



GRACE

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.

Few words have stirred as much theological debate and division over the centuries while still arriving in the current millennium as untarnished, as frequently and comfortably spoken and as difficult to define.

Depending on who you ask and when, grace might be equated with salvation or with sacraments, with the presence of God, or with beauty or life itself. Grace is resilience. Grace is forgiveness. It is sin's opposite. It is healing. It is revelation, the oneness of all being. It is enlightenment. It is light. It comes before faith. It comes after faith. Some say it is faith.

Mostly, it seems, what we know about grace is that it's largely a matter of not knowing.

One of my favorite confessions of Augustine's is about grace. "What is grace?" he asked, right away admitting in a nearly palindromic puzzle, "I know until you ask me; when you ask me, I do not know." I concur. When I woke up this morning I knew exactly what to write about grace. It's when I got out of bed and put my fingers to the keyboard that things got a little difficult.

Perhaps this is as it should be. Grace, after all, begins with beyond. Grace shows up in the portal of not knowing.

When the heart is clenched tight, whether in anger or certitude, in fear or in grief, grace coaxes the fist open, looks into the palm and reads there a lifeline of a larger possibility.

Grace is an open hand, extended to the stranger, to the loved one, to the wounded one within. It is the open hand of relationship, of acceptance, of kindness.

Grace moves. Grace heals. Grace dances. Grace is the sigh we release on the last note of a song or when the end of the poem becomes clear.

When a room is closed and stuffy, it is grace that opens the window and grace that then blows in.

"Grace fills empty spaces," wrote Simon Weil in her journal. "But it can only enter where there is a void to receive it, and it is grace itself which makes this void."

Grace can knock us off our feet when we stand on the shore looking out. Then it's grace that catches us before we are washed out to sea.

Grace is given, and grace is received. It cannot be stolen, even by the best of thieves.

Grace is an opening. Just when we think we know exactly what's going on, who we are, who everyone else is and what can and cannot happen next, grace draws back the bolt of our knowing, flings wide a new view.

Grace is the guest of humility. Rumi said it plainly but not unkindly:

*You are so weak. Give up to grace.
The ocean takes care of each wave
till it gets to shore.
You need more help than you know.*

Grace never comes to the fully self-sufficient. But then, which of us really are? Grace comes to each of us in turn and to all of us unmerited. Which means, of course, it's all merited.

Grace points to the possibility of more. At the end of the sentence, at the bottom of the page, in the heart held wide open, there is always more.

By Karen Hering on behalf of this month's theme team: Ahmed Anzaldúa, Drew Danielson, Rob Eller-Isaacs, Ray Hommeyer, KP Hong, Ruth MacKenzie and Laura Park.

This reflection was first published in commUNITY, November 2011, and was later adapted in Karen's book, Writing to Wake the Soul.

Grace Theme Resources

For further reflection on this theme, a variety of resources including books, poems, video, and audio, are listed in this month's Chalice Circle packet, online at www.unityunitarian.org/chalice-circles.html.

Just Words



We walk every single day. Now, even when I am not with our two wild border collies, I find that I need to walk. I have grown dependent on our morning walk as a way to ground out, to notice, and pay attention. It helps me begin my day with as much openness as possible. Because we walk at the Minnehaha dog park at a similar time every day, we have come to know many of the other regular walkers and their dogs. Our dogs herd us away from conversations, so most of our dog park friends know that they will only have brief conversations with us. But we greet each other warmly every morning.

As the golden leaves were raining down upon us in the blustery wind this past week, we passed a walker that we only see occasionally. We greeted him with our customary, "Good morning!" He responded with a good morning in return and then he added, "Have a grateful day." I was paying attention to the dogs, so I didn't really hear him. Rob asked if I heard him. When I said no, he shared with me what the man said. What an intriguing practice we thought.

I know how important a practice of gratitude is for so many of us now. It is just too easy to get caught up in all that is wrong with our world, and there is so very much wrong, but even while acknowledging it all we can also take time to be grateful.

As musician Willie Nelson said: "When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around." I know that in 2016, when I was confronted with conducting a service on gratitude right after the election, I was overwhelmed and yet found that very task helped me make sense of all that had occurred. Had I not been forced by this cosmic invitation, I might have kept my heart like a tight fist, tight and aching. But I had to find my way into being grateful. And even in the midst of shock and disappointment, I found many things for which I was grateful.

As theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "In ordinary life, we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich." Even in these days of collective grief and uncertainty, I hope you will join me in taking time each day to be grateful. I remind you of these sentiments of Piglet's, "Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude."

Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs

The Wheel of Life

In Memoriam

Rick Heydinger

August 2, 1944 –
September 26, 2020

In Celebration

Arif Mamdani

Ordained into the
Unitarian Universalist ministry
October 25, 2020

Pastoral Care

If you have a joy or sorrow, life-cycle event, or concern you would like to share with the ministers and Pastoral Care Team, or have shared in the embracing meditation during Sunday service, please complete the online form at

www.unityunitarian.org/pastoral-care.html or send an email to janne@unityunitarian.org and a minister will contact you.

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Thank you to everyone who helped

UU the VOTE

Visit www.unityunitarian.org/uuthevote.html
to see a small sampling of what we accomplished!

NOVEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday Worship and Coffee Hour

While our building remains closed, multigenerational Sunday Services are being live-streamed from the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. Religious Education programming is available for families, please see page 14. Details and links, including access to past services, are available online at www.unityunitarian.org.

Each Sunday, everyone is welcome to join a virtual Zoom coffee hour after the service. To participate in the coffee hour, please refer to the link in our weekly Sunday service email. If you would like to receive our congregational emails, visit www.unityunitarian.org and click on "Join our email list."

November 1: *These Truths*

Livestream link: https://youtu.be/oiv_EOzUCqc

Let's pause for what poet Jane Hirschfield calls "a grace-note unwritten" as election anxiety rises to fever pitch. Lao Tse insists that we "conduct our victories as we would a funeral." Win or lose it seems like good advice. Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs and worship associate Bailey Webster will contemplate what grace and courage call for now. This service will be accompanied by Ahmed Anzaldúa, Shahzore Shah, and the great fingerpicking guitar player Pat Donahue. Offering recipient: Braver Angels.

November 8: *The Grace We Can Imagine*

Livestream link: <https://youtu.be/KQ0m0EjVtvo>

In *Beloved*, author Toni Morrison wrote, "She told them that the only grace they could have was the grace they could imagine. That if they could not see it, they would not have it." Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs and worship associate Kara Younkin will address how we might restore a sense of civic or community grace in these days of challenge and upheaval. Offering recipient: Ujamaa Place.

