

BELONGING

The life of a congregation is a rich community tapestry of people, programs, ministries, and worship. We lift up the patterns of this tapestry at Unity Church with the threads of monthly themes woven through our worship and programming. These themes deepen our understanding of our faith and strengthen our bonds with one another in religious community.

"Belonging" is a repeated theme from the 2024-25 congregational year. As we move into discussing belonging in the context of our new ends statements, here is an excerpt from a sermon I (Oscar) preached in September 2024, soon after starting this role at Unity Church. After telling a story about mistaking hotdish for casserole during the interview process, I continued:

Belonging is knowing that it's hotdish, and not casserole. Or, more broadly, knowing without needing to use words "how we do things here." Knowing the cultural practices and norms that are unspoken, but that mean you are around "your people."

There's great power, and comfort, in that sense of belonging. Last week I asked you to think about what draws you to this place. I've been a part of seven Unitarian Universalist congregations at this point, in four states and two continents, and in all of them there's often a common story: "I walked in the first time, looked around, and realized that I had found my people. I've been here ever since." Sometimes that recognition is easy to name — you can often find a gathering of UU ministers by the prevalence of Prii and Subarus in a parking lot — and sometimes it is harder to name. But it is a comfort. Even getting hotdish wrong, it has been comfortable for my family and I to settle into this congregation, in part because Unity is very Unitarian, and that is a set of cultural norms and eccentricities we know well.

But I wonder if we can complicate that feeling a little bit?... Last week Ailish started second grade, and waiting for the bus one morning, we had a conversation about how many grades there are. One thing led to another, and I ended up telling her (after some mental math), that I had finished 26th

grade. Doctorate, master's, bachelor's, most of another master's degree, plus the 12 she knew. I am comfortable in communities that ask about the letters behind your name. My parents pushed me and my sister to excel in school, and had the resources to support it, and we both ended up with plenty of letters and stable, successful careers. But there's a shadow side to that.

On the first day of school, we asked Ailish a few questions for a back-to-school photo: what was her favorite color (pink), favorite band (Taylor Swift), what did she want to be when she grew up? (A mom). When I grow up, I want to be a mom. Not an astronaut, not a scientist, but the kind of person she loves most in the whole world. And I paused. I paused wondering how (if?) to explain that to people in my new congregation when I showed them the picture of daughter on the first day of school.

When we talk about belonging, we are necessarily making normative statements — here's what we expect in this setting, what we implicitly understand to be the agreements shared among everyone in the room. The challenge is that statements about expectation, even as simple as "UU ministers often drive a Toyota Prius" can quickly become judgments. "If you are a UU minister who drives a pickup, you must not care about the environment." The challenge is also in moments when we are forced to examine the implicit assumptions about belonging — making explicit some parts of who feels like they belong that we would rather just ignore.

Those normative statements, explicit or implicit, aren't always bad. "That's not how we do things here" is a powerful statement *because* it sets expectations in the context of group dynamics.

Sometimes the most effective critique of bad behavior is contrasting it with established norms.

There's also an element to this that is self-protective, right? A community defines who belongs with implicit agreements that draw a distinction between those inside, and those outside. It is self-protective, because whenever you add someone or something to a system (say, a senior minister), the system changes. Making sure that the minister knows to say "hotdish" instead of "casserole" is a way to establish the expectations of a community, the things that the system does not want to change, even as some kind of change is inevitable.

Every Sunday at Unity Church, we say from the front of the Sanctuary that "All of who you are, your gifts and your wounds, is welcome here." Belonging is, for Unitarian Universalists, final and unconditional: all people are welcome, all are loved, all belong in the beloved community. At the same time, we experience belonging as subjective and conditional: not every behavior is welcome in our congregations, and even as we evolve and change there are pieces of who we are as a community that we want to hold onto. It is in the dance between the theological imperative of belonging and the need to ensure our community is welcoming and safe for all that we "cultivate a multigenerational community of joy, care, and belonging."

*Rev. Dr. Oscar Sinclair
On behalf of this month's theme team.*

THEME RESOURCES

Further reflection on the theme:
unityunitarian.org/chalice-circles.



Just Words

Rev. Dr. Oscar Sinclair, Senior Minister

If I have any skill at this ministry gig, it is because of the patient mentorship of Natalie Fenimore and Jeanne Pupke. Natalie was Shelter Rock's Minister of Religious Education for the two years I trained there, and there are dozens of tips and tricks that I see in my ministry that I picked up from her — including subscribing to the newsletters of every church that friends and colleagues serve. For the past decade, Natalie has been the voice in my head (and sometimes on the phone) asking, "Have you really thought that through?" before asking if there are any recent pictures of Ailish that I could share.

It seems right that we are talking about belonging as our theme this month. Natalie started out as a religious educator, and one of the projects that animated her ministry at Shelter Rock and beyond was to expand who belongs *in* and *to* Unitarian Universalism. When the tension between our aspirations to be an antiracist institution and the reality of implicit bias in UUA hiring came to a head in 2017, Natalie spent several years on the Commission on Institutional Change, helping to author "[Widening the Circle of Concern](#)," the report that laid the groundwork for everything from Article II revisions to different hiring practices, and a renewed focus on the theological underpinning of our work for social change.

At our last conversation, Natalie and I talked about the joy and (occasionally) the frustration of serving congregations; the twin calls to both love the people and communities that we serve for who they are right now, and to love them for who they could be. Natalie would often tell leaders facing their first heartbreaks in church leadership that our task was to "fall in love with the Unitarian Universalism that does not yet exist." She knew who we were, in all our fullness and foibles, and spent her ministry asking us to show up as the best versions of ourselves.

In my more playful theological moments this month, I can imagine her and Rob Eller-Issacs picking up the thread of a few long-running disagreements after they were so rudely interrupted here on earth. I am a confirmed agnostic on that score. What I am sure of is that, whether here or hereafter, the conversation continues with us, as we continue to claim and be claimed by this faith we fall in love with over and over again.



The Wheel of Life

In Memoriam

Liz Schiferl

July 11, 1958–February 26, 2026

Ruth Booman

March 1, 1925–March 13, 2026

Nancy Lundborg

December 11, 1939–March 15, 2026

Stay Connected

commUNITY is the monthly newsletter of Unity Church. Deadlines are the 15th of the month prior to the month of publication. Subscriptions to this monthly newsletter (digital and USPS) and our weekly e-news are available by contacting Martha at martha@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x105.

