

Longing

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 explore each theme in worship and in our newsletter; in covenant groups, guided writing sessions and Wednesday evening programming; and in our community outreach ministries, our literary journal and programs, and many other opportunities. The October theme is Longing.

Our word *Longing* is rooted in the Old English *langian*, which meant to yearn or to summon. More literally, it meant to grow longer, as if our own soul were stretching out from our feet like an elongated shadow at the end of the day, reaching toward the distant horizon.

This might explain why our understanding of longing has so often been hitched to the notion of progress – that forward leaning inclination to regard history and human development as linear, marching ever onward toward the future as if the past could be left behind. But theologically speaking, longing is perhaps better understood in the context of the natural world where time does not march but bends around the cycle of seasons, where life itself circles back, dust to dust, whether of earth or of stars. Not without its own movement or improvement, Nature has its own emergent progress that unfolds over time, each bold new blossom eventually bowing back to the ground as seed, then rising again in the spring.

These cycles create memory and longing in which we each participate. We are all, Kahlil Gibran reminds us, “sons and daughters of life longing for itself.”

The problem is it’s hard to carry our longing for the wholeness of life’s circle in a world determined to lay things out in a straight line. We want reachable goals. We want the bird in the hand. We want to know we’ve arrived.

Our consumer culture encourages this way of thinking. Have you felt the way so many advertisements cast their hooks into our deepest longing, reeling it in and hitching it, if they can, to one object or another, each and all of them coincidentally for rent or for sale? In our steadier moments, we know that these may be straight-line shortcuts that have little or nothing to do with the wider circumference of our true longing. But who has not been tempted by the suggestion that we can buy our way out of longing? It is the prodigal’s plight: pretending that purchases, possessions or progress itself could satisfy a longing

rooted elsewhere. We can go bankrupt trying to buy our way home in this way, while our homesickness of the heart just keeps growing stronger.

It has been said that longing is “the heart’s memory.” It implores us to remember not only who we are but also who we might become. Many ancient stories, including those of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, suggest that in birth we are torn from a larger unity to which we long to return. Mystics talk about longing for reunion with the Beloved. The poet Rumi writes about reeds cut from the reed bed and carved out as flutes that later sound the “pure hollow notes” of their longing for return. “Anyone pulled from its source longs to go back,” Rumi claims. “Intimacy and longing for intimacy, one song.”

What would happen if we remembered this ancient song of longing and belonging? What if we humans leaned into our longing in the same way that a plant reaches toward the sun?

*What would the world be like
if we all turned our faces
toward the light in this way?
If we let ourselves belong to our longings,
opened our ears to the voice that says,
You. I want you.
I need you.
Like this, the sun charms the shoot up
from the soil
and coaxes the bud to release its tight fist.
Like this, the wind lifts the seed from
the open bloom
and the soil calls the seed back home again.*

~ Karen Hering,
Consulting Literary Minister

Worship Theme Resources

BOOKS

Rilke's Book of Hours: Love Poems to God, translated by Anita Barrows and Joanna Macy

Wanting Enlightenment Is a Big Mistake: the Teachings of Zen Master Seung San Cold Mountain, by Charles Frazier

FILMS

The Singing Revolution (2006) A single nation. A million voices. The fall of an empire.

The Gods Must Be Crazy (1980) A comic allegory about a traveling Bushman who encounters modern civilization and its stranger aspects.

The Secret of Roan Inish (1994) Between land and sea there is a place where myths are real.

JUST WORDS / WHEEL OF LIFE

Just Words

*Yesterday, a child came out to wander
Caught a dragonfly inside a jar
Fearful when the sky was full of thunder
And tearful at the falling of a star

And the seasons they go round and round
And the painted ponies go up and down
We're captive on a carousel of time
We can't return we can only look behind
From where we came
And go round and round and round
In the circle game.*

— The Circle Game by Joni Mitchell

Last week I helped our youngest daughter pack her car to move to California. It was, to say the least, a poignant time. I packed as much stuff into their small car as I possibly could and then anticipating the bags I knew were still to come, stopped. I said to Hannah and to Tim, "That's it. No more will fit beyond what you still need to bring out." I walked back into the house and as I did so my wonderful next door neighbor was out teaching her five-year-old son how to ride a bike. Shamir wobbly mastered the bike by the afternoon with his mother running behind on the sidewalk. Hannah and Tim, managed against my advice, to pack even more into the car. They trumped the family packing champion. I was impressed and have been replaced. I assume I will regain my crown next summer.