November 15: *Of Severe Grace and Equity*

Livestream link: <https://youtu.be/FPncHB7SbL8>

Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote of grace as absolutely free, and yet costing everything. What are the gifts and costs entailed in such severe grace? In the pursuit of racial justice, if realizing greater equity entails enhancing not equality but diversity, what are its threats and costs? Rev. KP Hong and worship associate Erika Sanders explore the challenges of pursuing equity amid the hidden injuries of meritocracy. Offering recipient: MORE

Thanksgiving Family Sunday, November 22: *The Yeast that Rises*

Livestream link: <https://youtu.be/GzCSZX1qan0>

We know that many have taken up bread baking during the pandemic and have learned firsthand the mystery of coaxing bread to rise. As so many of us are experiencing this holiday of grace and gratitude in new and unpredictable ways, Revs. Janne and Rob Eller-Isaacs will explore the ways that we can receive grace and pass it along. Offering recipient: FreeWriters MN

November 29: *Grace in Waiting*

Livestream link: <https://youtu.be/-EW1j2ibmca>

As the cold and darkness deepen, the Christian taproot of our tradition proclaims a time for waiting. On this, the first Sunday of Advent, Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs and worship associate Ben Pettee will consider how grace can be both a way of being in the world and an unearned gift of the spirit. We know unearned does not mean uninvited and so we learn to wait well. Offering recipient MN Multifaith Network

November Touchstone

For as long our church building remains closed, we will be hosting a monthly "touchstone" event to offer the opportunity for connection in a carefully distanced setting.



Gratitude Candle Lighting and Food Collection

Saturday, November 21

1:00 -4:00 p.m.

Portland Avenue Entrance

The entire church family is invited to come to the main lobby on Saturday, November 21, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. to light candles of gratitude for people that have made a difference in each of our lives. Unity Church staff will be on site to greet you, and non-perishable food items for Hallie Q. Brown Food Shelf will be gratefully accepted.

Offering Recipients

Details on page 13.

Flowers for Worship

If you would like to provide flowers for Sunday worship, contact Martha Tilton at 651-228-1456 x105 or martha@unityunitarian.org.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES / 2021 PLEDGE DRIVE



Democratic Process and our UU Values

Louise Livesay-Al, Trustee

As the weather turns cold and the leaves crunch under our feet, we are bombarded with messages about candidates and the bedrock responsibility of voting in our democracy. And as the stakes are high this year, no matter which side of the aisle you stand, we are especially aware of this duty and responsibility.

Bill Doherty, a member of Unity Church, was recently on MPR with Kerri Miller talking about the growing political polarization in our country, and our choices about how we will be with one another the day after the election, and going forward. He has been working for the past four years through Braver Angels, the organization he co-founded to try to depolarize American politics by opening dialogue. Braver Angels aims for understanding of one another through conversation, especially when we disagree, rather than trying to convince or cast judgment and hatred on people who see things differently.

In trying to focus on the healing of our nation, I was struck by the pledge called "From Malice Towards None," borrowing from Abraham Lincoln's words, Bill challenged listeners to commit to this pledge, no matter whether our candidate wins or not: "Regardless of how the election turns out, I will not hold hate, disdain, or ridicule for those who voted differently from me. Whether I am pleased or upset about the outcome, I will seek to understand the concerns and aspirations of those who voted differently, and will look for opportunities to work with people with whom I disagree."

How do we wrap our head around doing this? It was clear from the conversation that people, both red and blue, were struggling with this challenge. Our divisions run deep. I later realized that this pledge is calling us to live out our UU Principles with regard to inherent worth and dignity of every person; compassion in human relations; a free and responsible search for truth; the right of conscience and use of democratic process in our congregations and society; a world community with peace, liberty and justice for all; and respect for the interdependent web of all existence. There is a lot to unpack here. Our principles do not say they are applicable only to one type of person and not others. And in our congregations, we have diversity of political beliefs. Let us not lose that diversity and be able to share our UU space with one another.

At Unity Church, we too have important congregational democratic process this month. Leading up to and during the Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 21 (see the back cover for the call to meeting), church members will vote to approve new board members, the Ministerial Search Team (MST), and the 2021 budgets. The MST consists of nine members who will represent the breadth of voices in our congregation as they search and select our future minister(s). This is important work that will have lasting impact on our congregation.

With this being an unusual year, the annual meeting will be conducted online. Voting members of the congregation will receive information on the slate of 21 candidates for the MST and will vote electronically. The five candidates receiving the most votes will be seated on the MST. The board will fill the remaining four spots from candidates on the slate. Voting information will arrive by email and will include the summary of the slate of candidates and procedure to vote. The board will announce the Ministerial Search Team on November 23. Please participate in this part of our democratic process! If you want to become a voting member, please contact Laura Park at laura@unityunitarian.org.

So let us practice democracy this month on November 3 and 21, and remember to aspire to our UU Principles no matter the outcome. Our democracy, inside and outside Unity's walls, depends on it.



Last month, we launched our annual pledge drive and asked each other to declare that we hold the church in trust through our financial support for the coming year. This year's canvass drew on the metaphor of a Brave Harbor to reflect how Unity Church is a place of refuge, repair, and new resolve for each of us. It is where we chart our course together, side by side.

It's important that every one of us contributes to the support of this beloved community with a pledge that serves to grow our ministries, maintain our church building, and ensure that Unity Church continues to be a beacon in our brave harbor.

Pledges provide 72% of Unity's annual operating income and create the foundation for the 2021 operating and capital budgets. Our operating pledge goal for 2021 is \$1,350,000 from more than 700 pledging households. As of the writing of this article, thanks to pledges from more than 450 of you, we are more than 70% of the way to our goal. Thank you to those who have pledged!

If you haven't pledged yet, it's important we hear from you soon. The 2021 budget will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting in just a few weeks, and your pledge will make a difference in the final financial projections for next year.

Please mail your pledge card to the church or pledge online promptly. If you haven't received a pledge card or haven't pledged before, all the information and online pledge forms can be found at unityunitarian.org/annual-pledge.html.

Thank you for your generous gifts!

BELOVED COMMUNITY STAFF TEAM

Equity + Justice Fall Series

Merrill Aldrich and Erika Sanders, on behalf of the Beloved Community Communications Team



Merrill Aldrich



Erika Sanders

Unity's work toward one of its shared Ends, *to create a multicultural spiritual home built on authentic relationships*, has been energized this autumn by the Equity + Justice series of workshops led by Team Dynamics (teamdynamicsmn.com). The seven-part series explores key concepts that will strengthen our work toward racial justice in our own lives, in our communities, and in our spiritual growth.