Access all the hyperlinks in the newsletter with this QR code.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JUNE 14 – 21, 2026

MEET THE MOMENT: TOGETHER EVERYWHERE

For General Assembly in 2026, the UUA is creating a virtual "everywhere GA" with both online and distributed in-person options that will allow Unitarian Universalists to participate in whichever way works best for them. This new format will reduce travel costs and environmental impacts, offer optional in-person connections, streamline production costs, and provide a more flexible schedule for participants. Get all the details: www.uua.org/ga.

General Assembly Sunday Service

Mark your calendar for Sunday, June 21, when Unitarian Universalists from across the metro will meet at the Riverview Theater for General Assembly's Sunday worship service at 10:00 a.m. (singing begins at 9:30!).

SUNDAY SERVICES | OFFERING RECIPIENTS

Sunday Services

Sunday services are held at 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. through May 17. The 9:00 a.m. service is also offered via livestream. Find the livestream links, sermon podcasts, and worship theme resources at unityunitarian.org/sunday-services.

May 3: Arthur Foote Music Sunday

Unity Church Music Ministries

Our annual music Sunday will feature Craig Hella Johnson's work *Considering Matthew Shepard*. Deeply moved by the murder of a young gay man, acclaimed conductor Craig Hella Johnson composed an evocative and compassionate musical response that leaves audiences hopeful and joyous. See page 15 for more information about this service.

May 10: Belonging In, Belonging To

Rev. Dr. Oscar Sinclair | Meg Arnosti, Worship Associate

Who, or what, determines belonging? On Mother's Day, we'll talk about what it means to be claimed by another person, a family, or a faith. In a place where all of who we are is welcome, how do we call ourselves to bring our best selves?

May 17: We Bloom Together | Family Sunday

Rev. Shay MacKay

Unity's annual Flower Ceremony was developed over a century ago by Unitarians in Prague who created a ritual to affirm the beauty and diversity of community in a time of rising authoritarianism and fear. As we find ourselves in a world that feels hauntingly similar, let us celebrate the traditions that remind us we are in this together, believing in mutual flourishing and universal belonging. **Bring a flower for the ritual arch.** On Family Sundays, children experience the entire worship together with their families in the Sanctuary.

May 24: Speaking Forbidden Tongues | 10:00 a.m.

Rev. KP Hong | Ollie Stocker, Worship Associate

Amid unraveling certainties and cascading crises, we witness the hollow grammar of innocence coming undone all around us. Euphemisms that anesthetize harm, official scripts that avoid responsibility, curated speech that protects us from truth and obstructs change. Yet within that collapse, the Spirit stirs, teaching the church to speech that opens memory, expands imagination, dissolves borders, and draws different people into a belonging and intimacy we once feared. Pentecost is the refusal to speak a world alone, insisting upon a new beginning born from speaking a world together.

May 31: A Good Goodbye | 10:00 a.m.

Amy Brunell | Dick Buggs, Worship Associate

How do we leave well when it's time to say goodbye? Life is filled with transitions, and not all of them give us the closure we need. Sometimes goodbyes are rushed or incomplete, leaving us to gather the quiet pieces of grief left behind. As I offer my final service at Unity Church, I feel called to honor this moment with intention and grace. Together, we will create space for reflection, gratitude, and love that continues beyond parting.

Offering Recipients

Each week, sixty percent of our Sunday offering is given to a community non-profit and forty percent supports the Community Outreach Ministry at Unity Church. Donations are gratefully accepted online at bit.ly/sundayoffering.

May 3: Unity's Music Ministry

This collection will support the vibrant and diverse music ministry of Unity Church, nourishing our outstanding choral singing programs and creating musical connections within, among, and beyond our community.

May 10: Sanctuary Justice Team

Unity's Sanctuary Justice Community Outreach Ministry Team stands in solidarity with immigrants and internally displaced LGBTQ+ individuals. The church has supported immigrants in our community for nearly a decade, and currently engages in direct service, advocacy, and interfaith partnerships to meet the needs of migrants, including refugees, asylum seekers, and others seeking safety and stability. This work includes providing education and reflection opportunities for the congregation; navigating immigration processes, work permits, and transportation; as well as providing housing and financial support for legal services.

May 17: Whittier Alliance

Whittier Alliance, the official Minneapolis neighborhood organization for the Whittier neighborhood, has been working since November as a hub for Whittier residents organizing in response to Operation Metro Surge. This collection will provide financial support and resources (such as groceries, transportation, and rent subsidies) for families adversely affected by detentions and deportations.

May 24: Unity Church Chalice Camp

Unity Church Chalice Camp provides a unique summer opportunity for children and youth to deepen their connections to Unity Church, Unitarian Universalism, and the wider church community. This summer's camp will include worship, small and large group activities, and time for outdoor fun and play. This collection will support scholarship opportunities for Unity Church families.

May 31: Indigenous Justice Team

Unity's Indigenous Justice Community Outreach Ministry Team aims to advance the efforts of Minnesota Indigenous tribal nations to preserve their language, culture, and spiritual life and to restore broken treaties. The team's goal is to help amplify the Indigenous voice in the public square, and to foster greater awareness of what needs to be done to address the destruction of Dakota/Ojibwe cultures and seizure of their lands as part of colonization. The Indigenous Justice Team is joining Rise and Repair in their lobbying efforts at the Minnesota State Capitol on behalf of the Indigenous initiative to protect wild rice from environmental degradation and to enshrine its inherent right to exist in Minnesota law.



I Belong Here

Richard Lau, Trustee

My first job offer was to teach English in a small remote farming community in a mountainous, snowy region of Japan. A Tokyo native friend of mine commented “Oh, Rich, are you sure about this? You are going to have a hard time there. It is going to be very cold there. Those people (in the countryside) are going to be standoffish. You are going to be very lonely there.” Despite my friend’s encouraging words, I accepted the position. Those words, however, were unfortunately prophetic: the 2,000-person town that I was posted to, where I was only the second foreigner to live there, was very cold, the townspeople were standoffish, and I was really lonely there. I did not belong.

Belonging is about social connection, acceptance, and security. How does one belong if we don’t really know each other, whether it be a tiny Japanese town, a community, or a church? How can we feel connected, accepted and safe with “others”?