There are seasons of the year that just seem full of transitions and thresholds. Early spring brings the annual cleaning of the garden and yard from the muck of winter's hold. Later comes the graduations and weddings, to be replaced by some rest in the midst of summer's heat. In the fall, the crisp air returns, the leaves begin to sense that the light is diminishing and their leaves change color. Children return to school or leave. We begin to move indoors.

We mark significant thresholds in our lives, while others occur with little notice. When Hannah and her boyfriend prepared to leave, we cried and laughed and felt incredible relief! Rob and I wish our children and their partners lived closer to us but we look forward to having our house to ourselves. We look forward to this next chapter of our lives and we will mark the crossing of this threshold with a celebratory dinner out, just the two of us. And we will toast to the generativity we hope to live out in this verdant time of our life.

Do you take time to mark the thresholds in your life? Do you notice the dawning of each miraculous day? Do you celebrate the turning of the seasons?

Waking up each day is a significant threshold that every living creature experiences. The Buddha said that our central task as human beings is simply to wake up. He meant to wake up in the freedom of the present moment, to notice and take time to remember to breathe in the present.

So, I will never forget the threshold of my beloved daughter leaving home, but it is easy to forget to honor the small and daily thresholds that anchor our living to a deeper spirituality. May we all seek to honor the dawning of each threshold with its promise and possibility and its freedom.

— Janne Eller-Isaacs

The Wheel of Life

In Celebration

Curt Waeger and Cali Scheffer
married September 4, 2010

Katy Taylor and Dave Hall
married September 11, 2010

Alisa Lein and Jeff Miersch
married September 18, 2010

In Memoriam

Nancy Jo Haley
July 12, 1944–August 27, 2010

Marathon Alert

The Twin Cities Marathon will wind its way along Summit Avenue the morning of Sunday, October 3. Many roads will be closed from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please plan alternate routes and allow extra time to reach Unity Church that morning.

commUNITY is the newsletter of Unity Church–Unitarian. It is published monthly, except the month of July. Deadlines are the 14th of each month. Subscriptions are free to those who make pledges to Unity Church and are available to others for \$30 per year.



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OCTOBER SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION

Sunday services are held at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m., and 4:30 p.m. except where noted.

Sermon podcasts and archives are available online at www.unityunitarian.org.

October Worship Calendar

October 3: *Longing for the Beloved* — Janne Eller-Isaacs

In many religious traditions, experiences of mystical longing are expressed through metaphors of human relationship, for Mevlana Rumi, it is the friend, human and cosmic, to whom he speaks to express "A fluctuation, an exchange of being with Being." This Sunday Janne and Worship Associate, Katy Taylor will explore this kind of longing for the Beloved.

October 10: *All God's Critters (got a place in the choir!)*

One service at 10:00 a.m. ONLY at the St. Paul RiverCentre Grand Ballroom

The whole church family, including bees, crickets, wolves, fish, a moose and a whale will gather for songs and stories, praise and prayer. The service will include a multitude of voices including Mila, Unity Choir, Unity Singers, Kerri Meyer and the Ministerial Team. (See back cover for details.)

October 17: *Back to the Garden* — Rob Eller-Isaacs

Mircea Eliade in his seminal work of comparative religion, *The Myth of the Eternal Return*, writes of the human tendency to imagine a time before "the fall." One aspect of the religious impulse is born of longing to return to Eden, to the Sacred Mountain, to the Spirit Lake. Rob and Worship Associate Jeanne Barker-Nunn will examine how we can make best use of this mythic image. Literary Minister Karen Hering will offer a reflection on the monthly theme.

October 24: *Marketing Desire* — Jason Seymour

America, at the turn of the 20th century, was referred to as the "Land of Desire." Today, desire is big business, as companies and individuals compete for public opinion, profit and power. This Sunday, Hallman Ministerial Intern Jason Seymour and Worship Associate Carol LeBorveau will offer a dose of the real and the hopeful, as we subject the history and nature of marketed desire to the crucible of liberal religion.

October 31: *Seven Generations* — Rob Eller-Isaacs

We celebrate the Day of the Dead, when the veil between us and the ancestors wears thin, by visiting the First Peoples teaching that we should live our lives in light of seven generations, three forward, three back and our own. Rob and Worship Associate Bob Stellar will help us visit the future and the past so that we might anticipate and temper our impact on the earth.