The first four workshops led us through deep discussions of identity and bias; intercultural conflict styles and strategies; understanding and utilizing power; and constructions of race and racism.

The first workshop "Identity + Bias" set up some basics for the series to come and explored common understandings of societal/cultural identity and personal bias. These included race, gender, and religion as fundamental identities in play in the United States, and the implied biases in our society toward white, male, and Christian that are so prevalent in those categories.

In terms of tools and techniques for grappling with bias, Team Dynamics led the group through a series of exercises intended to improve both self-awareness and situational awareness:

1. Frankly see and name your own identities and influences, and practice telling your own stories of identity honestly. Practice listening openly to others' stories of identity and observe the different impacts it has had in their lives.
2. See the huge scope of how what we judge about behaviors is

culturally conditioned based on the identities we hold.

3. Observe how dominant and non-dominant (or "agent" and "target") identities can deeply affect our relationships, interactions, and decisions. Tools to slow down and exercise care in observation, include the "D. I. E." technique which explicitly separates "describe, interpret, and evaluate" phases of understanding a situation, in an effort to capture our biases before they become judgements.

In the second workshop "Intercultural Conflict Styles + Strategies," we discussed how conflict arises when there is disagreement and when there is emotional reaction to that disagreement — in essence, when we care about the topic at hand. Conflict styles are embedded in our cultural contexts and learned while growing up in a particular culture. As one of the leaders of the session told us, "Every culture values respect, but the way we perform respect looks very different." Because our conflict styles are freighted with cultural values (for instance, what we perceive as respectful or disrespectful, rude or polite), conflict with people who use styles other than our own may be especially challenging or confusing.

Some of us have indirect or direct conflict styles, and we may be either emotionally restrained or emotionally expressive during conflict. Questions for reflection include: How does conflict feel in our bodies? How have you felt when you have a different conflict style than someone you care about?

During the third session "Understanding + Utilizing Power," workshop leaders refined our views of power by explaining that there are multiple types of power. For instance, "referent power" is based on a relationship in which one wishes to be like, or at one with, the source of power. "Expert power" is derived from having

expertise, knowledge, or particular skills. "Legitimate power" happens as a result of one's position in an institution or group or having a particular place in a hierarchy. "Coercive power" means having the ability to punish others when needs, demands or expectations aren't fulfilled, while "reward power" is its opposite. Questions for reflection include: How have you felt when your identities have permitted you to wield power in relation to someone else? How has it felt to have power exercised upon you, based on your identities?

In the fourth workshop "Constructions of Race + Racism," Team Dynamics leaders provided an overview of how race is understood in our culture, and how it functions with reference to identity. While race is a socially constructed idea, the way we behave and interact with racial identity has very real consequences. In a world that centers whiteness and holds whiteness as the norm, racism does material and social harm in multiple ways. Questions for reflection include: How did you first understand that you had a race? How did you first recognize that there were people of other races, and what messages about that fact did you receive from your family?

Subsequent workshops in the series will focus on how we build on our understanding of identity, race, power and conflict in social movements and organizing for change. The sessions are being recorded so if you missed this excellent series, it will be available to view online sometime in the near future.

Our Next Right Actions



November 4 • A Time to Gather
November 18 • A Time to Learn
See page 8 for details!

FACILITIES UPDATE

While the cat's away the mice will play...

From Barbara Hubbard, Executive Director

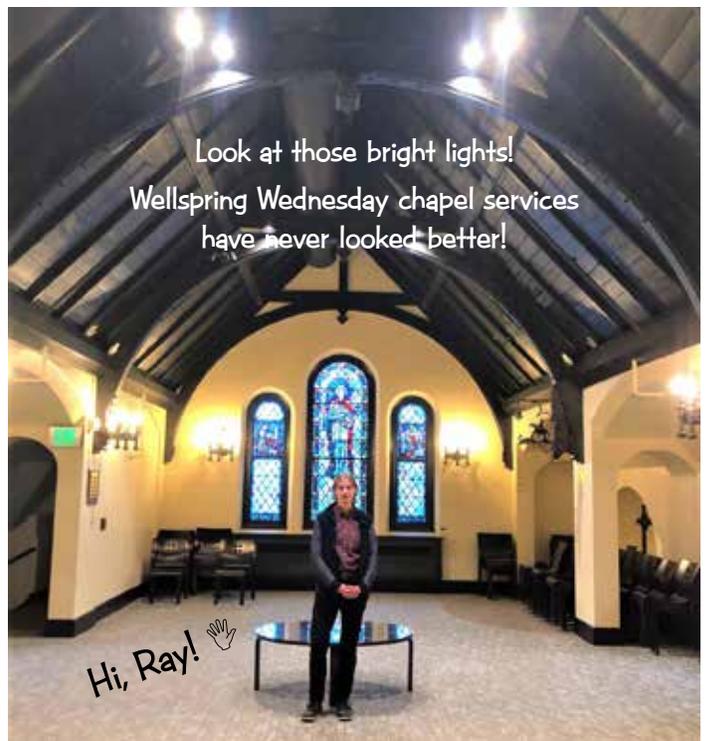
This is actually an article about what has been happening in the building since March, and no, we don't have a mouse problem. We thought that you might be interested to know what's keeping our facilities team busy, and what we are accomplishing in 2020.

Teresa, Heidi, and Olentda take turns being onsite six days per week, and even though they are not setting up for meetings or cleaning up from dinners and retreats, they have been busy. Since March, the building has had a deep cleaning, something that's hard to do in our normally busy church life. Walls have received a fresh coat of paint. The kitchen and appliances have received extra love and attention. Carpets and mats and windows and stairwells have been deep-cleaned.

In addition to the many maintenance projects that are happening, we have been putting your capital pledge dollars to work on acquisitions and repairs.

- Early in the year we replaced or upgraded ten computers. (Windows 10, anyone?)
- Once the pandemic hit and we realized that we would be virtual for a long time, we added a video system to the Sanctuary. We have subsequently made significant upgrades to our audio capabilities, enabling a more safely distanced livestream, much better sound, and multiple musicians.
- We are pleased to announce that we now have full lighting in the Ames Chapel, which means enough light to read words and music at night! Hooray!!
- We engaged a new HVAC company that replaced the "Jace" (brains) of our air handling system. They have helped us untangle some complexities and have provided excellent advice on maximum fresh air levels for the church.
- With expanded welcome in mind, we have created two new wheelchair cutouts in the Sanctuary, one on the center aisle and one on the west aisle, both mid-way from the front.
- Roof repair is scheduled for late October! Have you noticed the leaking trouble-spot near the canopy entrance, or the water spots in the Sanctuary? We are repairing the "valley" by the canopy entrance, replacing the cap that runs along the Sanctuary peak, and fixing downspouts and gutters.
- Your capital pledge payments also allow us to pay debt service on our long term note. Debt service is \$142,512 each year and we are allowed to pre-pay up to 20% of the principal balance each year without penalty. Since 2017, we have paid \$570k in debt service and an additional \$467k in principal only payments.