More on belonging in my Japanese town in a moment, but let’s fast forward to 2026 Minnesota. We live in interesting times (BTW, “may you live in interesting times” isn’t a traditional Chinese curse — that is a myth). After a winter of unjust occupation dressed up as “law enforcement,” our church is proud of the role we played standing up for what is morally right — and aware that normal is still a long way off. I’ve never been prouder to be a Minnesotan: flag decal on my water bottle, calling hotdish hotdish, and eating lutefisk... OK, not that last one. Tens of thousands of strangers showed up in the frozen heart of winter to say that we love our neighbors. They belong here. We’re even a little tickled by the attention for just being decent people — Bruce Springsteen wrote a song about us! And yet: the most vulnerable still can’t go outside, much less to self-congratulatory rallies;

thousands still can’t come home; and Renee Good, Alex Pretti, and far too many seldom-named Black and brown neighbors across the country are never coming home. Pride and grief can sit at the same table — and they should move us from cheering to choosing what we do next to make sure everyone belongs.

So, what’s next? We get back to work — the everyday, unglamorous work of our moral bedrock: this church and our covenant with each other. We make sure that every member of this church belongs. There is no “that group, Act for the Earth” or “those volunteers” for Mano a Mano, or “the nice folks at Evergreen Quilters.” We, the people of Unity Church-Unitarian, are all those things. We are members of each of those groups at least in spirit. We can’t truly belong until we really know each other — and are willing to be each other.

One simple way to start: take the Congregational Survey. We’ve had a full year with our new Ends — now the Board and ET need the gut-check: are we really living our Ends? Your answers help shape church-year programming and put words to who we are right now (and who we mean to be), so more people can truly belong.

Back to the Japan story. After many months and even years of working, being in the community, sharing meals, supporting each other, I finally felt that I started to belong to my little Japanese town. I think the kindhearted folks there did too. When I reluctantly prepared to return to the U.S. to pursue my longtime dream of going to law school, I didn’t want to leave this community where I had found a sense of belonging. To my surprise, I was admitted to the University of Minnesota Law School. I excitedly told my new Japanese family of choice in my small farming community. Those wonderful farmers, shopkeepers, and salt of the earth people congratulated me, but then one of them said “Oh,

Lau-sensei, are you sure about this? You are going to have a hard time there. We heard that it is very cold in Minnesota. Those people in Minnesota are going to be *tsun-tsun shiteiru* (translation: standoffish, cool, aloof). Not like us. You are going to be very lonely in Minnesota.”

Absolutely true story. We all want everyone to belong.

The 2026 Unity Church Congregational Survey Is Here

Your opinion of how we are doing together at Unity Church is critically important. With all the fresh energy around our new Ends, and all the new faces in our community this year, we want to hear from everyone! You do not need to be a member to take the survey.

The information you provide will help the Board of Trustees and Executive Team evaluate our progress on our ministry together. Your responses will also assist in identifying areas in which we need to dedicate additional time and resources.

[The survey](#) will be live May 3.

Please scan the QR code and complete the survey by May 17.



BELOVED COMMUNITY STAFF TEAM

Answering the Call: Unity Church and ISIAAH

Brian Newhouse, Beloved Community Communications Team



Mary Oliver crafted a beautiful poem years ago that, especially for UU's, has become a kind of secular scripture. Her "Wild Geese" begins:

"You do not have to be good. / You do not have to walk on your knees / for a hundred miles through the desert, repenting. / You only have to let the soft animal of your body / love what it loves."

Such a startling message, isn't it? A bit later in the poem she introduces the wild geese, "high in the clean, blue air." But the final lines of that same poem have been speaking more powerfully to me recently. As we emerge from the wreckage of Metro Surge, I find these helpful:

"Whoever you are, no matter how lonely, / the world offers itself to your imagination, / calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting— / over and over announcing your place / in the family of things."

Two words in particular stand out here: *calls* and *family*.

Calls. The harshest sounds of this besieged winter were those of Minnesota's little orange whistles sounding an alarm to our neighbors as they sprinted for their homes and prayed that ICE agents wouldn't batter the door in. Those whistles were a terrifying call. But far more than terror, I hope that same shrill sound made real what *The Atlantic* writer Adam Serwer found here as he coined the term "neighborism." These whistles were the harsh call of Minnesotans "who don't care whether their neighbors were born in Minneapolis or Mogadishu."

And *Family*. Thanks to the organizing of Unity's Martha Tilton and many volunteers, I joined Obama Observers this winter, walking back and forth on Laurel Street, whistle in my pocket, eyes on the school's playground. Some days we jumped over the sidewalk ice (oh, the metaphor!) and the next day it was pond-sized puddles. Regardless of the weather, we were incensed that

any of us needed to be out there in the first place. Here's a sentence I never thought I'd write: we volunteered to keep our government from abducting a child. But this was and is neighborism. This was a wider definition of family. This is the point of Oliver's poem. As our late ministers said, "There are no other people's children."

Unity's Ends: *We the people of Unity Church-Unitarian, grounded in a joyous vision of beloved community...cultivate a multigenerational community of joy, care, and belonging...*

As we sift through the damage that our government created, how can we, Unity Church, turn and cultivate more belonging?

Twice this church year Reverend Oscar has cited from the pulpit the eye-opening research of sociologist Erica Chenoweth. Across a century's worth of data, Chenoweth found that when 3.5% of a population protest nonviolently against their authoritarian government, that government is likely to fall. If UUs want to affect new outcomes in our politics, healthcare systems, housing, climate policies and a host of other needs — create beloved community at scale — we've got a math problem. There are about 5,000 UUs in Minnesota, and that's roughly 0.1% of our state's population. We can't do this alone. *We have to partner.*

We partner with those whose work, if not their theology, aligns with our own. One example: ISIAAH is a multiracial organization representing half a million Minnesotans, including 100 churches and 40 mosques. Its roots are unapologetically Christian, yet its leaders emphatically differentiate ISIAAH with white Christian nationalism. They organized the massive December rally at the Minneapolis Convention Center in which 5,000 gathered to train in nonviolent resistance; ISIAAH estimates one third of those attendees did *not* identify as Christian. On April 15,

Tax Day, their political arm, Faith in Minnesota, organized a lobbying effort at the state Capitol in support of healthcare — one of the pillars of what they call their "People's Agenda" which includes housing, public education, and food security. Vivian Ihekoronye is Faith in Minnesota's Lead Community Organizer and told me she's seeing more and more Unitarians joining Isaiah's actions, many from Unity Church. Quakers and Buddhists are also showing up in large, new numbers.

As Unity seeks to walk the talk of our End's Statements, church member Clover Earl, convener of the Racial Justice Ministry Team, saw potential. Unity's *ISIAAH Partnership Team* was born. Its charge is to keep "the congregation connected to and actively engaged in increasing awareness of Faith in Minnesota's People's Agenda." One tangible outcome is that the congregation now has dozens of members serving as Faith in Minnesota delegates at Senate District Conventions, committed to ensuring that candidates support the People's Agenda. With the midterms coming, Clover sees ISIAAH "committed to bringing together people of all faiths, ages, classes, and orientations to help ensure that our democracy and Beloved Community prevail in November."