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 3 • 1:00-2:00 p.m.

In the Courtyard at Unity Church
See the back cover for details.



October Offering Recipients

October 3: New Orleans Pilgrimage Scholarship Fund

This is the fifth pilgrimage to New Orleans that Unity Church people have participated in since the flooding of that city in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Parts of the city have recovered from this devastation but there are many people who still need volunteer assistance in the restoration of their homes. The New Orleans Pilgrimage Scholarship Fund is for Unity Church members who would like to join this trip but need assistance in meeting the travel costs.

October 10: Friends of the Mississippi

Through active leadership and education, Friends of the Mississippi (FMR) seeks to preserve and restore the river's fish and wildlife, its vital floodplains and scenic bluffs, its natural and cultural treasures, its beauty and its romance. Founded in 1993, FMR works in a non-partisan way to enhance water quality protection in the 72 miles of the Mississippi River in the metropolitan area. Rebecca Flood, member of Unity Church, has participated in numerous FMR activities.

October 17: Interfaith Alliance

The Interfaith Alliance was founded in 1994 to celebrate religious freedom and to challenge the bigotry and hatred arising from religious and political extremism infiltrating American politics. On October 20-22, the Interfaith Alliance, the Interfaith Youth Coalition and Unity Church are teaming up to provide 24 high school youth with a Twin City LEADD (Leadership Education Advancing Democracy and Diversity) program led by national LEADD Coordinator and former UUA Moderator, Denny Davidoff. Program attendees will study first amendment rights and the importance of interfaith dialogue. Kathryn Allen and one other youth will be attending from Unity Church.

October 24: Shannon Institute Scholarships

The Shannon Leadership Institute nurtures leadership vitality in diverse community organizations, impacting the arts, social service, economic development, intercultural relations, education and faith life across Minnesota. Through participation, more than 600 program alumni, including a dozen active Unity Church leaders, have clarified their life's purpose and the core values by which they live. The Shannon is funded entirely by tuition and donations; this offering will provide direct support for scholarships.

October 31: Open Arms

Open Arms is the only non-profit organization in Minnesota that prepares and delivers free meals specifically tailored to meet the nutrition needs of individuals and their families living with serious and life-threatening diseases. Open Arms added service for people living with MS, ALS and breast cancer in 2003 in order to embrace helping people with other chronic illnesses. Each year over 1,500 Open Arms volunteers help prepare and deliver over 350 meals each day.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Serve on the Unity Church Board of Trustees

Laura Smidzik, Board Chair

The Unity Church Unitarian Board of Trustees is composed of nine members, each serving three years. Every year, as three trustees complete their term of service, the Nominating Committee undertakes the process to replace them. The committee, made up of the current and prior year Board chairs and two other volunteers, works with the Board to determine needs, publicizes the search and interviews candidates.

The Board is always looking for a balance of specific skills coupled with a desire to have a broad representation of Trustees. We are blessed with many skilled and intelligent people who wish to more fully live out their faith. The Board is often an individual's culmination of other service and leadership experiences at Unity Church. However, prior leadership in the church is not a prerequisite. There has to be a willingness to live into the mission and ends of the church and an appreciation for Carver's policy governance which is a different structure than most boards.

If you talk to prior Board members you will know that some things are hard to predict. Things such as:

- What will be important in the next year?
- What array of talents will be needed?
- What dynamics will best serve the church in the coming year?

We know *Unity Tomorrow* is a major focus for the years ahead. A Board member is part of each of the main *Unity Tomorrow* committees providing a link to the Board as a whole. Other Board members will spend time outside of meetings serving as links to the Anti-Racism Leadership Team, reviewing Board policy, and ensuring that there is appropriate monitoring of the perceptions of volunteers, staff and the congregation.

The Board might know some, but never all of the issues it may be called upon to deal with in the future. The Board only knows that it must have a good mix of thoughtful and committed people, willing to live out a portion of their faith in a manner that requires a vision for the future and time to commit to a highly visible leadership role. If Board service is something you are called to do, consider contacting the nominating committee immediately. Interviews begin October 9 and interest must be indicated by October 1.

For more information please contact Carol Bauer, Nominating Committee chair, crl_bauer@yahoo.com.

