

## Covenant

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

We create covenants. We covenant with each other. As a noun, a covenant signals how we want to be with one another, setting out values and actions that sustain us in community. As a verb, covenant is a practice, a promise, a vow. Perhaps the fact that covenant acts as a noun *and* a verb is a telling indication of the vibrancy of the term. Or maybe we just can't make up our minds whether the act or the result is more important.

Unitarian Universalist identity is founded on the notion that we covenant together, rather than share a single creed. UU religious educator Thandeka writes that "as Unitarian Universalists, we affirm right relationship as a reverential act." This reverence binds us — each to each and each to all — by what Rev. Rebecca Parker, former president of Starr King School for the Ministry, calls "freely chosen and life-sustaining interdependence." It is our promises to each other, not our beliefs, that brings us into the presence of the holy.

Given that we are UUs, not everyone finds this compelling. Some UUs chafe at the structure of covenant because it seems to contradict the premise of free thinking and personal decision-making that are also critical to our faith. The notion that everyone can believe what they want, that we "need not think alike to love alike" (which sixteenth-century Transylvanian Unitarian Francis Dávid evidently never said) resonates with us. Often, we place a greater value on our own ideas than on communal understandings and shared commitments. This focus on self and personal decision-making can make building and sustaining covenantal communities a challenge.

Yet still we come together, however ticklish we remain about our own needs and however forcefully we assert our own beliefs. We understand

that working only for our personal improvement and individual salvation can never be enough. Instead, like Clarence Skinner, a Unitarian theologian of the early twentieth century, we accept that we are "enmeshed in a world of humanity" from which we cannot disentangle ourselves. We are "part of the marvelous solidarity of life" and "must work out the salvation of the world" as well as our own. In community, we are saved and we can begin to save each other. Despite our mistrust and fears, we know we need each other, and that the world needs our community.

None of this is easy. Poet Wendell Berry warns that making a promise is always a leap into uncertainty. "We cannot join ourselves to one another without giving our word," he says. "And this must be an unconditional giving, for in joining ourselves to another we join ourselves to the unknown." He adds that "you do not know the road; you have committed your life to a way." By leaping into the unknown, something more than the sum of our parts gets created. A covenantal relationship creates its own unexpected force in the world, what poet Robert Bly calls a "third body" that draws power from the promises that created it.

Joining together in covenant demands perseverance. The lines in marriage vows where people promise to remain together in good times and in bad, in sickness and health, for better and for worse reflect this inherent aspect of covenant. This is true for church too. Some of you have probably stayed with this church even as you strongly disagreed with something preached from the pulpit or a decision made by the Board. Or you were hurt here, but you forgave, and stayed in conversation. Covenant is a synonym for fidelity, for sticking around when some might walk away, for working for reconciliation in

the face of strife. Covenanting reveals our humanity in all its broken beauty, resting on the notion that we will keep trying, that we will remain engaged, that we will "come, yet again come" to the people and places that sustain us and draw out our best selves.

Like so much of Unitarian Universalism, covenant is an aspirational goal, with perfection always out of reach. We will fail, make mistakes, need forgiveness. Yet how can we not try? Binding ourselves to a covenant keeps us awake to the values and qualities that sustain our lives. Covenanting with others is a sacred practice, a promise written on the hearts of other, a vow to join ourselves to the "marvelous solidarity of life."

*Hallman Ministerial Intern*

*Kathryn Jay with this month's theme team: Janne Eller-Isaacs, Ken Ford, Lisa Friedman, Karen Hering, KP Hong, and Ruth Palmer*

### Covenant Theme Resources

#### BOOKS

*More Together than Alone: Discovering the Power and Spirit of Community in Our Lives and in the World* by Mark Nepo (2018)

#### CHILDREN'S BOOKS

*Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney (1985)

*Mother Bruce* by Ryan T. Higgins (2015)

#### MOVIES

*In America* (2002)

*The Incredibles* (2004)

*Another Year* (2010)

#### ONLINE

Brittany Packnett, The UUA 2018 Ware Lecture: <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2018/ware>

# JUST WORDS / WHEEL OF LIFE

## Just Words



Okay, I admit it, I was very wrong. You see, I have always held a grudge against the Twin Cities Marathon. It takes twice as long to get to church for many of us. It cuts into the numbers attending worship because it is so much more difficult to get here. And of course there are folks running in the 10K and the full race. Some of us choose to stand along the route to cheer the runners on, which I now understand as a different kind of church.

In all the years of living here, we usually get to see the first runners go by as we walk our three blocks to our car but it is usually all over by the time I get home. But this year I had a major writing assignment and came home after the first service's coffee hour to work on my piece which had a deadline of Monday morning. I was busy at the computer when Rob announced that he had just received a text that our cousin, Charlie Vanek, had just seen Brian Newhouse at the 18 mile mark. Someone we knew was going to run near our house? I wrote a few minutes more but afraid we might miss Brian, we went out to Cretin Avenue.

The next thing I knew I was choked up. I was first amazed by the resilience of the runners and then the visible support they received from family and complete strangers. The tears began to really flow when I saw some adolescent boys running with their mothers, encouraging them on. "You've got this Mom. You are doing great!" The mothers went on as the boys dropped away. It turned out they were part of an organized support group and had decided on the spur of the moment to run two kilometers with their mothers. Their mothers had been training for a year to be able to complete the race.

I was amazed as we welcomed people onto the last stretch of Summit Avenue, some even found the energy to thank us for the welcome. I met a person whose sole responsibility was to encourage members of his community who were running from the river to Summit. I was impressed by all the support given to complete strangers for miles and miles. They did so to encourage people who were pushing themselves to give their all to the race.

Then we saw Brian, running his first marathon! We were overjoyed to be able to high five with him and yell our appreciation, encouragement, and our love.

So, I humbly take back every humbug thing I have said about the marathon. I owe an apology to every runner, every athlete in the congregation who I know is doing their best to stay healthy and whole through physical challenge and endurance.

Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs



## The Wheel of Life

### In Memoriam

**Paul Siegler**

January 29, 1923 –  
October 10, 2018

### In Celebration

**Milo Louis Kosim**

born one more redeemer

August 24, 2018

to parents

Libby McNiven and Mike Kosim  
and big brother Clark

**Hannah Eller-Isaacs**

**and Tim Franco**

married

September 22, 2018

**Lloyd Lentz and Samantha Loesch**

married

October 6, 2018

## Food Shelf Donations

Thank you for supporting the families served by the Hallie Q. Brown Food Shelf! Food shelf collection trunks are located at the Holly and Portland Avenue entrances. Non-perishable food, toiletries, and pet food are all gratefully accepted.

## AA and NAMI Groups

Unity Church hosts **12-step programs** in partnership with local AA, Alateen, and Al Anon groups.

- Alateen: Mondays, 6:00-7:00 p.m., Science Room
- Al Anon: Wednesdays, 5:00-6:00 p.m., Science Room
- Fresh Air AA: Thursdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Anderson Library

Unity Church hosts a **NAMI Young Adult** support group for young adults with a mental illness (regardless of diagnosis) on the first, third, and fifth Sunday of each month, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., in the COA/OWL room.

