in this class, but I won't point him out so no one will know who he is — was complaining to me, the same complaint I'm sure lots of you heard, "Why do I have to do this stupid, dumb, sex-ed OWL thing? It makes no sense — why are we even doing this at church?" As I said to you all way back during the parent orientation, I too, when I first took on this job said, "Why do I have to oversee this stupid, dumb sex-ed OWL thing, while working at a church?!" As I also said though, the answer for why we do it always comes down to this, our opening and the lighting of the chalice.

Light the Chalice

We light this chalice as a symbol of our faith, the light of truth and the warmth of love.

Truth and love. Ours is a faith that takes these maybe obvious values, and makes them the centerpiece of the lives we wish to live. And so we force these young teenagers to sign up for OWL, we take them to the farthest corner of the basement each week, squeeze them into a too-small room with these sketchy looking (but I assure you well trained and seriously committed) adult teachers, and we talk about stuff that makes you blush and cringe and snicker and close your eyes. But we also talk about the things that make us the complicated, joyful, sensual, sensitive, loving, curious and playful creatures that we are. The class talks honestly about the pain, pleasure, uncertainty, and knowledge that comes with growing up. And when we think about it, doesn't that belong here, in the Beloved Community we are striving for?

And so we come up out of the shadowy basement, and draw our year to a close in this churchy space of the Ames Chapel. And it fits here because what we've done here — youth, teachers, parents — it is a holy thing. We have been here for each other, in truth, and love.

Families for Hope Picnic

Sunday, May 21 • 12:30 p.m.

Looking for a way to connect with other Unitarian Universalist families and gain inspiration for how you want to change the world during this (let's face it) dark time? Come to a Families for Hope picnic sponsored by the UU Families Initiative. We'll break bread, socialize, and (if you like) create letters, cards, or placards to express what we value for our troubled world.

Sunday, May 21, after the 11:00 a.m. service (around 12:30 p.m.). We will meet the park across Grotto Street from the church, weather permitting (otherwise indoors). RSVP not need. Just show up with your food and your ideas.

Summer Sundays in the Garden

Religious Education steps into our Summer Sundays in the Garden program, weekly at 10:00 a.m., from May 28 to September 3.

Typically for children ages 4-12, and no registration is necessary but drop-in capacity will be limited by number of adult volunteers. Regular nursery is offered throughout summer. There are still openings for volunteers to assist, no prerequisite garden experience necessary; just a desire to share and learn with children. To sign up and for more information, please see: www.unityunitarian.org/summer-sundays-in-the-garden.html

CHALICE CAMP AT
UNITY CHURCH

JULY 10-14

JULY 17-21

JULY 24-28

www.unityunitarian.org
for details and registration

Dedication of Older Children: May 21

Families who would like their children, ages 4-12, to participate in our annual dedication should contact Michelle Hill at michelle@unityunitarian.org.

This ritual, held during the 9:00 and 4:30 services on May 21, provides the church an opportunity to commit itself to raising up children who have come into our community as "big kids." The children process to the chancel, receive a chalice and a certificate, and read a responsive litany of dedication with the congregation. This dedication is appropriate for elementary school aged kids in families who have joined Unity Church or who are on the pathway to membership.



MUSIC MINISTRY

Music Notes

From Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministries



"...we are drawn to the centre of the dance,
and we know we are helplessly singing,
seeking whatever in us we cannot stop,
the song ceaseless, leaping, our utter yes."

— Euan Tait (from Singer's Dance)

In 2009, our Unity Singers were selected for performance at the ACDA (American Choral Directors Association) National Convention in Oklahoma City. We commissioned Dale Warland, Minnesota's own choral icon, respected throughout the entire choral world, to write a piece specifically for us in commemoration of this occasion and our passion for community through singing. The words below have long been dearly loved by choral enthusiasts. They express the deep fulfillment that singing brings even to lives filled with hardship.

There was such a lot of singing and this was my pleasure, too.

The boys all sang in the fields, and at night we all sang.