The church (and the mice) thank you for your support!



STAYING CONNECTED

Online Group Meetings

The following groups have committed to meeting online while our building remains closed.

Afterthoughts offers time to discuss the service. Contact Paul Gade, 651-253-1493

Caregivers Group: An informal support group for caregivers. Meets on the third Thursday of the month from noon–2:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs, janne@unityunitarian.org

Children's Choir: For youth in grades 1-5. Contact choir director Kathleen Radspinner, kathleenr395@gmail.com

Evergreen Quilters: The group meets the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00-9:00 p.m. and fourth Saturday of the month, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Contact Peggy Wright, 651-698-2760

Families Living with Mental Health Challenges: A support group for families living with mental health challenges. Meets the first Saturday of each month, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs, janne@unityunitarian.org

Kung Fu: This 60 minute practice strengthens the body, calms the mind, and lifts the spirit. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Contact Barney Kujawski, barney.kujawski@gmail.com

Living With Grief Group: A group for people living with grief and loss. Meets on the third Tuesday of the month, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs, janne@unityunitarian.org

Men's Breakfast Group meets on Saturday mornings at 8:30 a.m. Contact Tom Zell, tomzell@me.com

Men's Conversation Group meets Monday, November 2, 16, and 30, from 7:00-9:00 p.m., to discuss a wide range of topics. Contact Terry McDanel, tmcdanel@gmail.com

Men's Retirement Circle: Monday, November 9 and 23, 1:00-3:00 p.m., and informally for coffee on Wednesdays, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Contact Tom Zell, tomzell@me.com

Music Ministry: Children's Choir, Unity Choir, Unity Singers, Women's Ensemble, and Thresholds Choir are all meeting and singing virtually. Contact Ahmed Anzaldúa, ahmed@unityunitarian.org.

New Look at the Bible: Meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Paul Gade, 651-253-1493

Recovery from White Conditioning: Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Contact Dayna Kennedy, daynamelissa@icloud.com

Single Parenthood Support Group: A single parents group building community together. Meets every other Wednesday, November 11 and 25, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Contact Laura Park, laura@unityunitarian.org

Sustainable Living Team: Meets every other Sunday, November 1, 15, and 29, from 8:30-9:45 a.m. Contact the team, unitysustainabilityteam@gmail.com

Textile Arts Group meets every other Wednesday, November 4 and 18, from 7:15-8:30 p.m. Bring your knitting, embroidery, etc. Contact Johanna Stammeier-Toole, johanna21e@gmail.com

Unity Book Club: Second Tuesday of the month, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Contact Jack Hawthorne, jack.hawthorne@centurylink.net
November 10: *The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Women In Retirement: Meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact Laura Park, laura@unityunitarian.org

Young Adult Group (ages 18-25): Watch for details about meetings. To join the YA email list, please email kp@unityunitarian.org.

Congregational Database Sign in today!

Members are invited to log in to ShelbyNext, the online congregational database that includes the ability to update and review your own membership and giving account, access the membership directory, and view the calendar.

To access from your PC:

- Open a browser (Chrome works best) and navigate to this URL: <https://unityunitarian.shelbynextchms.com/>
- Choose "Forgot Password?"
- Enter the email address you use to communicate with Unity Church
- You should receive an email with your username and password
- Log in, **upload a photo to your account**, and explore!

To download the App:

- Go to your App store: Google Play for Droid and App Store for iPhone/iPad (iPad users make sure to choose iPhone app)
- Download ShelbyNext Membership
- Enter the domain: unityunitarian (full domain: unityunitarian.shelbynextchms.com)
- Choose "Forgot Password?" if it is your first time accessing ShelbyNext Membership (or just log in if you have already accessed it on your PC)
- Enter the email address you use to communicate with Unity Church
- You should receive an email with your username and password
- Log in and explore!

Questions? Contact Martha Tilton at martha@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x105.

WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY

Wellspring Wednesday at Unity Church has long been a multi-generational opportunity to gather midweek at church for food, fellowship, and fun. While the church building remains closed due to the pandemic, we continue to gather online for programming. Multi-generational chapel services are prerecorded and posted on the church's YouTube channel (<http://bit.ly/wwchapel>) each Wednesday for viewing anytime that afternoon or later; and Unity's Religious Education program offers Our Whole Lives (OWL) classes and periodic Tween gatherings on Wednesday evenings.

For adults, one or two live online programs each Wednesday will begin at 7:00 p.m., offering enrichment, spiritual practice, and fellowship. I hope you'll join us. If you haven't yet participated in an online program using Zoom, church staff can help you get started. Descriptions and registration links for this month's programs are listed below. (Unless otherwise noted, you can use the registration link right up until the program starts to participate.) Also watch your daily emails from the church for additional program options that may be announced as the month unfolds. As we say in church each Sunday, "Stay tuned!"

November 4 • 7:00-8:30 PM

A Time to Gather: Our Next Right Action

Register: <http://bit.ly/atimetogather>



In the aftermath of a divisive and divided election season, whether or not the election result has been called, what will a commitment to the Beloved Community ask of us going forward? This election goes deeper than two candidates, a vote revealing a deep and significant divide and distrust in our country often described as polarized. In such turning moments, we come together as a faith community to listen, to share concerns and ideas, and to ground our work in wonder, open-hearted engagement, and courageous action. Unity's ministers, Revs. Rob and Janne Eller-Isaacs, Karen Hering, and KP Hong will share reflections and invite participants to share with one another in breakout groups. This program is part of Unity's Finding Our Next Right Action efforts.

November 11 • 7:00-8:30 PM

Dancing in Public the Last Twelve Years (a spiritual practice), featuring Marcus Young

Register: <http://bit.ly/dancinginpublic>



Meet Unity's next artist in residence Marcus Young 楊墨 and learn about the movement-based art form he and others started in 2008, during the violent and anxious times when MSP was host to a national political convention. Since then, Don't You Feel It Too? has developed into a liberatory practice of transforming the

self while taking action in the world. Anyone can do it. Participants feel stress relief, connection, and new belonging. Join Marcus and his collaborators Demetrius McClendon (ImagineJoy) and Laura Levinson as they begin an artistic and spiritual journey with Unity Church through April 2021.