# NOVEMBER SUNDAY WORSHIP

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## November Worship

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

### November 4: Promises to Keep

From the day it appeared, we have been arguing about the promises embedded in the Declaration of Independence. Now more than ever we need to recall and renew the promises we've made to one another. On this election Sunday, Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs and worship associate Susan Huehn will help us understand how covenant becomes a practice. Musicians: Laura Sewell, cello (all); Unity Choir (9:00/11:00).

The Noack organ has been completely renovated and will be back in action for services on Sunday, November 4!

### November 11: The Covenant to End All Covenants: The Creation of the League of Nations

November 11 is the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, the war to end all wars. People all over the globe were hopeful that war was a thing of the past and that we would find new ways of working things out. As we all know, institutions like the League of Nations weren't as successful as people prayed they might be. Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs and worship associate Bob Peskin will look at this part of our history through modern lens. Veterans for Peace spokespersons Barry Reisch and Mike McDonald will offer words as well. Musicians: Natalie Nowytsky, voice and instrumental (all); Unity Choir (4:30).

### November 18: Thanksgiving Promises

Beneath the totally apocryphal story of the first Thanksgiving there is a longing for spiritual hospitality. We long to sit down at a table where everyone is truly welcome. The whole church family will gather to sing the old songs, renew that sweet longing, and try to see the feast that's always spread before us. The ministers will be joined worship associate Bob Lies. Musicians: Children's Choir, Unity Choir, Women's Ensemble (9:00/11:00); Ruth Palmer, piano (4:30).

*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. The nursery is open for children under five years of age.*

### November 25: Practicing the Art of Covenant

American history is littered with broken promises and failed covenants. Though our Puritan ancestors vowed to be "as a city upon the hill" for the world, too often our churches and our country have not achieved that lofty goal. Join Hallman Ministerial Intern Kathryn Jay and worship associate Bryan Smith as we consider how we might make promises we can keep. Musicians: Kathleen Bartholomay, piano (9:00/11:00); Priscilla Morton, piano (4:30).

## November 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.

### November 4: Zulu District of the Boy Scouts of America Northern Star Council

The Zulu District of the Northern Star Council is focused on the African American community. Its two sites at Pilgrim Baptist and St. Peter Claver serve St. Paul's youth in the Rondo neighborhood. The Zulu District aims to provide scouting programs in traditional and non-traditional ways. Today's collection will go toward scholarships for camping experiences, supplies, and uniforms for youth who could not otherwise participate in Zulu District's activities and adventures. Three Unity Church youth are members of Zulu District Pack 61. Unity's Eric Reichow is a strong supporter of Zulu District.

### November 11: 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.

### November 18: Partner Church Ministry Team

Unity's Partner Church Ministry Team uses this annual offering to subsidize travel expenses for church members and members of our partner church community in Homorodzsentspeter, Transylvania, so that our relationships continue to grow.

### November 25: Feeding Frogtown

Feeding Frogtown is a food pantry collaboratively run by St. Stephanus Church, Frogtown Neighborhood Association, and City School. Feeding Frogtown partners with Second Harvest to distribute grocery stores' excess inventory. 50-60 volunteers distribute 7,000 to 8,000 pounds of food monthly to approximately 200 families. There is no ask for proof of income or eligibility other than tracking addresses of households. Today's collection will help cover payments to Second Harvest for distributed food. Unity's Laney Ohmans and her parents are regular volunteers.

*If you would like to nominate a non-profit organization to receive an offering, please complete the nomination form at [www.unityunitarian.org/generosity-ministry.html](http://www.unityunitarian.org/generosity-ministry.html).*

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## A Long-Standing Journey, Renewed

From Justin Cummins, Chair



I recently returned from a pilgrimage of sorts: my 30-year high school reunion in St. Louis. I felt transported back in time as I walked the varied streets I ran as a kid, gazed at the red brick apartment buildings and houses in my childhood community, crunched in my hands the perpetually peeling bark from the towering Sycamore trees lining many of the streets there, heard the cicadas singing in the morning underbrush, felt the heavy humidity in the air, and tasted the St. Louis specialties of Provel cheese, toasted ravioli, and Ted Drewes frozen custard. All of this was as I remember it in a nostalgic sense. Yet those things were somehow different at the same time. As I reconnected with friends I had not seen for many years, I realized that they and I also embody this apparent contradiction of being the same as, and yet different than, we were while in school together. Each of us has grown and otherwise changed over the past three decades, but our essence as people has continued unchanged in key ways as well.

The recent Board-led process of revisiting and rearticulating Unity's Core Values, Mission, and Ends Statements also has been a pilgrimage of sorts. That process inspired those who call Unity their spiritual home to come together and reflect on who we are and imagine who we want to be more fully in the world as a religious community. Although the Core Values, Mission, and Ends Statements are new in important ways such that they represent vital change, the essence of, and spirit within, the Core Values, Mission, and Ends Statements also remain constant in significant respects.

This seeming paradox should give us comfort as we move forward in a world full of challenges. Our newly articulated Core Values, Mission, and Ends Statements are already empowering us to tackle these challenges with a renewed and reinvigorated sense of integrity, service, and joy. The path we have now chosen to take as we seek to make real in the world the Core Values, Mission, and Ends Statements is actually a continuation of a long-standing journey that may be the ultimate pilgrimage. The Board will continue to be engaged with the congregation and others who call Unity their spiritual home as, together, we make the road of pilgrimage by walking it.

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*The Board of Trustees of Unity Church-Unitarian represents the congregation in shaping the vision and long-term goals of the church. We ensure the church is externally effective and internally efficient, and we create policy and direction for the Executive Team and church staff.*

*For matters concerning church policy, long-term vision and goals, contact a trustee. We want to hear from you! Contact information is listed online at <https://www.unityunitarian.org/board-of-trustees.html>.*



## CALL TO MEETING

### Annual Meeting of the Congregation Saturday, November 17, 10:00 a.m.

*Come early for a pancake breakfast at 8:30 a.m.*

Unity Church will hold its Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Saturday, November 17, at 10:00 a.m., in the Sanctuary. Childcare will be provided.

At this meeting the Board will:

- Report to the congregation and present the operating and capital budgets for 2019. See the box below if you are interested in learning more about the budget before the annual meeting.
- Ask the congregation to elect three new trustees. The trustee nominees are Clover Earl, Jackie Smith, and Justin Cummins.
- Vote on the proposed bylaw changes. The documents available online show the proposed changes to the current bylaws and include a summary, tracking, and comments. <https://www.unityunitarian.org/board-of-trustees.html>

The annual report, budget information, trustee nominee bios and photos, and meeting agenda will be mailed to eligible voting members in early November. Eligible voting members include those who have signed the membership book and have made an identifiable pledge and a payment on that pledge during the 2018 fiscal year. All are welcome!

## Budget Information Meeting

**Sunday, November 11 • 10:15 a.m. • Unity Church**

Do you have questions about the financial landscape at Unity Church? Do you want to learn more about the 2019 budget that the congregation will be asked to approve on November 17 at the Annual Meeting? We are providing an opportunity for curious congregants to ask questions and explore in detail the church finances and 2019 proposed operating and capital budgets. Please join Barbara Hubbard, Executive Director, at the budget information meeting or contact her with questions at [barbara@unityunitarian.org](mailto:barbara@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x116.