Is there any conflict between ISIAAH's explicitly Christian mission and Unity's faith tradition? "The short answer is no," says Clover. "As an organization, ISIAAH has been masterful at creating simultaneous opportunities for actions across different faith traditions."

This is just one of the many partners that Unity needs and seeks so we can meet this moment. When our values align and our voices join, we do the work of Oliver's beautiful wild geese, calling more and more people into the family where they have always belonged.

Both [Vivian](#) and [Clover](#) welcome your direct inquiries to learn more.

WELCOME NEWCOMERS



Welcome Words

Philippa Anastos, Membership Coordinator and Program Assistant

Belonging is one of the most exciting and challenging concepts in membership. Overwhelmingly, people seem to believe that belonging and support are things they must earn. Often, these same people

are the most giving individuals in their community, and will extend welcome to others without a second thought — while still doubting their own place. This month, take some time to greet not only visitors, but also those you have known for a long time. Delight in the community here, and remember that you belong.

Summer Service Schedule

On Sunday, May 24, we switch to our summer worship schedule with one service at 10:00 a.m., both in person and via livestream.

Finding Yourself at Unity

Finding Yourself at Unity: For Visitors and Inquirers
Sundays | 10:15 a.m. | Center Room
Childcare available in the nursery

Beginning May 24 we switch to our summer schedule with one Sunday service at 10:00 a.m. Finding Yourself at Unity will move to 11:15 a.m. beginning May 24.

Join the repeating five-session cycle at any time. Attend the sessions in any order, which include Faith Formation for Children, Youth, and Adults; Congregational and Pastoral Care; Q&A with a Minister; Social Justice and Community Outreach; and Membership 101 and Congregational Life. Weekly church emails include the session topic or find the session schedule at the Welcome Table in the main lobby or in Parish Hall, or email philippa@unityunitarian.org to receive Saturday morning email reminders.

Join the Welcome Team

The Welcome Team is expanding! Every Sunday we greet new visitors and old friends, help individuals navigate the building, usher, collect the offering, and more. As our weekly numbers grow, more team members will help us greet at additional entrances and provide more guidance to newcomers. If you are interested in joining the Welcome Team, or in trying a shadowing shift, contact Philippa Anastos at philippa@unityunitarian.org.

Join us for a St. Paul Saints Game

A baseball game makes the perfect summer outing — so save the date and join us on Friday, August 28, as we cheer on the St. Paul Saints! Tickets are \$22 each. Contact Philippa Anastos at philippa@unityunitarian.org to reserve tickets.

Fellowship Groups

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

Afterthoughts: Sundays, 10:15 a.m., Middle School Room 021, to discuss the service

Caregivers Support Group: third Thursday of the month at noon, Zoom

Embodied Practice Circle: Wednesday, noon-1:00 p.m., Foote Room. Learn and share Tai Ji and Qigong, movement and stillness, poetry, song and silence.

Evergreen Quilters: second Tuesday of the month, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Anderson Library, and fourth Saturday of the month, 10:00 a.m.-noon, off-site.

Families Living with Mental Health Challenges: third Saturday of each month, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Zoom

Food Ministry: Help prepare a Wellspring Wednesday meal, set-up and serve coffee on a Sunday morning, or share in one of the many kitchen tasks that contribute to opportunities for our community to share meals together. Contact Heidi Birkholz at heidi@unityunitarian.org.

Living With Grief Group: third Tuesday of the month, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Zoom

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

Men's Conversation Group: Monday, May 11 and 25, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Zoom. Discuss a range of topics.

Men's Retirement Circle: Monday, May 4 and 18, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Robbins Parlor

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

Sangha Practice: Tuesdays, 4:30-6:00 p.m., Ames Chapel. This group is open to anyone interested, no experience is necessary, instructions provided. Email kp@unityunitarian.org to join the practice.

The Singing Resistance: Thursdays, May 7 and 21, 6:30-7:15 p.m., Parish Hall. Learn songs of hope and resilience to sing with the larger Singing Resistance of the Twin Cities.

Textile Arts Group: first and third Friday of the month, 9:30-11:00 a.m., DeCramer Room, bring your knitting, stitching, etc.

Unity Book Club: second Tuesday of the month, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Zoom. May 12 discussion: *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid* by Bill Bryson

Women's Coffee Circle: first and third Saturday of each month (May 2 and 16), 10:00-11:30 a.m., Center Room

Women in Retirement: second and fourth Thursday of each month, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Center Room

Young Adult Group (ages 18-35): every other Wednesday at 7:10 p.m., Center Room.

Gifts for the Long-Term Future of Unity Church

Think about what Unity Church has meant in your life — the questions it has sparked, the connections it has nurtured, the ways it has called you toward something larger than yourself. Whatever has made Unity home for you, chances are you've thought about what it would mean for it to still be here — thriving, doing its good work — decades from now.

That's the vision at the heart of planned giving, ensuring that Unity Church continues to transform lives long into the future, sustained by the generosity of those who came before.

And this year, there's a special reason to act on this idea: Two generous Unity members have created a matching fund specifically to inspire others to make a planned gift — to take that step of naming Unity Church in their will, estate plan, or beneficiary designations. The spirit behind it is simple: When we live from a place of abundance and trust in what lies ahead, our generosity has a way of multiplying.

A Challenge Rooted in Abundance

Here's how the matching fund works: If you inform the church that Unity is included in your planned giving, that gift will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$1,000. It's an invitation to imagine what becomes possible when generosity begets generosity — when one person's act of hope inspires another, and the future we're building together grows a little stronger and a little brighter.

Full details are available on the Unity website: unityunitarian.org/heritage-society-legacy-giving.html.

The Heritage Society

Today, nearly 150 Unity Church members and friends have informed the church of their legacy commitments — an extraordinary testament to their love for this community and their faith in its future. Each year, we celebrate them at our Heritage Society Dinner. This year's event will take place on Saturday, June 6.



Planned giving is open to everyone. There is no minimum gift, no single right way to give, and no moment too early or too late to begin thinking about the legacy you want to leave. And, acting now will allow Unity Church to receive the matching grant funds available through the generous matching gift.

If you're considering a planned gift or want to learn more about the Heritage Society or the matching grant, please reach out to Laura Park at laura@unityunitarian.org. We would be honored to hear about your ideas and plans to help sustain the future of Unity Church.