The chapels were full of singing.

It was singing, singing all the time.

I have had pleasure.

I have had singing.

From *Always Singing* — Dale Warland

The text of *Always Singing* is a paraphrase of a quote from Ronald Blythe's 1969 bestseller, *Akenfield: Portrait of an English Village*. The book consists of interviews with the townspeople of a village in East Suffolk, 90 miles north of London, including an 85-year-old retired farmer named Fred Mitchell. As a poverty-stricken horseman, his life was very difficult, even to the point of being forced to choose between feeding or clothing his children. He said, "There was nothing in my childhood, only work. I never had pleasure. But I have forgotten one thing... the singing. So I lie; I have had pleasure. I have had singing." The piece is also reflective of the composer's early life, growing up on a farm in Iowa. Warland identifies with singing as part of daily life, in school, church (listen for *O God Our Help In Ages Past*, the chime of the chapel bells in Akenfield), and as a family. This composition is a reminder of the importance of building community through singing together.

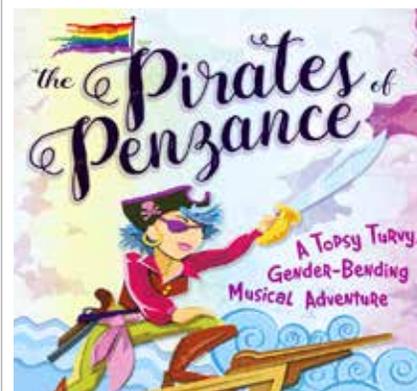
In this last year, Dale Warland received a series of emails from a young man, writing from England. He was the grandson of the farmer whose words above inspired this music. He had heard of the quote being set to music, researched it, found Dale and connected. Thus began an amazing completion of an ever widening circle of community. Talk about music making connection!!

Our Arthur Foote Music Sunday, May 7, will begin with this wonderful piece written for the Unity Singers and conducted by its composer, Dale Warland. Yet another circle of connection completed in this blessing we call music!!

Summer Musicians

Summer is a great time to share your musical gifts with Unity Church members and friends. If you are interested in participating as a musician during a summer service, contact Kathleen Bartholomay at kathleenbartholomay297@gmail.com or 651-343-4764.

One Voice Mixed Chorus The Pirates of Penzance



Thursday, June 22 • 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 24 • 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 25 • 2:00 & 5:30 p.m.

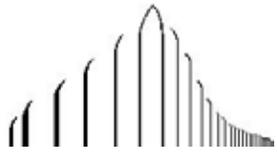
Raspberry Island, St. Paul

This performance is free and open to the public!

On Pride Weekend 2017, get ready for a performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* that's sure to be unlike anything the Twin Cities has ever seen! Set outside on Raspberry Island in downtown St. Paul, One Voice's Pirates is a topsy-turvy, gender-bending musical adventure for the whole family, featuring a lesbian pirate king and her swarthy crew of sailors arriving by speedboat, an uproarious appearance from the Major General's "daughters," and so much more!

Featured soloists include One Voice singers along with guest artists from among the Twin Cities' best musical theater actors. Ben Krywosz, artistic director for Nautilus Theater, serves as artistic consultant, and Gary Briggie as stage director, with musical direction by Jane Ramseyer Miller. We hope you'll join us on the banks of Mississippi River, in your best pirate costume, for a weekend of dancing and frivolity, plus a live band and plenty of sing-along opportunities for the audience.

Tickets are online at www.ovmc.org.



UNITY CHURCH-UNITARIAN

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**Of all the things that exist,
we breathe and wake
and turn it into song.**

— Mark Nepo

UNITY CHURCH-UNITARIAN PRESENTS

ARTHUR FOOTE MUSIC SUNDAY

MAY 7, 2017

9:00 AM • 11:00 AM • 4:30 PM

SPECIAL GUEST: DALE WARLAND

CHILDREN'S CHOIR • UNITY SINGERS • WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE • UNITY CHOIR

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