## Annual Pledges and Year-End Gifts

### 2019 Pledge Drive

Many thanks to everyone who has made pledges for 2019! **If you haven't yet pledged, please do so today!** We hope to present the congregation with next year's budget at the November 17 annual meeting. Make your pledge online at [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org).

### Consider a year-end gift!

As we come near the end of 2018, we look back with tremendous gratitude for the gift of community and the new possibilities that we witness each day. One way that the congregation is sustained financially is through the tradition of year-end giving. If such a gift is possible for you, we invite you to make one during the month of November or December.

Donations are gratefully accepted online at <http://bit.ly/yearendgift2018> (please select "other payment" and include "year-end" in the comments) or by contacting Barbara Hubbard at [barbarah@unityunitarian.org](mailto:barbarah@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x116.

Thank you for your generosity in sustaining and stewarding the church and our larger Unitarian Universalist movement for the future!



## Hallman Ministerial Intern: Kathryn Jay



At my home church in Berkeley, I spent many Sundays teaching Religious Education classes to elementary kids. Every year, we started by making a covenant. We took out one of those oversized stickie pads and plenty of colored markers, and then we jumped into conversation. In the early grades, I did most of the writing, transcribing the ideas that everyone agreed on: "one voice at a time," "everyone helps clean up," "always have snacks because they make people happy," "if someone hurts you, tell them," and "be nice to each other and don't fight." Then everyone carefully signed it and we stuck it on the wall.

That covenant got used all the time. For the first few weeks, we read it before every lesson. Then whenever a new child joined the class, we reviewed — and sometimes updated — the covenant and they got to sign their name. We pointed to it during lessons, and sometimes needed to take it off the wall to talk about behavior and whether everyone was living into our agreements. We also used our oversized covenant to talk about UU principles and values, to relate our personal experiences to the larger faith. It was a vibrant, alive partner in our work together.

Spending all that time with kids helped me understand why covenants are so important. Amid the glue sticks and the stickers and the stories, we created the holy. Lesson plans went awry, but learning happened. There was a lot of laughing and jumping around, along with the occasional angry outburst. It was messy (did I mention the glue sticks?) and uneven and sometimes frustrating. But by making promises and trying hard to keep them, we knit ourselves into a community of concern. In R.E., we lived into our covenant.

My home church also had an "official" Covenant of Right Relations, which had been crafted several years before my family joined. Beautifully printed on cardstock, it was available in the back of every pew, alongside the grey and teal hymnals. Sometimes when I got bored during services, I would take it out and admire it. But no matter how many times I read it, it lacked the appealing grittiness of those handwritten RE covenants. The printed covenant represented an important historical moment for my community, but without context and without being part of the process, I never felt included. And, unlike the words on the big stickie pad, the printed covenant rarely got mentioned. We grownups were expected to read and absorb it on our own.

Maybe things are different at Unity Church, but I wish UUs in general taught grownups about covenanting with the same enthusiasm that we bring to instructing our children. Noted UU minister Mark Morrison-Reed claims that "the central task of the religious community is to unveil the bonds that bind each to all. There is a connectedness, a relationship discovered amid the particulars of our own lives and the lives of other." In my experience as a UU, congregations could take lessons from kids — and from the R.E. staff who teach them — in how to "unveil the bonds" that make us a covenantal religion. When used well, covenants can be the glue that hold us together.

Please feel free to contact me at [kathryn@unityunitarian.org](mailto:kathryn@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x109.

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# WELCOME WORDS / NEW MEMBERS

## Welcome Words



### Rev. Lisa Friedman, Minister of Congregational and Community Engagement

As I enter into my seventh year at Unity Church and my 22nd year of ministry, I am deeply grateful to Unity for granting me sabbatical time this year, in two parts. My first sabbatical time will begin November 19 and will continue through the end of February, and part two will come next summer. The concept of sabbatical is rooted in the word Sabbath — a time to step away from the routines of work for reflection and renewal. During my time away, Madeline Summers and Kathryn Jay will be coordinating my areas of ministry — you will be in excellent hands! Thank you for your support and for our shared ministry — I will miss you and look forward to catching up in March, when I return. But I'm not gone yet — until the 19th, my door is always open to you for conversation! See you in church!

## Pathway to Membership

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](mailto:lisa@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x107. Childcare is available by request at least one week in advance.

### Finding Yourself at Unity A Deeper Inquiry

Finding Yourself at Unity is offered on a regular basis on Sundays, from 10:20-11:15 a.m., in the Ames Chapel. These sessions can be attended in the order that works for you and will offer participants the opportunity to share part of their religious journey and get to know the programs and ministries of the congregation. Childcare is available in the nursery.

- November 4: Community Outreach and Social Justice
- November 11: Q & A with a Minister
- November 18: Membership 101
- November 25: TBD

### Finding Yourself at Unity: All-Inclusive Session Saturday, November 3 • 9:00 a.m.-noon

Have you been interested in Finding Yourself at Unity, but unable to attend on Sunday mornings? This half-day is designed to share information about Unitarian Universalism and Unity Church in a one session format. Childcare will be provided and families with young children are especially invited to attend.

### Committing to Unity: Joining Unity Church Saturday, November 10 • 1:30-3:30 p.m.

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

## Welcome New Members



Back: Meggie Exner, Kate Sammons, Sam Gallia, Carolyn Walkup, Jason Dehler

Front: Carmen Patton-Minder, Nikki Holm, Annette Dehler

### Annette and Jason Dehler

Annette found Unity Church when she was younger and attended services with her family. Annette and Jason started attending services last year and felt right at home. They have a 10 month old daughter, Camila, and are excited to raise her as a Unitarian Universalist. They live in South Minneapolis, enjoy watching and playing soccer, and sharing a meal in good company.

**Meggie Exner** found Unity Church two years ago when a friend invited her to Arthur Foote Sunday. She enjoys art, running and hiking along the Mississippi River, deep conversations with the Unity Young Adult Group, and being a classroom assistant at Great River School.

**Sam Gallia** is a recent transplant to St. Paul from New York, where he has been a member of First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn. He works in the non-profit sector.

**Nikki Holm** is primarily blessed to be a mother, wife, chaplain, and friend. She is hugely passionate about reconnecting people to their innate worthiness and inner truth. She also enjoys yoga, rock-climbing, creating, adventuring, and spending time with her tribe. Unity Church has proven to align with, empower, and nourish her spirit.

**Kate Sammons** moved to the area with her two daughters, Klara and Althea, three years ago to start a doctoral degree in Plant Biology at the University of Minnesota. She finds Unity Church to be a place that grounds her, challenges her, and feeds her soul. They love exploring parks and hiking, baking, reading, gardening, and making all sorts of things.

**Carolyn Walkup**, a mostly retired journalist, moved here from the Chicago area to be closer to her daughter and two young grandsons. A UU since the 1970s, she is especially passionate about resisting injustice and getting the right liberal politicians elected. For fun, she loves listening to blues, jazz, and classic rock as well as singing with the Women's Ensemble, bicycling, and dining in excellent restaurants.