November 18 • 7:00-8:30 PM

Cook Along with Wellspring Wednesday

Register: <http://bit.ly/wwcookalong>



It's virtual Wellspring Wednesday dinner! See page 9 for details. This offering begins at 5:30 p.m.

Open Page Writing: The Inner Harmony of Grace

Register: <http://bit.ly/openpagegrace>



Anne Morrow Lindbergh wisely said grace is an "inner harmony ... which can be translated to an outer harmony." And yet it can be hard to define. As Augustine once confessed, "I know until you ask me; when you ask me, I do not know." For many us today as well, grace can seem as evasive as it is ever present.

We'll reflect on the meanings of grace in an evening of guided writing, led by Rev. Karen Hering. For writers and nonwriters alike.

A Time to Learn, Part Two:

Teaming Up to Learn About Antiracism

Register: <http://bit.ly/atimetolearn>



What does it take to be racially literate and engaged in antiracism in a day-to-day way? Where do we find resources and support in our ongoing learning about systemic racism and the work of dismantling it? Whether you attended Part 1 in September or are just checking it out now, this program is an easy entry into finding antiracism books, podcasts, and videos, as well as discussion partners for talking about them. Come to choose a resource, sign up for a buddy or small group, and receive discussion guidelines. Questions? Contact karen@unityunitarian.org.

November 25

No Wellspring Wednesday programming due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

ADULT LEARNING & SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

A Centering Practice on Election Day

Tuesday, November 3 • 11:00-11:40 a.m.

Register: <http://bit.ly/electiondaypractice>

Take 40 minutes on Election Day to step out of the chaos and uncertainties of the election fervor and become acquainted with your own inner resources, known as the Three Treasures in Taoist teachings. Tai Ji teacher Lisa Schlingerman will guide the group (online) in gentle movements of Qigong and Tai Ji that can be done sitting or standing. Experience the Three Treasures working together with breath, posture and movement. Learn a practice that helps us appreciate that everything changes and that we are all connected. Following the practice, Karen Hering will facilitate a centering conversation.

Cook Along with Wellspring Wednesday

Wednesday, November 18 • 5:30-7:00 p.m. • Online

We miss seeing you for dinner on Wednesdays! We'd like to cordially invite you to a home-cooked meal at your home, cooked by you! Join Madeline Summers and Heidi Birkholz LIVE in the Unity Church kitchen to create some easy vegetarian dishes with seasonal fall vegetables and grains. This interactive cooking class will happen live over zoom. After we cook together, you'll have time to enjoy dinner with a small group of other participants. After we've noshed on some healthy dishes we'll head upstairs to the virtual chapel for a short service together.



Along with a tasty meal, participants will be gifted a spice packet for each recipe and a recipe card packet with ideas on how to use seasonal produce throughout the winter. Participants will be asked to buy a short list of groceries before the event.

Dinner Menu

Roasted root vegetable Buddha bowl, shaved Brussels sprouts salad, roasted apple with streusel topping

Get Ready

Please register at <http://bit.ly/wwcookalong>! Choose a time to drop by church and get your spice packet. We are also happy to mail them to you as needed. Your recipe packet will be sent via email one week before the event. There will be a few items to add to your weekly grocery shopping and some instructions on what to get done before class starts.

Cook Along • Wednesday, November 18

5:30-6:15 p.m.: Live and interactive cooking class. If you don't want to cook along, you can just log in to watch.

6:15-6:45 p.m.: Eat dinner with a small group if individuals.

6:45-7:00 p.m.: Enjoy Wellspring Wednesday chapel together as a group.

FAQ

No meat?! Don't worry meat-a-tarians, we'll have advice in the recipe packet on how you can incorporate meat if needed.

What about food allergies? The meal itself is relatively free of allergens. There is a space on the registration page to let us know if you and yours have any allergies and we can adjust your seasoning packets to ensure that they are safe for you!

How to I sign up? Registration is open until the event begins. There is some pre-chopping and pickup of spices you'll need to do. So if you can, register early! It will make our lives much easier! Register here: <http://bit.ly/wwcookalong>

Connecting with Ourselves and Others: Relationships and Sexuality

This monthly series offers a candid look at gender identity, sexuality, and relationships, connecting our personal experience to the experiences of others and the forces of society at large. Each time we meet, we will discuss short articles or videos on the monthly topics and hold small group conversations reflecting on personal experiences. We will learn about ourselves while identifying actions we can take in our church community to make it more welcoming for all.

The class, led by Unity Church member Mike Huber, will critique the heteronormative expectations of dominant culture. All adults are welcome. Members of the LGBTQ+ community are encouraged to register. Please invite friends who might want to join you in attending.

This is an eight-part series held on Zoom, Thursday evenings, 7:00-8:30 p.m., October 29 – May 27, 2021. Registration is free and a single registration will apply to all monthly programs you are able to attend. The hope is to build a community that will create a group understanding.

Register online at <http://bit.ly/connectingselfandother>. For more information, email mikehuberece@gmail.com.

Sessions Overview

- ✓October 29: Consent
- November 19: Facing Change Throughout Our Lives
- December 17: Relationships in the Age of COVID
- January 28: Power Dynamics and Relationships
- February 25: Expanding Our Desires
- March 25: The Charmed Circle
- April 29: Compassion in Our Everyday Interactions
- May 27: Moving Past Us and Them

WELCOME NEWCOMERS



Welcome Words

Laura Park, Acting Director of Membership and Hospitality

How do we enter a new religious community gracefully? We might experience the longing for community, might sense the God-shaped hollow that needs to be filled with something other than another binge on Netflix, and go searching for a spiritual home. Once we find a church where we might deepen our lives, we can find it challenging, especially now, to build community to meet our longing or to find a spiritual path we can pursue with commitment.

We want Unity Church to be the place that meets you in these challenges, where you are offered the grace of time and space to create practice that helps you find and keep your balance. We want to support your explorations, connect with the possibilities you bring with your search, and imagine a new way together. Toni Morrison, in *Beloved*, says it this way, "She told them that the only grace they could have was the grace they could imagine. That if they could not see it, they would not have it." Come journey with us as together we seek the grace we can imagine together.

My virtual door is always open for conversation, information, and exploration of your pathway into deeper meaning in our religious community. The best way to contact me right now is email, if possible, laura@unityunitarian.org. Or call the church office and leave a message: 651-228-1456 x110. I look forward to getting to know you!