Facilities Update

You'll notice a number of projects happening at Unity Church this summer, thanks to your generous financial contributions. We will:

- Renew the St. Albans parking lot with resurfacing, landscaping with runoff management, and signage, all made possible by your pledges and contributions to the Sacred Space fund. Our contractor (JL Theis) expects the project to take a week and a half in May, during which time the lot will be closed. Watch weekly The parking lot will remain open on Foote Music Sunday, May 3, and Flower Communion Family Sunday on May 17.
- Install new carpet outside the Center Room, and new heavy-duty walk-off carpet at the Holly Avenue entrance, also made possible by your pledges and contributions to the Sacred Space fund. We anticipate installation to happen over a few days in July.
- Restore and repaint the ceiling in the Sanctuary with funding from the Dickerman Building Fund. Our contractor (Guaranteed Construction Group) has explained the way the condensation caused by our high ceilings and roof construction created the stains, confirmed the assessment of three other roofing and construction experts we've consulted that it is not mold, and has a solid plan to ensure the stains do not return. We will also test the stains to verify they are not mold. We expect this to take a week in July, and the work should not affect Sunday services.
- Install solar panels on the Eliot Wing roof, also with funding from the Dickerman Building Fund. This project is not yet scheduled: more to come!

**Congregational
Survey
Opens
May 3**



Tell us by May 17!

WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY

May 6

Dinner: Mandalay Kitchen's pumpkin curry with tofu, rice, green beans, dessert

Karen Weaving Circle | Parish Hall

Join members of the [Karen Weaving Circle](#) for a presentation and demonstration of their weaving techniques. The Karen (K'nyaw) people traditionally live in the hill tribes of Thailand, with ancestral lands along a narrow strip of Burma bordering Thailand. Decades of civil war and ethnic persecution by the Burmese/Myanmar regime forced many Karen to seek refuge in camps in Thailand. Since 2005, some Karen have resettled in the United States, including in St. Paul.

During the presentation, participants will learn about the Karen (K'nyaw) history and culture, including food, clothing, family relations and communication styles. We will also learn about how the Karen became refugees, their resettlement in the U.S., and how they have adapted to life here.

Cultivating the Sacred Well of Resilience | Anderson Library

Join educator Jackie Smith for a spring series designed to cultivate resilience and well-being in the lives of educators. Rooted in care, connection, and community, this course is ideal for anyone seeking greater clarity, balance, and sustainability in their work. Whether you're in your first years of teaching, mid-career, or approaching retirement, developing habits that support well-being — both at school and at home — can help sustain the joy and purpose of teaching in an increasingly complex world.

Religious Education New Family Orientation | Robbins Parlor

Learn about Unity's religious education programs for children and youth. Email Nelson Moroukian at nelson@unityunitarian.org one week in advance to participate.

Young Adults Group | Center Room

A fun, reflective group working to build multifaith and multicultural community.

Beginner Violin | Choir Room

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

May 13

Dinner: Hoyo sambusas, Basbaas sauce, quinoa salad, roasted potatoes, blueberry cake

Death Café | Parish Hall

Come, eat cake, drink tea and discuss our mortality with Rev. Shay MacKay. Since its inception in 2010, the Death Café model has spread quickly to more than 90 countries. The aim is to increase awareness of death to help people make the most of their (finite) lives. It seems people have a lot to say about death, and enjoy engaging in these conversations with others. What it is: A Death Café is a group directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives or themes. What it is not: A group focused on bereavement, grief support or a group counseling session.

Lectio Divina | Gannett Room & Zoom

Come experience the alchemy that occurs through focused reflection on an inspirational text.

Somatic Yoga | Foote Room

This class is accessible to anyone comfortable sitting on the floor, bring a yoga mat, blanket, or blocks for added comfort. Led by Dr. Tamara Kraft, a somatic psychotherapist and holistic health coach.

Beginner Violin | Choir Room

8

Integrity, service, and joy.

Wellspring Wednesday

See you at church!



[Wellspring Wednesday](#) gathers a multigenerational church community to nourish right and holy relationship among us and deepen our life of faith, grounded in spiritual practice and antiracist multicultural work. Each week we share:

- Meaningful time and nourishing food together, beginning at 5:45 p.m. The cost for dinner is \$10/adults, \$5/child (ages 5-12), \$3/child (ages 2-4), and \$25/family.
- Multigenerational worship in Ames Chapel at 6:45 p.m.
- Opportunities to play, learn, and practice — childcare provided beginning at 7:10 p.m.



Summer Vacation

After May 13, Wellspring Wednesday will go on summer vacation returning in September with more opportunities to share a meal, worship across generations, and learn and grow together.

Wonder, open-hearted engagement, courageous action

Singing with Love

Celebrating 20 Years of Music Ministry with Unity Singers

Sunday, June 7, 2026 | 7:00 PM
Sanctuary at Unity Church

Unity Singers is offering this concert as a thank you to Unity Church for the honor and joy of participating in its music ministry.

The music will feature selections that have been significant in the Singers' history, and meaningful to the congregation.

Please join this celebration of music's role in the spiritual life of our church and stay for a festive reception following the concert.



LIBRARY-BOOKSTALL TEAM

Grab a Book and Grab a Seat for Poetry, Story, and Music

Shelley Butler, Library-Bookstall Team

Grab a Seat at Café Unity: Friday, May 8. Doors open at 6:45 p.m., program starts promptly at 7:00 p.m., in Parish Hall. The lineup is full and it's a great one: new musicians, singers, and writers, as well as Café Unity favorites! Come share in the food, drink, and most of all, wonderful music and readings in a casual atmosphere of fellowship and community. Invite your friends and fellow congregants. If you can't attend in person, join us on Zoom: tinyurl.com/CafeU26.

The Library-Bookstall Team sponsors this free event — did I mention that it is free? — each year for 18 years now as our way of both celebrating the literary and musical talent of the congregation, and to say “thank you” to you all who support our ministry throughout the church year by buying books at the Bookstall, attending events, and by using the Anderson Library.

Speaking of the Bookstall and No-Fines Anderson Library, come on in and grab a book! The Bookstall has an ever-changing inventory of new and classic spirituality and social justice titles, meditations, biography, poetry, history, and much more. The proceeds from the Bookstall fund purchasing books in the library and special events like Café Unity.

Just out this spring and available in both the Bookstall and Anderson Library in May is *We the Women: The Hidden Heroes Who Shaped America* by Emmy-winning Norah O'Donnell and NYTimes bestselling author Kate Anderson Brower. *We the Women* presents a fresh look at American history through the eyes of women, introducing us to inspiring patriots who demanded that the country live up to the promises made 250 years ago in the Declaration of Independence.