# FELLOWSHIP GROUPS / YOUNG ADULTS

## 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, 651-771-7528.

**Caregivers Group:** An informal support group for caregivers. Third Thursday of the month (November 15) from noon–2:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs, [janne@unityunitarian.org](mailto:janne@unityunitarian.org)

**Elders Circle:** Meets the third Tuesday of the month (November 20) from 1:00-3:00 p.m., in the Center Room.

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

**Families Living with Mental Health Challenges:** This is a support group for families living with mental health challenges. Meets the first Saturday of each month (November 3) from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs, [janne@unityunitarian.org](mailto:janne@unityunitarian.org)

**Kung Fu:** Saturday mornings in the Body Room from 10:00 a.m.-noon. Recommended for ages 15 and older. Contact Bryan Kujawski, [barney.kujawski@gmail.com](mailto:barney.kujawski@gmail.com)

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

**Men's Retirement Group:** Monday, November 5 and 19, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact: Tom Zell, [tomzell@me.com](mailto:tomzell@me.com)

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

**Textile Arts Group:** Meets the first and third Wednesday of each month (November 7, no meeting November 21 due to Thanksgiving), from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Bring your knitting, embroidery, needlepoint, etc. Contact: Linda Mandeville, [lindamandeville41@gmail.com](mailto:lindamandeville41@gmail.com)

**Unity Book Club:** Second Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Contact Jack Hawthorne, [jack.hawthorne@comcast.net](mailto:jack.hawthorne@comcast.net).

November 13: *Neither Wolf Nor Dog* by Kent Nerburn

December 11: *The Martian* by Andy Weir

**Women In Retirement:** Meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month (November 8, no meeting November 22 due to Thanksgiving), from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact Lisa Friedman, [lisa@unityunitarian.org](mailto:lisa@unityunitarian.org)

**Young Adult Group** (ages 18-35, approximately) meets every other Thursday (November 8 and 29), from 7:00-9:00 p.m. (gather at 6:30 p.m. coffee/dessert "happy hour"). Contact KP Hong, [kp@unityunitarian.org](mailto:kp@unityunitarian.org)

**Zen Meditation:** Find renewal and grounding. Tuesdays, 5:00-6:00 p.m., Ames Chapel. Instruction offered November 6 at 4:30 p.m. Contact KP Hong, [kp@unityunitarian.org](mailto:kp@unityunitarian.org).

## Young Adult Fractals

### From Ray Hommeyer, Young Adult Group

A young adult is currently defined as between the age of 18-35, but that tells us little of the experience of being a young adult. Over a year ago, Unity hosted a Young Adult retreat from which the most recent form of Young Adult Group has grown. We gather on Thursday evenings engaging in ritual and dialogue — asking and listening to the questions that consume us as we come into elusive and consequential adulthood. A few weeks ago, KP said, "I don't want to stereotype you all as young adults..." The conversation that followed left me wondering: If young adults are transient and focused on individual success and finding themselves, *what is the impact of (and on) a group of young adults religiously covenanting together?*

Seeking to expand relationship beyond our scheduled gatherings, a few young adults recently went to *The Agitators*—a play telling a story of the collaboration and conflict between Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony. One of the major struggles presented was the fight for Black men and women to gain the right to vote in the U.S. The performance challenged us to consider the continuous impact of excluding certain demographics, especially women of color, from political movement work. In reflection, one question came to the forefront of our conversation: *What would it be like if we cared more for other people's causes than our own?* One reply could be that neither Black men nor women would have gained the right to vote. But in setting that limited response aside, we were caught wondering, *what if we practiced caring more for each other than ourselves? When has such action taken place and how has it impacted us? How would such action impact our movements, our lives now?*

Also recently, a couple of Unity's young adults joined with other UU young adults from across the country for a truly emergent (à la *Emergent Strategy*) weekend in collaboration with the Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance and other organizations for GROW (a cohort of UU young adults engaged in ministry). What did we do? We used the wisdom of fractals guided by femme, collective leadership, to feel what the impact of our faith can be through ritual, relationship, and healing justice. adrienne maree brown defines fractals as "infinitely complex patterns that are self-similar across different scales." Fractals invite us to recognize that "what we practice at the small scale sets the patterns for the whole system." Yes, GROW was medicine and seed for the future.

To take the time to shape and live into one's faith, on a small scale, through practice, defies our current cultural norms of what a young adult is expected and supposed to care about, to find worthy. Young Adult Group is a fractal of our community. When we gather together, leaning into life-giving boundaries, respecting capacities, and attempting to care about others more than ourselves, our hearts open to courageous action allowing for Beloved Community to feel possible.

To learn more about the Young Adult Group, check out our blog by Meggie Exner: <https://stayingabeatlonger.com/>. Email [kp@unityunitarian.org](mailto:kp@unityunitarian.org) to join the YA mailing list.

# WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY

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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 6:50 p.m., and an evening of rich programming beginning at 7:15 p.m. All are welcome. Childcare is available and you do not have to sign up in advance.

**Dinner:** \$7/adult, \$4/child ages 5 to 12, \$2/child ages 2 to 4, and \$20/family. (Children under age two are free.) All meals will offer vegetarian and gluten free options. People with specific food allergies may contact [madeline@unityunitarian.org](mailto:madeline@unityunitarian.org) to arrange for a special preparation. Email Lisa Friedman at [lisa@unityunitarian.org](mailto:lisa@unityunitarian.org) for financial assistance to help cover the cost of dinner.

## November 7

*Dinner: TBA*

### **When Republicans Were Progressive**

#### **A Book Reading and Signing with Senator Dave Durenberger**

Join Senator Dave Durenberger on the night after the midterm election for a reading from his new book with Lori Sturdevant. In this powerful work of history and witness, he explains how Minnesota's progressive Republicans earned voters' trust and delivered on their promises—and how progressive ideas fell out of favor when an increasingly anti-government, anti-tax national party shifted Minnesota Republican thinking to the right. In the ensuing partisan realignment, both the Republican and the Democratic parties have lost public trust. With eloquence and insight, Durenberger argues that the principles and practices of progressive Republicanism are a fitting remedy for what ails American democracy today.

### **Caring for Our Planet: Tinkering Time**

Come celebrate the joys of caring for our planet and each other by joining the Sustainable Living Team for hands-on workshops and discussion on November 7 and November 28. The first session will explore waste reduction solutions through a "tinker time" workshop for repairing and up-cycling broken objects. The second session will explore sustainable celebration through collaborative art.

### **New Family Religious Education Orientation**

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

### **Textile Arts**

This group is open to textile creatives of all ages. Bring your knitting, embroidery, needlepoint, etc.

### **Yoga for Healing**

Use gentle movement to activate and explore some of the 108 sacred sites within the body, called marma points (marmani). Marmani are similar to acupressure points, as activating them provides a healing connection to all of our internal systems. Those unable to attend this class may contact Elen to learn about individual sessions: [elen@elenbahr.com](mailto:elen@elenbahr.com).

### **Learn and Play Go**

Learn and play the Chinese Board game, Go. Anyone above the age of 10 is welcome to play.

### **Tween Group (Grades 5-7)**

The Tween Group is exploring Collective Visionary Imagination through rotational themes of "Self and Relationship," "Community," and "Myth!"