Pathway to Membership Classes

The offerings below invite you to explore a deeper connection to Unity Church and the commitments and opportunities of membership. If you have questions or would like one-on-one conversation about getting connected or about membership, please contact Laura Park, Acting Director of Membership and Hospitality, laura@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x110.

Finding Yourself at Unity

Sundays Online • 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Finding Yourself at Unity includes eight classes that you can attend in any order to better understand how Unity Church supports our faith journeys, our work to build Beloved Community, and our efforts to bless the world. Topics include: UU History; Religious Education for Children, Youth, and Adults; Pastoral Care; Q&A with a Minister; Worship and the Liturgical Year; Social Justice & Community Outreach; Membership 101 and Congregational Life, and even an online Building Tour! Sunday morning emails include the class topic and a Zoom link to get connected.

November 1: Worship and Liturgical Life

November 8: Religious Education for Children, Youth, and Adults

November 15: Social Justice and Community Outreach

November 22: Unitarian Universalist History

November 29: Virtual building tour

Committing to Unity

Thursday, December 3 (note date change!) • 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Note: If you wish to become a voting member before the annual meeting on November 21, so you can vote on the candidates for the Ministerial Search Team, please contact Laura Park at laura@unityunitarian.org to arrange a private ceremony.

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

Sunday Coffee Hour

After the service, whether this is your first time with us or you've been here all your life, you're invited to participate in a virtual Zoom coffee hour, where we share a bit of our lives with each other and get to know one another more deeply. Stay for a few minutes or stay up to 45 minutes to connect in smaller break-out rooms.

Unity Church staff and volunteers lead the sessions, and will suggest questions both light-hearted and deep for discussion. To participate in the Zoom coffee hour, please refer to the link in our weekly Sunday service email. If you do not currently receive our Sunday service emails please sign up here: <https://bit.ly/sunday servicemail>.

Mentoring at Unity

A Path to Deeper Connection

Would you welcome having a guide to congregational life at Unity Church? Request a mentor! Your mentor will meet with you at least once a month face-to-face and be available for ongoing questions and advice. You can decide together what connection would be most helpful. You might attend Sunday services together or meet to discuss Unitarian Universalism and your spiritual journeys, or attend a church event together, or find another way to connect. Each pair makes a commitment to work together for at least six months.

If you have questions, or would like to request a mentor, please email Laura Park, Acting Director of Membership and Hospitality, laura@unityunitarian.org.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New Members of Unity Church

We are so pleased to welcome six new members of Unity Church. Please greet them as you encounter them in our virtual congregational life!



Clarence Harris is 90 years old, and his wife of 67 years passed away last year. They have four children, five grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. Clarence always experienced a feeling of “family” at Unity Church. Gardening was his passion until he moved into a senior apartment. He hopes to learn from, and be able to contribute to, other members of Unity Church.



Zora Kinnee grew up in Michigan, attending the UU church in East Lansing. She is pleased to join Unity Church and feels as though she's found a spiritual home. Zora looks forward to getting more involved in the social justice groups. When she's not doing Unity-related things, Zora works as a psychiatric nurse practitioner, loves hiking in state parks, and practices bird watching and identification.



Michael and Cindy Kittock with Greta, Logan, and Theo

The Kittock family's current passions include camping, running, gardening, cooking, sewing and spending time with family. Belonging to an inclusive and loving community is what brought them to Unity Church.



After pursuing an acting career, **Will Pflueger** settled in Minnesota and earned a degree in social work. He is very happily married for over twenty years. Will feels fortunate to have found Unity Church and sees it as a great source of knowledge, inspiration, and insight. He is a gardener, baker and cook, bike rider, canoeist, and recently became a cat servant.



Steve Vincent is a longtime UU who recently moved to Minneapolis to be closer to his two adult kids and their families. He looks forward to delving into Unity's social life and to enhancing his intertwined UU-Buddhist spiritual practice through Unity's activities. Previously, Steve was an American history professor at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Social Media

Follow Unity Church!

Facebook

www.facebook.com/unityunitarian

YouTube

youtube.com/c/unitychurchunitarian

Instagram

www.instagram.com/unityunitarian

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/UnityUnitarian>

Church Calendar

All church programming can be found on our calendar at www.unityunitarian.org/calendar1.html.

Bond of Fellowship

*As those who believe in religion,
As those who believe in freedom,
fellowship, and character
in religion,
As those who believe that the
religious life means the thankful,
trustful, loyal and helpful life, and
As those who believe
that a church is
a community of helpers, wherein
it is made easier to lead such a life;
We join ourselves together,
name, hand, and heart,
as members of Unity Church.*

William Channing Gannett,
March 9, 1879, adapted

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Join us to Act for the Earth

Stop Climate Change, Stop Extinction, Ensure Justice

Jean Hammink, Sustainable Living Team

We don't need to tell you that climate change is one of four major crises facing the US (and the world!) All of us are impacted by climate change and the extinction of Earth's species. We know that people of color and people with low incomes are impacted the most, resulting in major injustices. We all have a responsibility to do what we can to stop it.



Unity's Sustainable Living Team is putting out a call to action to save the earth and all that lives on it. Join us Saturday, November 7, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. as we take the first steps to significantly expand our work.

Taking what we learned when 50 of us from Unity Church *Gathered for the Earth* in February, the Sustainable Living Team has adopted the bold vision to: **Stop Climate Change, Stop Extinction, Ensure Justice, by Acting for the Earth.**

Join us in engaging and mobilizing 80% of Unity Church members to achieve this vision. Become part of the Green movement locally, nationally, and internationally.

As a church community of more than 1600 people we can and must do more to respond to this crisis and meet our congregational Ends statement to "Discover and pursue our individual and collective work to advance justice, wholeness, and equity for people, our Earth, and all life on it,".

Pause with me for a moment and read those words again. Let them sink in. What do they arouse in you? These words represent our values and our values are what move us to act.

The Sustainable Living Team is currently a strong and committed team of ten activists. To engage and mobilize the larger church community to have an even stronger and far-reaching impact in light of the current climate/environmental crisis, we are looking for 40 new people to join us.

Come to a kick off meeting November 7 to find your place in this work!

On November 7 expect to get grounded spiritually to do the work and in this vision to **Stop Climate Change, Stop Extinction, Ensure Justice.** With the help of experienced facilitators we will begin planning practical congregational initiatives for 2021. Whether or not you join us on the 7th, expect to see opportunities for you to **Act for the Earth** in 2021 and beyond.

Act for the Earth registration link: <http://bit.ly/actfortheearth>.