Do you know, that the Anderson Library:

- purchases mainly new books (published in the last two-three years);
- does *not* charge fines;
- circulates more than 2000 books;
- has an [online catalog](#) that you can access anywhere you have Internet access;
- houses fiction, history, climate change, indigenous justice, racial justice, poetry, religion, *much* Unitarian Universalism, and more by well-known authors;
- accepts book recommendations.
- is self-serve, meaning you can check out a book anytime the church is open and the library is not in meeting use.

Hope to see you at Café Unity, in the Bookstall, and in the Anderson Library.



Cafe Unity
The Annual Coffeehouse Featuring
the Literary and Musical Talent of Unity Church
Friday, May 8, 2026
doors open at 6:45pm / program starts at 7:00pm
Join us in the Unity Parish Hall or on Zoom.
Come enjoy a celebration of original
writing, great music, refreshments,
and fellowship. Free!
Sponsored by the Unity Library-Bookstall Team.

Parish Hall Artists

The Art Team invites you to appreciate art and culture during Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage month (May) with our next exhibit in Parish Hall. This exhibit features paintings and illustrations by Tou Her, a Hmong American artist and the weavings of the Karen Weaving Circle.



Pictured: Karen weavers, Tou Her (inset)

Both the Hmong and the Karen (also known as K'nyaw) are minority ethnic groups (with subgroups) from Southeast Asia. Both ethnic groups have hill tribe populations living in Thailand. Many Karen, who lived in Burma/Myanmar, had to flee civil war and ethnic persecution and sought refuge in Thai refugee camps, where some people lived for over 30 years without being able to go home — a true refugee crisis. Some Karen refugees have now been resettled around the world and in the U.S.

The Hmong are an ethnic group with origins in China and who live in parts of Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Burma. Many Hmong also fled war and persecution and sought refuge in Thailand. (Those refugee camps are now closed.) Starting in 1975, Hmong have resettled from refugee camps to in other countries, including right here in St. Paul. Today St. Paul is home to about 34,000 Hmong. From business to politics, many Hmong Americans are leaders in St. Paul, including Mayor Kaohly Vang Her.

Karen people started resettling in St. Paul in about 2005; there are now about 20,000 who live in, and are part of, the fabric of St. Paul. The recent increased ICE/DHS/Border Patrol presence has been extremely stressful for all immigrant communities and people of color, including our Karen and Hmong neighbors. We are grateful that these artists are willing and able to participate in this exhibit and share their work with our congregation.

To read the artist statements from Tou Her and the Karen Weavers, please visit the [Art Lives at Unity webpage](#).

To learn more about Karen culture, please attend Wellspring Wednesday on May 6 — see page 8 for details.

Eliot Wing Memorial Plaque Returns

Archives Team: Pauline Eichten, Aubrey Lodahl, Louise Merriam, Carol Miller, Betsy Moore, Deb Woodburn

Not long after the Archives Room was established, artifacts started showing up. Some had been tucked away in various rooms on the lower level. Some were moved from their original location or bequeathed to the church. The team has been working with the Executive Team to determine where these items rightfully belong.



We're happy to announce that one item in particular, the Frederick May Eliot plaque, has found a home. Originally, the bronze plaque was mounted on the short wall between the office of Shay MacKay and Philippa Anastos. It took some time to find a new location that could bear the weight of the piece. Last March, Facilities Manager Reed Richards and church member Matt Brown installed the plaque on the wall outside the Facilities Office.

Frederick May Eliot was Unity Church minister from 1917-1937 and then served the denomination until his death in 1958. The Eliot Wing addition was completed in 1957 during Arthur Foote's ministry. It extended the building north, providing a main floor with offices, classrooms, the Center Room, and a kitchen. The basement level added bathrooms and more classrooms. It was the first major construction since the addition of the Parish Hall and Ames Chapel in the 1920s.

The plaque notes that the addition "was made possible by many members and friends — and by gifts in memory of the following." Below is a list of 65 people being memorialized. Many of the family names, like Bailey, Blodgett, Chaney, Kelley, Sewall, and Sommers, date back to the 1870s when Unity Church was started.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRIES

EcoFair on Summit 2026

Paul Englund, Act for the Earth Team

When I retired three years ago, I quite suddenly found myself with more time and energy available for things close to my heart — things like how I might contribute to the healing of our unhealthy relationships with each other and the rest of the natural world. I looked around my village (Unity Church) for opportunities and started connecting with the Act for the Earth (AFE) Team. In my time with AFE, I have learned much. But the group is not *Learn* for the Earth, it is *Act* for the Earth.

Now, plain old information will spread easily through a single point of contact — a conversation or a news story, for instance. However, information alone isn't usually enough to get us to change our accustomed ways — this is a more complex process. Before we undertake new actions, we need to see others in our trusted social network adopting new ways of being in the world. That's how it was for me as I saw what other AFE villagers were actually doing — installing solar panels and heat pumps; planting trees, vegetable and pollinator gardens; switching to electric vehicles; reducing their use of plastic; flying less and moving toward a more plant-based diet. We don't all do everything, but we all do what we can, moved to action by our evolving community.



Let's see — within, among... ah yes, beyond! One of the joys of creating EcoFair has been connecting with like-minded neighbors. Through our personal and institutional ties, with the help of Unity Church partner organization Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (MNIPL), we have assembled a coalition of seven congregations, across denominations, to create EcoFair. We are not an island! There is friendship and collaboration just outside our walls.

At EcoFair you will find over 60 organizations doing inspiring things, from contractors working in the latest technologies to nonprofits advocating for a new social/ ecological ethos. Find details about the Second Annual EcoFair on Summit [online at MNIPL's website](#). Come to the EcoFair on Summit — you may be moved from "That's a great idea!" to "Let's do this!"

12

Integrity, service, and joy.

Donate to Hallie Q. Brown Food Shelf

Thank you for your support during the month of March! Over 319 pounds of food were donated to Hallie Q. Brown. For May, the food shelf needs salsa, dry pinto and black beans, syrup, pancake mix, mac & cheese and canned sardines. Please no expired food. Paper grocery bags are really appreciated or reusable cloth ones. Financial contributions are gratefully accepted online at hallieqbrown.charityproud.org/donate.



2026 Outdoor Ministry at Unity Church

Unity's Act for the Earth Team seeks to deepen our spiritual connection to nature and to each other this summer. Join the team to recharge and enjoy fellowship through family-friendly activities, all ages and ability levels encouraged to participate!