8

*Integrity, service, and joy.*

## November 14

*Dinner: Partner church inspired Hungarian dinner!*

### **Covenant: the Promises We Make, Break and Renew**

Free; RSVP requested to [karen@unityunitarian.org](mailto:karen@unityunitarian.org)

We "become human beings by making commitments, by making promises," said James Luther Adams. Quoting fellow theologian Martin Buber, he called humans the "promise-making, promise-keeping, promise-breaking, promise-renewing creature." What does our capacity for promise-making and covenant mean and how does it shape our human identity, our communities of faith, and our role in creating new realities in the world? *Led by Consulting Literary Minister Karen Hering, Open Page writing session participants stories, poetry, images, religious teachings, science, and history to reflect on the monthly theme. No writing experience is necessary.*

### **Pilgrimage Stories from Transylvania**

For more than two decades our church has had a significant partnership with the little village named Homorodszentpeter, nestled in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains in what is now western Romania. Perhaps more significant, this tiny village has been home to Hungarian-speaking Unitarians for more than four centuries! 125 people from Unity Church have made trips to this village, to visit places where Unitarianism was born and maintained, and to feel first-hand the heartfelt hospitality of our Hungarian partners. Many have made the journey only once, some have gone multiple times, all have had the eye — and heart — opening experiences of getting to know the people of the village, and to understand the roles of community, of faith, and of family ties in enabling hope to survive. Come hear the personal stories of some of these pilgrims, about what they found and how it changed them.

### **Your Voice in the Congregational Survey**

Come hear key insights the board gained from the congregational survey completed last May. This was the final survey on this set of Ends, since we now have a new set of Ends for the next five years. How do we view our progress on those ends? What have the trends been over the last five years of those ends? How has the survey information influenced the work of the board and the Executive Team? We'll answer these questions and more.

### **Yoga for the Season**

This class includes season-specific yoga poses to help us create equanimity in the body and mind as nature transitions into winter.

### **Tween Group**

### **Learn and Play Go**

November Worship Theme: Covenant

# WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY / AUCTION

## Wellspring Wednesday

November 21

*No Wellspring Wednesday due to the Thanksgiving holiday.*

November 28

*Dinner: TBA*

### **Depression in Men with Mark Meier**

Depression is a common and often very treatable condition that impacts millions of men each year in the United States, but tragically a large percentage of men go untreated due to their unwillingness to seek and engage in treatment or because many simply don't realize they are suffering from depression. In this program you'll learn about depression in men, how to engage them in a conversation about depression, and how to support them in their journey toward recovery. Mark Meier is the co-founder and Executive Director of the Face It Foundation which is a Minneapolis-based nonprofit providing free peer support services for men with depression. Mark has his Master's Degree in Social Work, is on staff in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health in the U of MN's School of Medicine, and he is also a suicide attempt survivor.

### **Caring for Our Planet: Collaborative Art**

Come celebrate the joys of caring for our planet and each other by joining the Sustainable Living Team for hands-on workshops. This session will explore sustainable celebration through collaborative art. All skill levels welcome.

### **Yoga Balancing the Chakras**

Our life force spins and rotates within seven energetic wheels, the chakras. We will use movement, mudra (hand gestures) and chanting to activate the chakras to provide exactly the right amount of energy for every part of the body, mind and spirit.

### **Textile Arts Group**

### **Tween Group**

### **Learn and Play Go**

# COME TOGETHER

## Unity Church Live, Silent and Online Auction

**5:30 to 9:00 PM**

**Saturday, November 3, 2018**

**Unity Church Parish Hall**

Bid on incredible auction items!

Enjoy great food and drink!

Have fun with friends old and new!

Peruse the auction catalog and purchase tickets online at [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org)!

# CHRISTMAS PAGEANT / ART TEAM

## 2018 Unity Church Christmas Pageant

From Kelley Loughrey, Pageant Director

For me, the first snow in mid-October was just the right time to be thinking about the annual Christmas Pageant at Unity Church. I have my go-to checklist to make sure I sort through costumes (what needs mending or cleaning, do we need any new costumes?), I review my last two years of casting so I can anticipate how many shepherds and acolytes there may be, and I look at my parent volunteers to think about who are my leads and my prospects for prompters. I'm excited for each new year and I've already had two of our high schoolers approach me about their desired roles! Some of our kids map out their pageant career path early and while I can't ever make promises for the coveted roles of angels, kings, and Mary, I do make notes.

In my book it is *never* too early to be thinking about the Christmas Pageant, so I want to share some key dates with you. We have a slight modification to our usual schedule as Christmas Eve is on a Monday, so we have a full day church services on Sunday, December 23. Therefore, we will hold rehearsal on Saturday, December 22.

2018 Pageant Schedule:

- Online registration is open November 19–December 5. Watch your email!
- Casting will be posted (online) on Tuesday, December 11
- Costume fitting is Sunday, December 16, at 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- Children's Pageant Choir rehearsal date TBD
- Adult Pageant Choir rehearsal date TBD
- Christmas Pageant rehearsal (mandatory for cast, not choirs) on Saturday, December 22, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
- Christmas Pageant is on Monday, December 24, at 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.

## Centennial Pageant

Tuesday, December 24, 2019 — Mark your calendars!

Yes! We are fast approaching 100 years of heavenly hosts, shepherds, and kings who seek out the beloved Child under the evergreens! I want to ask all of you to share your memories and photos (especially photos) from the past 100 years. How many years have you been coming to watch the Pageant? If you were in the Pageant, how many years were you part of the cast or choir? What was your favorite role? What is your favorite song? If you were describing our Pageant to someone who has never seen it, what would you tell them? I am in communication with Unity's archive team and know that while we have decent photo records going back to the late 1970s, what we would really like to find are photos from 1919 through 1980. It would be amazing to have the milestones collected to showcase 1919, 1944, 1969, 1994 (or imagine every decade!). Some of the costumes have changed very little, if at all, and others have been refined (the king's pages are a good example!). Please email documents and images to me at [kelleyloughrey@comcast.net](mailto:kelleyloughrey@comcast.net) or drop off treasures at the Holly Avenue reception desk, labeled "For Kelley – Pageant History."

As we gather these items for the archives, please remember that anything you can share is *gold*! If you have any interest in collaborating on the centennial, please be in touch! Kelley Loughrey, 763-607-7520 (call/text) or [kelleyloughrey@comcast.net](mailto:kelleyloughrey@comcast.net).



## Parish Hall Artist

Susan Gangsei

### Stories Told in Warp and Weft

My tapestries tell stories about my life that are universal to human kind. They tell of life challenges that are overcome. They illustrate loss and unexpected gifts. They talk about creation and re-creation that comes from grace.

Designing and weaving tapestries became my way of navigating my journey with my husband's Parkinson's. My art became my refuge while I was his caregiver and was my voice through the dark and joyous journey.

Everyone has a story. Your story may be about a life transition. Your story may be about a special event that shaped your life. Your story may be a metaphor that shares something unique about yourself. What are the images of your stories? What would you share with others?

## Art Share

The space by the "coffee window" in the Parish Hall is where you can get acquainted with another member of Unity Church. There, you'll find art, a statement about the art and a photo of the person who's sharing the art. Art Share's goal is to encourage members of the congregation to know each other better and to enrich the focus on art at Unity Church.