Looking Back and Looking Forward

Obama School Ministry Team Update

Nancy Heege, Obama School Ministry Team

Although the Barack and Michelle Obama School building is currently closed, we continue to look for ways to assist the learning of scholars. In September, six Unity Church volunteers met at the school to unload boxes of school supplies and put them into backpacks which the scholars' families picked up the next day, just as distance learning began. This help was much appreciated by school staff.



We thank all who contributed to Unity's Sunday offering on August 23, when Obama School was the designated recipient.

We're inviting last year's volunteers to write emails to the teachers they worked with, indicating our support for the work they're doing in these changed circumstances. We're looking at ways to support scholars, perhaps by listening to them read [virtually] or by arranging some kind of pen pal activity.

As we continue, we'll reach out to the congregation to invite your involvement and support.

Shop at Kowalski's! Support Obama School!

It's easy. When you shop at Kowalski's Market on Grand Avenue, place your receipt in the Obama Elementary School box at the front of the store. Each quarter, Kowalski's divides a \$3000 donation among all the organizations named on the boxes. The amount Obama Elementary School will receive depends on the total number of receipts collected in the Obama School box. NOTE: it's the number of receipts in the box, not the amount on the receipt! This fund raising project is sponsored by the Unity Obama School Outreach Ministry Team, with leadership by church member Vicki Lofquist. Kowalski's calls this program "Groceries for Good Causes." Spread the word — if your friends shop at Kowalski's, ask them to help stuff the Obama Elementary School box!

Hallie Q. Brown Food Shelf

On Saturday, November 21, as part of Unity's monthly touchstone events, church staff will be accepting non-perishable food donations that will be shared with Hallie Q. Brown Food Shelf. Please consider giving generously as the need for food resources in our community is significant. Turn to page 3 for drop-off details, and thank you!



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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. Donations are gratefully accepted online at <https://bit.ly/sundayoffering>. Offering checks, payable to Unity Church, should be sent "Attn. Song Thao."

November 1: Braver Angels

Braver Angels, launched in 2016, is a national movement to bring liberals and conservatives together at the grassroots level, not to find centrist compromise, but to meet one another as citizens. Braver Angels helps Americans understand each other beyond stereotypes, form community alliances, and reduce the vitriol that is poisoning our civic culture. This collection will support Braver Angels 2020, a campaign focused on healing the wounds between left and right, building community together, and discovering what it means to be American in our time. Unity Church member Bill Doherty is a co-founder of Braver Angels.

November 8: Ujamaa Place

Ujamaa Place is a direct service organization that stabilizes and transforms the lives of African American men, ages 18-30, by teaching them how to navigate inequality, poverty, and a criminal justice system built to perpetuate recidivism. Each man has an individual plan and works with trained coaches to achieve stable housing, increase educational attainment, secure and retain employment, reconnect with family, and eliminate contact with the penal system. This collection, a memorial to Rick Heydinger, co-founder of Ujamaa Place, will help underwrite the monthly training expenses for Ujamaa men.

November 15: MORE

MORE works to provide recent refugees/immigrants with the education and cultural support needed to become fully engaged members of their new communities. It offers financial counseling, work preparedness, and communication/language skills along with access to household items, clothing, and food resources. This collection will support family advocacy visits focused on energy assistance, unemployment benefits, affordable health care, and voter registration. Unity Church member Cathy Rucci is MORE's executive director.

November 22: FreeWriters MN

FreeWriters teaches Hennepin County Jail inmates, and hopefully soon Ramsey County Jail inmates, free writing exercises, i.e., spontaneous, nonstop, unedited writing which they then share aloud. County jail inmates get no break from their windowless cells with no access to the outdoors. County jails, unlike prisons, lack instructor-led programs to stimulate inmate minds, release tension, and teach healthy self-expression and literacy skills which often open doors to deeper inner resources previously untapped. This collection will help provide former inmate-student-teacher stipends. Unity Church member Stu Alger is an advocate for FreeWriters.

November 29: MN Multifaith Network

MN Multifaith Network (MnMN) aims to be a statewide network of faith and interfaith leaders working for a more just and loving world. MnMN is committed to building bridges and trust between faith communities, opening space for deeper relationships which may well blossom into new alliances among existing organizations. This collection will support MnMN's outreach to connect committed individuals from around the state and support them as they weave new relationships through shared learning and training focused on improving human rights in their communities. Unity Church members Tom Duke and Mark Pickard are board members of MnMN.

Visit www.unityunitarian.org/generosity-ministry.html to nominate an offering recipient.



**MANO A MANO
POP-UP
CRAFT SALES**

Tuesday, November 10
Tuesday, November 24
9:00-6:00 PM

Saturday, November 7
Saturday, November 21
10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Sales are held at the
Mano a Mano office
925 Pierce Butler Route
St. Paul
651-457-3141

Wear a mask and bring a
checkbook or credit card!

Get your holiday hats and
scarves from one of your
favorite vendors!

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Pitter-pattering Questions

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

Rev. KP Hong, Minister of Faith Formation

If the language of ethics is one of “ought” and “should,” the language of science about what “is” or “probably is,” and the language of art as “imagine” or “create,” what is the language of religion? Like Hebrew that requires the speaker to add

vowels—not consonants shaped by lips-mouth-tongue but vowels that originate from the vital source of breath itself — what if religious language at its core is the ecstatic breath itself: *Wow! Oh! Aha! Haha!?* Language drafted to serve on the front lines of our knowing and becoming, that liminal place where mystery begins, where discovery grabs hold of whatever available language, however clumsy or inadequate or ecstatic rising from the cleft between *self* and *other*, between *identity* and *alterity*. What else could capture our brush with wonder, beauty, and all such unaccountable moments of grace?

And yet proficiency in the language of grace may be hardest to acquire in our meritocratic, competitive society where relations are calculated by what is owed and people divided into those deserving and undeserving. In the absence of alternative sources of meaning and worth, we are left with meritocracy, its ruthless alienation, and the injuries of class and race blistering underneath the populist rage. Grace intrudes upon our obsession with measuring and hectoring one another about our worth based on some offensive comment or degree of *wokeness* or countless other pretensions oblivious to different scales of perspective. “There is perhaps no better demonstration of the folly of human conceits than this distant image of our tiny world,” wrote Carl Sagan of that iconic image of Earth. “To me, it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another, and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we’ve ever known.” Grace embraces and resolves the paradox of identity that seeks the merits of individuality even as it yearns for an unqualified belonging. Grace exposes the astigmatic conceit of *equality*, set on simplistic accounting for and leveling of inequalities, against the more perceptive and responsible *inequality* (and vulnerability) required for *equity*. Grace transfigures.