**Crosby Farm Picnic | Sunday, May 31
2:30-7:00 p.m. | Potluck dinner at 5:00 p.m.**

Join the Act for the Earth Team for birding, biking, walking meditation or just playing in the sand along the Mississippi River. Bring yard games and food to share!

Afton State Park | Saturday, July 18

Come for a day of hiking, biking, swimming, a campfire, and even an overnight camping option is available!

Canoe the St. Croix | Saturday, August 22

Mark your calendar and watch for more details about all of these outdoor opportunities for connection!

Save the Date: Mark Charles

Dine/Navajo scholar, author, and activist.

Saturday, June 27 | Parish Hall, Unity Church

Part 1, morning: Doctrine of Discovery

Part 2, afternoon: Decolonizing Health and Food Systems



Mark R. Charles is a Native American activist, public speaker, author, and former independent U.S. presidential candidate known for confronting systemic racism and the legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery. Mark Charles co-authored *Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery* with Soong-Chan Rah. Purchase the book at Unity's Bookstall or find a signed copy at wirelesshogan.square.site.

This event is co-sponsored by the Twin Cities and Southern Minnesota Repair Communities and Unity's Indigenous Justice, Act for the Earth, and Racial Justice Teams.

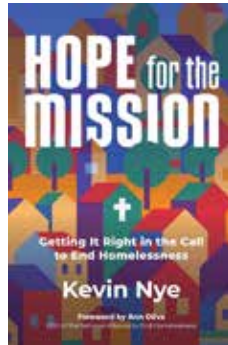
Wonder, open-hearted engagement, courageous action

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Housing Justice Team

New Book Features the Work of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative

Beacon is a major partner with Unity's Housing Justice Team. They are the focus of a chapter in author Kevin Nye's new book, *Hope for the Mission: Getting it Right in the Call to End Homelessness*. Nye critiques paternalistic models of shelter promoted by many U.S. churches. He then turns to examples of transformative, evidenced-based housing development and policy (featuring Beacon) which faith communities can consider for their work as advocates for housing justice.



30-Minute Updates

Need help understanding the housing crisis? On the first Wednesday of each month, Beacon hosts a 30-minute housing update on Zoom called Rent is Due. It may include an update on legislation, a speaker, etc. Find the Zoom link at [Beacon's event calendar](#) and register for the session that fits your schedule.

Habitat for Humanity: Save the Date



Unity's Housing Justice Team also partners with Habitat for Humanity. Each summer, we co-sponsor a Habitat home construction work week. This year, it is July 13-17, in Roseville. We will remodel an existing home. (It is as important to repair and keep affordable housing in the market as it is to build new construction.)

[Sign up today](#) or in Parish Hall in May and June after services. All skill levels are needed. You can volunteer for one day or multiple days. You'll also learn more about how a home is built and how Habitat contributes to stable housing in our communities. Questions? Contact Unity Church member Chuck Griggs at griggscb@msn.com.

A Project Home Success

Our team's third partner is Project Home, which provides immediate shelter and assists with finding permanent housing. On April 4, Unity's Evergreen Quilters and our Housing Justice Team collaborated to collect your gently-used household goods. Three carloads and two vans were filled! These items will be distributed to clients from Project Home, who are moving into permanent housing. Thank you!

Planting Seeds of Justice

Krista Finstad Hanson, UUSC Partner Team

The Unity Church UUSC Partner Team is working to bring a connection back to Unity Church with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.



On Thursday, April 9, the Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, the UUSC President; Jessica Sapalio, Community Accompaniment Coordinator; and Laura Randall, Director of Congregation Relations held a virtual roundtable open to all UUSC members, supporters, and friends detailing their work at home and abroad since the start of 2026.

The UUSC Board traveled to the Bahamas to meet with partners there and from Haiti. They helped organize a reparations symposium with the UUSC, the University of Bahamas, and two high-level UN representatives from the Permanent Forum for People of African descent.

The UUSC leaders discussed their work with CAPAS, assisting asylum seekers, and the Pink Haven Coalition, assisting the LGBTQ+ community in the U.S.

Rev. Morn discussed the Minneapolis response to the ICE Out movement in what they are calling the "UU Solidarity Initiative." MARCH (Multifaith, Antiracism, Change & Healing) put out a call to come to the Twin Cities from January 22-24. On January 23, one hundred faith leaders, including 12 UU ministers (and our own Rev. Sinclair and Rev. Hong) "prayed and sang at the Minneapolis airport to protest federal occupation by ICE and were arrested for their act of civil disobedience." Others joined the march of an estimated 75,000 people downtown Minneapolis.

However, as we now know, on January 24 Alex Pretti was murdered by ICE agents. Some UU ministers who came to the Twin Cities stayed to offer pastoral care. UUSC funds were used to help extend their stay.

As a result of this effort, the UUSC has seen an increase in donations. They will be setting up the "Good Trouble Fund" with extra donations that were received.

The UUSC is setting up Resistance Network that can be accessed by all on the [UUSC website](#).

MUUSJA

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



MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES



Roots Hold Me Close, Wings Set Me Free

**Nelson Moroukian, Religious Educator
for Children and Family Ministries**

Do our children know that they belong here? Not merely that they are welcome, which is an important thing we say at the door, but that they *belong*?

Belonging is quieter than welcome. Especially for children, it is not held in their words but in their hearts. It is the understanding that they are known here. That their names are known by people who are not their parents. That their presence has weight in this place beyond their family, and across generations.

The way we affirm our children's inherent worth and dignity is one of the most important things we do. They notice it in the eyes of the adults in the congregation looking back at them with full hearts as they deliver their Coming of Age credo, or in the moment a shy sixth grader steps onto a stage during the children's musical and finds not an audience but their community in the pews. Those moments are not about talent or performance. They are about children discovering that their vulnerability is safe here, and that when they offer something of themselves, this community receives it wholly. They *belong* here.

And that is precisely our invitation as adults, and our challenge. Each time we show up for our children and youth with the intention of seeing them, each time we lean forward and pay attention to what they have to share with us, we expand their circle of belonging a little further; and we continue to expand our own. Even with our littlest ones, these moments matter so deeply. Because belonging is not about staying within the circle. The vulnerability that we affirm, the values they will come to hold, and the relationships they build here all go with them as they journey forth. They will carry this community and all that we believe in the way a plant carries its roots beneath the surface, feeding everything they grow toward, lighting the way towards the beloved community.

Our work is not to keep them close, and it is not to define their thoughts and actions. It is to know them well, and to let them know us in return, so that they grow confident enough to bring what they have to a world that needs them.