Choose your favorite piece of art: your creation, your child's creation, or something you love. Sign up on the calendar by the "coffee window." A member of the Art Team will contact you with details. Your piece will be displayed for two Sundays along with your statement of why it's a meaningful piece and your photo. Questions? Please contact Marty Rossmann at [rossm001@umn.edu](mailto:rossm001@umn.edu).

# LIBRARY AND BOOKSTALL / THRESHOLDS

## A Grassroots Political Party?

From Shelley Butler, Library and Bookstall Team

“Government should be controlled by the people rather than large business interests.”

Party platform issues: health care, minimum wage, worker’s compensation, campaign finance limits, public housing, juvenile corrections reform, health care, mental health reform, racial and gender justice, anti-discrimination legislation, education, environmental protections, guaranteed medical leave, and more.

If you are a Democrat, these statements and issues probably sound familiar, but in fact, all of the above are products of the 20th century Republican Party, once described as “a grassroots party, built from the bottom up.” Minnesotans historically went back and forth between Democrats and Republicans in elected offices, but as Dave Durenberger explains in *When Republicans Were Progressive*, the switching of party loyalties in the past speaks to the similarities between the political parties. I’m a lifelong Democrat and I voted for Dave.

So, how did we end up here: “radical obstructionism,” “a fiercely rigid and disciplined partisanship that did not just discourage bipartisan cooperation but punished it,” and “a trend toward a more imperial presidency”? Dave explains that, among the many reasons, it is because of an “absence of a progressive wing of the Republican Party,” the impact of *Roe v. Wade*, and the FCC abandonment of the Fairness Doctrine. The trends over the last twenty-five years have led us directly to a Trump presidency, the election of a candidate with the least association to the Republican Party. (And no, despite remaining a Republican, Dave did not vote for Trump.)

Even now, Dave is optimistic and the book concludes with “good news,” and a call for the urgent work of creating a “more perfect union” with concrete suggestions of how to do that.

Come hear more about the proud history of the Republican Party and the state of politics in Minnesota and the U.S. today. On the day after the 2018 midterm elections, progressive Republican and former U.S. Senator from Minnesota, Dave Durenberger, will read from — and sign your copy — of his new book. Now available in the Bookstall.

Midterm Election Day: **November 6, 2018**  
Book Reading: **November 7, 2018**

**Dave ★  
Durenberger**

**Wednesday  
November 7  
7:10 p.m.** ★



## Crossing and Blessing Our Thresholds

2019 Series Open for Registration

We are all living in threshold times, on the cusp of significant changes nationally, globally and environmentally. But for some of us, these large scale changes are compounded by personal thresholds closer to home — changes in our relationships, work, home, roles, identity or abilities that feel like a significant turning point in our lives. Our lives are full of thresholds — times of heightened awareness as well as both risk and possibility. Whether we’ve chosen them or not, they are places of great vitality and exchange, where new greets old, where the familiar gives way to the unknown.

If this describes your own life now, consider joining the 2019 Threshold series, a facilitated small group for reflecting on the changes in our lives and discovering the support that comes from exploring our thresholds in the company of others. (NOTE: Group size is limited and pre-registration is required.)

*“The support of the participants was amazing,” said Jill van Kooljik, a previous participant. “I connected with many congregants and made new friends. Most of all, the workshop confirmed that we are not alone in our struggles.”*

In a supportive small group facilitated by literary minister Karen Hering, we’ll each reflect on a threshold we’re currently crossing while accompanying others in crossing theirs. Using conversation, guided writing, and a variety of non-writing creative activities both playful and serious, we’ll consider the meaning, risks and possibilities present on the cusp of change.

*“The series helped me let go of fear and realize that moving forward meant leaving some things behind,” said Pam Sheen of her Thresholds experience. “The group process is perfect for threshold crossing, a ‘safety net’ of like-spirited individuals.”*

The group meets four Saturdays (a longer first session, January 19, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., and three additional Saturday mornings, 9:00 a.m. – noon: February 2 and 23, and March 9). Participants are asked to commit to all four sessions; two additional optional sessions will be offered in between these dates to support deeper creative exploration of participants’ thresholds. At the end of the series, on Sunday, March 10, the group will be blessed by the congregation in worship, honoring the role of community in giving us all safe passage across the many thresholds of our lives.

The series is free to members; a fee of \$100 will be charged nonmembers at the time of registration. Register early to reserve your place — e-mail Karen Hering ([karen@unityunitarian.org](mailto:karen@unityunitarian.org)) or put a note in her church mailbox. Include your name, phone and email or street address, and a sentence or two describing the threshold you have crossed or will be crossing soon.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## Morgan Forum with Michael Cowan

*Few Are Guilty but All Are Responsible:  
Let Us Reason Together About Race*

**Saturday, November 3 • 9:00 a.m.-Noon • Robbins Parlor**

*Dr. Michael Cowan returns for another deep conversation about America's original sin.*

Michael Cowan is a professor at Loyola University New Orleans, and a fellow in the Centre for the Resolution of Intractable Conflict in the University of Oxford and the Irish School of Ecumenics in Trinity College Dublin. A leader in interracial and interfaith community organizing in New Orleans since 1990, he initiated an issue-based interracial effort to rebuild New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. A provocative and thoughtful speaker, Michael Cowan has helped to welcome and guide our congregation's efforts in New Orleans.



## Make Winter Warmer for People Seeking Second Chances

**From Unity's Racial and Restorative Justice Outreach Team**

Men and women released from prison face huge challenges on their way to rejoining society. Challenges start with finding a bed and enough to eat on the first day out — nothing compared to finding employment and a home. Doing either is difficult without transportation, especially during the winter; and who would want to apply for a job or an apartment without the basics for personal grooming? These little things mean a lot to those trying to make good after doing their time.



That's why Unity's Racial and Restorative Justice Team asks you to help provide the following items for its community partner Amicus who assists those leaving prison during a time of need:

- Hygiene items such as washcloths, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand lotion, deodorant, dental floss, razors and shaving cream (all items should be unopened)
- New winter coats, gloves, hats, scarves, boots (men's) and socks suitable for the job site (sizes XL and above always needed)
- Hand and foot warmers
- Bus passes or the cash to buy bus passes

This collection continues through January. On Sundays, please bring donations to the Racial and Restorative Justice table in the Parish Hall. Donations delivered during the week should be brought to Rev. Lisa Friedman's office.

## Gun Sense Ministry Team

**From Sue Conner, Gun Sense Ministry Team**

Among those who work to reduce gun violence, it is often said that there are some "easy things" or "easy steps" that could be taken. Some of those listed are: background checks, bump stocks bans, sales by private citizens, and the registration of all guns.

*But*, the fact is that *none* of those suggestions seem to be "easy" to get put into actual policy. If it were easy, policies would have changed already. This is why groups like ours, and like Protect Minnesota, the Interfaith Alliance for Gun Safety, MOMS Demand Action, and many more, are needed. It is not easy to change the direction that we have been going in our country on this issue. (that ocean liner metaphor again!) We think that there are probably many issues and characteristics of our society and culture that play into the problem of gun violence here in the United States.