Grace is unmerited favor, an unaccountable gift, and virtually incomprehensible in a culture of rationalized ambition and gain. But grace still finds its way, perhaps in the lilies of the field and the birds of the sky, but surely through our children whose sheer dependence and vulnerability cause us to pause and take note of our ideologies and theologies of self-effort, self-striving, or self-power. Children who play at the edges of knowing and becoming and remind us of an incalculable interconnectedness that embraces all. Children whose every *Wow-Oh-Aha-Haha* exclaimed reminds us of our birthright and an original grace at the heart of life itself on this “mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam.” Look at that pale blue dot, and imagine such grace.

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

Coming of Age 2020

On Sunday, September 27, Unity's 2020 Coming of Age class was honored with an outdoor, socially distanced celebration. Here a few pictures from the event taken by Tom Sherman.



Religious Education Enrollment

To enroll in religious education programming for children and youth, please email Michelle Mecey at michelle@unityunitarian.org.



Music Notes

Ahmed Anzaldúa
Director of Music Ministries

There is an old, old clown exercise. It is the simplest thing: you enter a room in a neutral state, as pared down and honest as possible, and you just take in the other people in the room. Once you feel that something was exchanged between you and them, you leave. That exchange might be something monumental — together, we somehow discovered the true meaning of life — or it might be incredibly tiny, just a simple greeting, the tiniest of nods.

In the “before times” this was one of my performance and rehearsal rituals. (Now that I’ve given it away, it will probably be very obvious when I’m doing this at Unity; if circumstances allow it, I always do it before leading a choir rehearsal.) It’s a practice that I encourage my piano and conducting students to try out, and I almost always see an immediate, dramatic improvement in their musicking.

I find this embodied exchange essential to my own musical practice, and it’s what I’ve missed most during our time making music in the virtual space. Virtual choirs, recording, and streaming all allow us to broadcast musical performances; and we can still communicate with each other on video calls and through written messages... and yet, I still feel a twinge of grief at the thought of playing for an empty Sanctuary on Sunday or leading a hymn sing-along on Zoom.

That missing element? I’m convinced it’s grace. I grew up in religious traditions where grace is a virtue that only comes from God, grace is a state only enjoyed through divine assistance. But when you take God out of the room, what’s left in the room is just us. We enter a room together and we take each other in, and something is exchanged between us. That something is grace. That grace is what allows music — and all art — to happen.

I can’t wait until we can again be in a room together.

Sing with a Unity Choir

Unity’s choirs (adult *and* children) are meeting online every week! In addition to learning new music, we are also meeting to sing familiar songs and maintain our connection to each other and to the church. All newcomers are welcome and encouraged to take part! If you are interested, contact Ahmed at ahmed@unityunitarian.org.

Unity's Library and Bookstall Team

Still Reading; Still Listening

Shelley Butler, Unity Library and Bookstall Team

We’re still here! Library and Bookstall volunteers have been working on “next right actions” by reading and listening to more antiracism resources. Here’s what we’ve been up to in the past month:

Revisiting a Classic: *Native Son* by Richard Wright (1940)

“The day *Native Son* appeared, American culture was changed forever,” wrote reviewer Irving Howe of the groundbreaking bestseller.

Bigger Thomas is a twenty-year old black man who lives in Chicago’s “Black Belt” in a one-room rat-infested flat with his mother, brother, and sister. He has sporadic employment, obtaining money by small-time theft and robbery, or from his mother, until he gets a chauffeur job with a wealthy white family. Things go downhill rapidly and Bigger finds himself on trial for murdering and raping the daughter of his employer and his own girlfriend. It’s a hard book to read.

I found myself mentally shouting, “Don’t do it,” and “Don’t say that!” as Bigger stumbles through the web that ensnares him. I raged at the racist statements made by cops, the district attorney, and newspaper reporters as Bigger is caught and tried. Some have said that the detailed and harrowing descriptions of the lives of Northern blacks paved the way for the civil rights movement. It is an important book and deserves to be widely read even eighty years after its first publication. — Louise Merriam

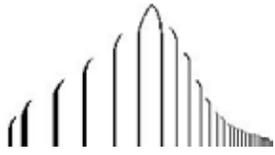
**Bret Weinstein's *DarkHorse Podcast*:
"Black Intellectual Roundtable"**

This is an intellectually challenging but rewarding panel discussion. The host and participants dissent from and challenge the currently dominant narrative on the Left that white privilege and systemic racism are the primary cause of difficulties in the Black community. One example is the notion that police are targeting Blacks. They see police brutality is an issue but should not be addressed as primarily a racial issue. To do so prevents Blacks and whites from working in alliance to find real solutions to police reform. John McWhorter strongly criticizes current antiracism approaches like Robin DiAngelo’s *White Fragility* which generally assert that “not to agree with it automatically makes you a racist.” He sees this as inhibiting honest discussion and a distraction from searching for real solutions. — Ron Prieve



These and more books, podcasts, films, and articles are included in the Unity Justice Database: bit.ly/UnityJusticeDatabase





UNITY CHURCH-UNITARIAN

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

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**TIME SENSITIVE
MATERIAL**

Budget Information Session

Sunday, November 15 • 2:00 p.m.
Register: <http://bit.ly/budgetinfo15>

Do you have questions about the financial landscape at Unity Church? Do you want to learn more about the 2021 budget that the congregation will be asked to approve on November 21 at the annual meeting? We are providing an opportunity for curious congregants to ask questions and explore in detail the church finances and 2021 proposed operating and capital budgets. Please join Barbara Hubbard, Executive Director, at this budget information session or contact her with questions at barbara@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x116.

CALL TO MEETING

Annual Meeting of the Congregation Saturday, November 21, 2020 • 10:00 a.m.

Unity Church will hold its Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Saturday, November 21, at 10:00 a.m. Watch for links to this virtual meeting and early voting. Leading up to and during this meeting the board will:

- Report to the congregation and present the 2021 operating and capital budgets for approval. See the box at left if you are interested in learning more about the budgets before the annual meeting.
- Ask the congregation to elect three new trustees. The trustee nominees are Kevin Harris, Jess Landgraf, and Mary Hernandez.
- Invite the congregation to vote on members of the Ministerial Search Team that will conduct the search process for Unity's next settled minister(s).

Budget information, trustee and search team nominee bios and photos, electronic voting information, a link to attend the meeting, and a meeting agenda will be sent by email to eligible voting members in early November. All are welcome to attend; only eligible voting members can vote. Eligible voting members include those who have signed the membership book and have made an identifiable pledge in the current or upcoming year and made a payment on that pledge. If you wish to become a voting member before the annual meeting, please contact Laura Park at laura@unityunitarian.org to arrange a private ceremony.