Childcare for Church Events

To request childcare for a church event, please complete Unity's [Childcare Request Form](#) at least one week in advance. Unity's Nursery Coordinator will contact you to confirm the reservation.



Register for Chalice Camp



Week 1: July 6–10

Nature, Food, and Land

Exploring our relationship with the natural world, where our food comes from, and how we care for the land around us.

Week 2: July 13–17

Stories, Myths, and Music

Diving into the power of storytelling, the wisdom in myths and traditions, and the way music connects us to stories told across cultures and communities.

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

Chalice Camp runs Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., providing a full day of activities for children and youth ages 5–13.

Alongside lots of outdoor fun and games, craft projects, and water days, our daily activities are designed to deepen Unitarian Universalist values through fostering creativity, building community, and engaging in spiritual practices.

Details and registration, including opportunities for older youth to serve as senior campers and counselors are available online at unityunitarian.org/chalice-camp.

MUSIC MINISTRY



Music Notes

Ahmed Anzaldúa
Director of Music Ministries

Since we started the church year in September, the entire Music Ministry has been working on a monumental work that, in my opinion, couldn't be more relevant to our present moment:

Considering Matthew Shepard by Craig Hella Johnson. We will be presenting this work at the two worship services on Foote Music Sunday, May 3. Throughout the year, the various choirs have been singing excerpts from the work in different worship services, and we now have the opportunity to place these excerpts in the context of the overarching narrative of this work.

Considering Matthew Shepard is a large-scale choral work created by Craig Hella Johnson and librettist Michael Dennis Browne, who passed away very recently and who himself had connections to Unity Church. Both artists have deep roots in Minnesota, and the piece itself was born out of a long creative partnership grounded in shared values of community, empathy, and social responsibility. The work responds to the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard, a young gay man in Wyoming whose death became a catalyst for national conversations about hate crimes and LGBTQ+ dignity. Rather than telling the story as a linear narrative, the piece invites us into a deeper act of contemplation. It draws on poetry, journal entries, interviews, scripture, and hymnody to ask not only what happened, but how we are called to respond.

One of the most powerful aspects of this work is its profound sense of humanity. The libretto gives voice to grief, anger, tenderness, and the search for meaning, while the music holds those emotions with extraordinary care. *Considering Matthew Shepard* does not offer easy answers or tidy resolutions. Instead, it creates space for lament, for honest confrontation with violence and hatred, and for the slow and necessary work of healing and transformation. It is music that feels especially at home at Unity Church, where worship can hold joy and sorrow side by side.

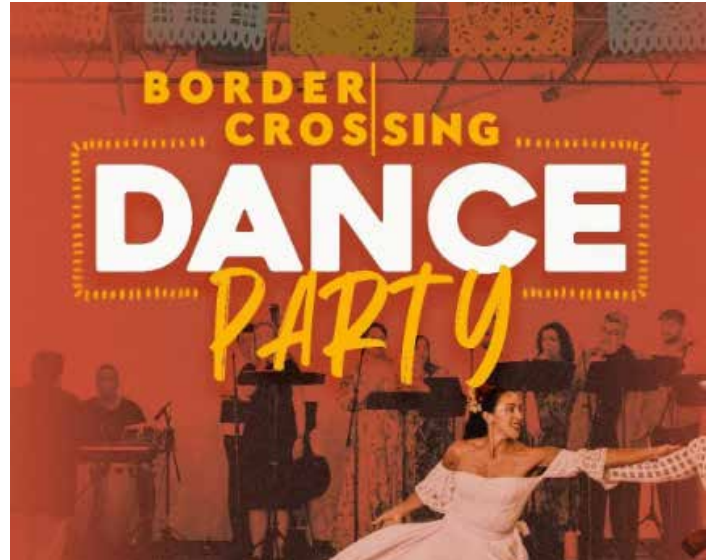
As we approach this performance, we invite you to be present with this work in its fullness. This is not only a concert, but an act of communal reflection. It asks us to listen deeply, to bear witness, and to consider how we respond to one another in a world still marked by violence and division. In gathering together for this performance, we affirm the role of music as a space where beauty and truth can meet, and where our shared commitment to love, justice, and the inherent worth and dignity of every person can be renewed.

Arthur Foote Music Sunday

Sunday, May 3 | 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. | Sanctuary

Border CrosSing Dance Party

Friday, May 15 | 7:00 -9:00 p.m. | Cedar Cultural Center
Sunday, May 17 | 4:00-6:00 p.m. | Cedar Cultural Center



[Border CrosSing](#) transforms into a full-fledged salsa band in this joyful, family-friendly program featuring a vibrant rhythm section and amazing vocalists, joined by members of Heritage Choir, for an even bigger and richer sound. This won't be a sit-still kind of night: our dance instructors will get people out of their seats and moving their bodies!

One Voice Mixed Chorus: Royalty

Saturday, June 27 | 7:00 p.m. | Ordway Concert Hall
Sunday, June 28 | 2:30 p.m. | Ordway Concert Hall



[One Voice Mixed Chorus](#) presents *Royalty* during Pride weekend. This program blends choral music, drag artistry, and storytelling to uplift queer history, challenge choral traditions, and honor drag as both art form and resistance. Featuring stunning drag performances, *Royalty* is a bold celebration of authenticity, resilience, and joy.



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

Rev. Dr. Oscar Sinclair, Senior Minister
Rev. KP Hong, Minister of Faith Formation
Laura Park, Executive Director
Marcia Hayes, Chair, Board of Trustees

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Summer Service Schedule

On Sunday, May 24, we switch to our summer worship schedule with one service at 10:00 a.m., both in person and via livestream.

If you would like to bring flowers for a summer Sunday worship service, please contact Martha Tilton at martha@unityunitarian.org.

In the Justice Database

[In The Justice Database](#) find here:

- [Legislative History](#)
- [Books and Reports](#)
- [Articles](#)
- [Internet Resources](#)
- [Additional Library Resources](#)



Justice Database
A Project of Unity Church-Unitarian

Arthur Foote Music Sunday

CONSIDERING MATTHEW SHEPARD

Craig Hella Johnson

Sunday, May 3
9:00 and 11:15 a.m.
Sanctuary

As we approach this performance, we invite you to be present with this work in its fullness. This is not only a concert, but an act of communal reflection. It asks us to listen deeply, to bear witness, and to consider how we respond to one another in a world still marked by violence and division. In gathering together for this performance, we affirm the role of music as a space where beauty and truth can meet, and where our shared commitment to love, justice, and the inherent worth and dignity of every person can be renewed.