This year we *will* continue to actively support government policy change in Minnesota through various strategies. We will also work to create an awareness of gun safety. If we have guns in our society, then all citizens, owners included, need to keep gun safety as a priority.

At the same time we want to introduce the concept of the *hard questions*. What underlies the problem of gun violence in our society? What are the hard questions? As we began to discuss this as a group we immediately ran into the question: Is it *fear*? Are we a society that is afraid? Is it *anger*? Are we a society that is angry? Why? What of? We hope to spark conversation on this topic this year. What do you think are the hard questions?

## Racial Justice Movie Night

*BlacKkKlansman*

**Friday, November 9 • 7:00 p.m. • Robbins Parlor**

*Join Unity Church members and friends for an ongoing film series to further our growth in the understanding and challenging of white supremacy and structural racism. Popcorn will be served and there will be time for conversation.*

From visionary filmmaker Spike Lee comes the incredible true story of an American hero. It's the early 1970s, and Ron Stallworth (John David Washington) is the first African-American detective to serve in the Colorado Springs Police Department. Determined to make a name for himself, Stallworth bravely sets out on a dangerous mission: infiltrate and expose the Ku Klux Klan. The young detective soon recruits a more seasoned colleague, Flip Zimmerman (Adam Driver), into the undercover investigation of a lifetime. Together, they team up to take down the extremist hate group as the organization aims to sanitize its violent rhetoric to appeal to the mainstream. Produced by the team behind the Academy Award winning *Get Out*. (IMDB)

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## Become an Environmental Voter

From Bonnie Power, Sustainable Living Team

If you want your concerns about the environment to be heard and acted on by your elected representatives then you must vote — especially in midterm elections — and join the Environmental Voter Project.

The catastrophic weather events of 2017/2018 brought the impacts of climate change to battleground states Florida, Arizona, Nevada, and California like never before. These states have a combined 20 competitive U.S. House races. Minnesota is also key in these midterms and our votes can move us towards a more environmentally friendly Congress.

The pivotal races in Minnesota are national races — two senatorial races and eight congressional races. The state level races include governor, attorney general, state representatives, and senators. To learn about the environmental position of candidates, visit MPR News at <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2018/09/27/minnesota-midterm-climate-voter-guide> and the League of Conservation Votes Scorecard at [www.scorecard.lcv.org](http://www.scorecard.lcv.org).

The Environmental Voters Project analyzed voting trends in recent campaigns to identify those who list the environment as a top issue. They found that there are 20.1 million voters (Super Voters) for whom it is the number one or two issue. Yet in 2016 only 50 percent of these voters showed up at the polls. That election was decided by 77,000 votes.

Climate change and the environment was most important for only four percent of the voters and ranked 16th among all issues. The top issues in determining choice for president were national security, terrorism, the economy, jobs, and immigration. The urgency of these issues are directly impacted by environmental issues.

How do we get this raised as a top issue? The Environmental Voter Project has determined the effort is not to persuade voters about how serious these issues are. **It is about voter turnout.** They work to turn out the Super Voters. We need to get environmental voters out in this midterm because sitting out an election has unintended consequences.

The Yale Program on Climate Change Communications identified the **Super Voter** as:

- Latino Americans, Asian Americans, and African Americans are significantly more likely to prioritize climate change as an issue.
- 49% of Americans who make less than 50,000 a year identify climate change as a significant issue.
- Young people (18-34 years old) are twice as likely to care about climate change and the environment as older age groups
- Parents with 13-15 year old children
- Older Americans — grandparents care about climate change.

Some of these groups (Human Impact Report in 2009) may be socially, economically, culturally, politically or institutionally marginalized therefore especially vulnerable to climate change. Climate and environmental justice and social justice issues are linked.

Citizen's Climate Lobby (CCL) has learned that politicians respond to the will of the constituents and go where the loudest voices are. CCL forms regular calling campaigns and meets representatives regularly about environmental and climate change issues. **CCL still hears from politicians that they do not hear enough from their constituents about what is important to them.** Here's what you can do:

1. Vote regularly, encourage others to vote.
2. Contact your representatives about your environmental concerns.
3. Sign the Environmental Voter Project pledge at [www.environmentalvoterproject.org/sign-the-pledge](http://www.environmentalvoterproject.org/sign-the-pledge).

## Sustainable Living Team

### November Events

It takes community to solve environmental problems but living sustainably can also build community. Come celebrate the joys of caring for our planet and each other by joining the Sustainable Living Team for hands-on workshops and discussion during Wellspring Wednesday on November 7 and November 28. The first session will explore waste reduction solutions through a "tinker time" workshop for repairing and upcycling broken objects. The second session will explore sustainable celebration through collaborative art. All skill levels welcome.

## Support the UUA Disaster Relief Fund

In the wake of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, we invite you to contribute to the UUA Disaster Relief Fund so the UUA can



provide financial assistance to UU congregations impacted by natural disasters. In addition to facilitating their own disaster recovery, congregations receiving disaster relief funds will have discretion to provide financial assistance to their members, as well as to support local partner organizations serving the community at large. We know that long after the initial clean-up, real recovery can take months or years.

The UUA stands with its congregations and is ready to provide assistance to help congregations in repairing any damage, and to support them in responding to the needs of their members' and their community's efforts to get back on its feet. You can donate directly at <https://giving.uua.org/disaster-aid>.

# MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

## Pitter-pattering Questions

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



From Rev. KP Hong, Director of Religious Education

Alongside the work of notable developmental theorists — from Jean Piaget and Lev Vygotsky to Erik Erikson, Lawrence Kohlberg, and Carol Gilligan — James Fowler set forth his seminal framework for faith development in *Stages of Faith* (1981). These stages parallel the model of faith formation long-familiar to us: faith as *first caught* (in early childhood), then *taught* (in middle childhood), then *bought* (in adolescence, of getting buy-in or agreement), then *sought* (in young adulthood and beyond, through question and discovery). And models are models, with questions about any theory's descriptive range, explanatory power, or prescriptive use; for faith formation is rarely so neat or linear or one-directional. But for liberal faith traditions, *sought* faith is where many of us remain stranded.

Fowler observed that few individuals moved beyond *sought* faith, or what he called the *Individuative-Reflective* faith when the “executive ego” is preoccupied with demythologizing and translating religious symbols and “naïve biblical stories” into conceptual meaning and values. The meaning grasped may be critically informative, illuminating, swaying, confronting, or comforting; but whatever its impact, the person remained fully in control. Authority, which had previously been external, is now located internally, with emphasis on individuality, independence, and self-determination.

But what of that next step in the faith journey that Fowler calls *Conjunctive* faith, unusual before mid-life and rare overall? Conjunctive faith does not spurn or exclude the critical, independent tendency of *sought* faith. “It is a veteran of critical reflection and of the effort to ‘reduce’ the symbolic, the liturgical and the mythical to conceptual meanings. But it cannot rest content with that strategy. It acknowledges the powerlessness of anything it can control to transform and redeem its myopia.” (*Stages*, 187) Nothing is excluded, just seen for their incompleteness. Myopia opens to an intimacy that lets life and others speak their words, regardless of their impact on our security or self-determination. The myopic path of self-determination conjoins with others in the interrelatedness of life, hard-pressed into community, risking a *wrought* faith forged on the anvil of covenantal relations. Wrought faith that is hammered strong, annealed, strengthened, flexible, and corrosion-resistant.

What if faith formation finds its necessary and fierce form finally in covenant with others? What if there is no more necessary a form of faith than faith wrought through the sacrament of defeat and the irrevocable promise of covenant?

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

## November Religious Education Calendar

Sunday, November 4: Regular R.E.; (Daylight saving time ends, set your clocks back an hour!)

Wednesday, November 7: New Family Orientation, 7:15 p.m.

Sunday, November 11: Regular R.E.

Saturday, November 17: Family Night Out 6:00-8:30 p.m. (free child care and family fellowship time, RSVP required to [michelle@unityunitarian.org](mailto:michelle@unityunitarian.org))

Sunday, November 18: Thanksgiving Family Sunday (all children worship in Sanctuary, nursery care available)

Wednesday, November 21: No OWL, no Wellspring Wednesday

Friday, November 23: Black Friday Family Worship 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, November 25: No R.E. Classes (Thanksgiving weekend); activities for school-age kids, nursery care available

## Tween Youth Group

Unity's Tween Group (grades 5-7) meets regularly during Wellspring Wednesday. This year they are exploring Collective Visionary Imagination through rotational themes of “Self and Relationship,” “Community,” and “Myth!”

The group gathers at 6:45 p.m. for worship in the Ames Chapel, then heads to Jr. High room 021 — the location for post-worship drop off (7:15 p.m.) and pick up after programming (8:30-8:45 p.m.). Guardians, please come and sign your kids in and out! Tweens is led by Ray Hommeyer, contact them with questions at [ray@unityunitarian.org](mailto:ray@unityunitarian.org).

## Families! Prepare a Meal at the Jeremiah Program

The Jeremiah Program is a non-profit that helps single moms finish college through the mission of transforming lives two generations at a time. Residents are enrolled in post-secondary education and are single moms to children under age eight. By living at Jeremiah Program they have access to affordable housing, quality child care, and life skills programming, in addition to a supportive community.

Unity Church volunteers organize a group to purchase, prepare, and serve meals for families on the evenings when moms attend Life Skills Programming. Volunteers come in at 4:00 p.m. to cook and prepare the meal and begin serving the meal at 5:15 p.m. Volunteers are needed: 11/13/18, 1/17/19, 3/19/19 and 4/18/19. Volunteers, including families, teenagers, and children above the age of six, are welcome! Contact Karen Buggs at [buggs745@hotmail.com](mailto:buggs745@hotmail.com) to sign up.

# MUSIC MINISTRY



## Music Notes

From Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministries

*The art of the musician is to touch hearts*

— Robert Schumann

This quote of Robert Schumann's has been a personal covenant throughout my life. It is the foundation of commitment that gives reason to hours of practice and purpose in every sharing of this great art. In fact, I quoted it in my application materials for Director of Music here at Unity Church in 1999.

Each member of our choirs joins in covenant with their colleagues to offer their presence, work, welcoming, and personal sharing in everything they sing. We don't speak this as much as know it. We all need each other for the whole to achieve its goals and purpose. For us to share music in our services (in a way that doesn't leave the listener anxious or worried) it takes hours of work, tremendous care, and an interdependence that speaks both to the gift of each individual and the single entity of each group. Of course, we all understand that life necessitates absence from time to time. However, no choir is complete until the gift of each member is present. Our promise and commitment to each other and our purpose enables our ability in all circumstances and gives special joy when we are all together.

As the holiday season approaches we look forward to sharing moments together, with you in services and at our annual Holiday Concert, Carol Sing and Dessert Buffet. Please plan to join us with friends and family on December 15!

## 2019 Children's Musical Parent Meeting

For the past 29 years, talented members of the Unity Church community have come together to write, compose, direct, choreograph, and perform a unique show for Unity Church. Participating in the Children's Musical has been a transformative experience for many of our young people. If you have a 6th, 7th, or 8th grader, consider whether this fun, team building experience might be right for them. To learn more, please come to the parent information session on Sunday, December 9, from 10:00-11:00 a.m., in the Anderson Library. The musical is scheduled for March 7-9, 2019! Stay tuned for more information. Questions? Please contact co-producer Dave Smith at [david.smith52@yahoo.com](mailto:david.smith52@yahoo.com).

**HOLIDAY CONCERT**  
**Saturday, December 15 • Unity Church**

**6:30 PM.: CAROL SING**  
Led by Jeffrey Hess and Mindy Eschedor

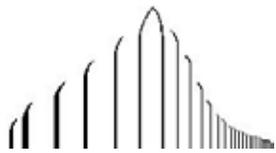
**7:00 PM: CONCERT**  
"All Our Hearts Rejoice"  
Children's Choir, Unity Choir, Unity Singers, Women's Ensemble,  
Steve Lewis & Elizabeth Giffin (percussion), Kathy Kraulik (piano)

**8:00 PM: DESSERT BUFFET**  
We invite you to bring a holiday dessert to share!

## Save the Date

### Celebrate Ruth Palmer

Mark your calendars for the evening of May 11, 2019, when we will have the opportunity to celebrate our dear Ruth Palmer and the enormous impact she has had on our musical and spiritual lives. Jake Runestad and Dale Warland have each been commissioned to write a piece in honor of Ruth as she starts her retirement. These pieces will be premiered that evening, with a reception following the concert. More information will be coming as the day approaches, but for now, save the date!



# UNITY CHURCH-UNITARIAN

Sanctuary Entrance: 733 Portland Avenue • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104  
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JUSTIN CUMMINS, CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
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REV. ROB ELLER-ISAACS, CO-MINISTER  
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**TIME SENSITIVE  
MATERIAL**

Midterm Election Day: November 6, 2018  
Book Reading: November 7, 2018

**Dave ★  
Durenberger**

**Wednesday  
November 7**

**★ 7:10 p.m.  
Unity Church-Unitarian**



## Black Friday at Church

*Feeding the Spirit on the  
Feast Day of Consumption*

**Friday, November 23, 2018  
10:00 a.m. • Sanctuary**

Marketers call the Friday after Thanksgiving "Black Friday" because it is often the day that retailers first "go into the black" for the year as holiday shopping gets under way.

Unity Church's eleventh annual "Black Friday at Church" celebration offers you an opportunity to launch the holiday season with spiritual renewal, fellowship, and good cheer, an alternative to the habitual consumerism on display in the broader culture.

Join fellow Unity Church members, families, friends, neighbors, and colleagues on the Friday morning after Thanksgiving Day for a rousing, intergenerational worship service. Activities for children and families, as well as child care, will be provided.

## Mentoring at Unity: A Deeper Path to Connection

Unity Church has a mentor program available to all visitors and new members. A mentor serves as a guide and a resource in the congregation. They pledge to meet at least once a month face to face, and be available for ongoing questions and advice for at least six months. Each mentor/mentee team can decide what is most helpful — to have a buddy with whom to attend services and events, or a partner with whom to discuss Unitarian Universalism and each other's spiritual journeys, and more. If you have questions, or would like to request a mentor, please stop by the Welcome Table in the Parish Hall or email Rev. Lisa Friedman at [lisa@unityunitarian.org](mailto:lisa@unityunitarian.org).