Mark Your Calendar
Saturday, November 20, 2010
Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Notes from the Anti-Racism Leadership Team "How did you like *Scottsboro Boys*?"

from Drew Danielson, ARLT member

When asked this at our monthly team meeting, I wasn't sure how to respond. I said it was an odd, troubling experience, and the team said I should review it. I didn't want to – I'm no theater critic; I'm afraid I missed the point and I'll say something dumb, or worse, something offensive! All the more reason to try, they said.

So, I liked it. But I'm uncomfortable saying that. Most of you know well the awful story of nine young black men – and boys – wrongly accused of raping two white women. Of their inept trial and conviction, countless failed appeals and even a recanted accusation. No justice was ever served for those men. Of this we'll make a musical? And a minstrel show at that?

But man those boys can sing and dance!

Which is why it was so uncomfortable to sit among the mostly white and affluent Guthrie audience, watching a talented group of modern day African American actors singing their hearts out, telling 'coon' jokes and even wearing "Black face." After the first rousing number, my impulse was to stand and clap wildly, but my instincts told me to sit with my tail between my legs. I'm going to give the writers credit for knowing the dissonance this vehicle would cause the audience. I don't know that it makes for a potentially popular Broadway show, however. Which is too bad, because I can't stop thinking about it, and I can't completely make sense of the squirming I did as I loved the staging, adored the music and admired the talent, yet felt guilty and horrified and incensed at the same time. Make sense of it? I don't think I'm supposed to.

Overcoming Racism: Recognizing and Challenging the Legacies That Oppress Us

October 29 and 30, 2010 William Mitchell College of Law

The conference mission is to advance antiracist transformation of ourselves, our institutions and our communities.

- Understand the challenges and benefits to having honest conversations about systemic racism, ongoing colonization, white privilege and white supremacy.
- Gain practical skills and tools for countering racism, facilitating difficult conversations about race and racism, and for challenging institutional racism in your own life contexts.
- Explore the unique challenges, possibilities and practical application of racial justice skills, tools and facilitation.

Online registration is provided by the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits. www.mncn.org. Scholarships are available.

PLEDGE DRIVE 2011 / HALLMAN MINISTERIAL INTERN



Pledge Drive 2011

Dan Huelster, Pledge Team

The 2011 Pledge Drive has started! Materials have been mailed to each pledging household. Canvassers are making calls; conversations are taking place. Pledges received are informing the budget process for the coming church year, a budget to be discussed and approved at the Annual Meeting on November 20. For the moment, you might say our theme has morphed to *from the world to this house*, as we – the world - each examine our relationship with Unity, and decide how best we can contribute and support *this house*.

However, while Unity Church is a place of spiritual comfort, a wellspring of ideas and a source of joy, it is also a place that asks us to take action together, to use our collective energy and gifts to reach beyond the church walls. Evidence of our commitment to take our message to the world is manifold. Our nine community outreach teams engage in service, education, and advocacy to the larger community. Every Sunday, the majority of the offering leaves the church, through our Ministry of Generosity. We are able to donate financial resources to local non-profits due to the generosity of our operating pledges. You, we, have enabled Unity Church to give \$288,922 in unsolicited gifts (via the Sunday offering) to community non-profits that help bring our values into the world.

At Unity we are rich in staff. The longevity of tenure for many of those working at Unity is a testament to this place. These people are integral to what Unity is, this place "where we envision and create a new reality for a better world." We have a staff that will enable us to grow into the dreams of *Unity Tomorrow*.

We had spirited discussions these past months on the Pledge Team, as we talked about the need to set a goal. Last year we had an ambitious one, an 8.5% giving increase over the prior year. Given the economic times, it proved elusive, but we did get a 5% increase. When considered that there are those in this community who may have had work hours cut, seen their salary remain flat, or have lost jobs, this increase is really quite something. However, there was the need early this fiscal year, to adjust the church budget. This was done by trimming a part-time position, and asking our own staff to once again see their salaries remain flat, a request we've made of them the past three years. We are unquestionably *rich in staff*, but certainly we do not have a rich staff. So we, the Pledge Team, ask that you be generous when you are considering your pledge for the 2011 church. Be generous with our church – and those who are so very generous with us. *We encourage you to make a pledge that is a true expression of your commitment to the church – a pledge that is significant, meaningful and generous.*



Jason Seymour

2010-11 Hallman Ministerial Intern

When I first heard this month's theme—"longing"—I was thoroughly disinterested. Let me explain...

As a critical and free thinker, I know better. Longing is the stuff of desire.

Desires are capable of being twisted and manipulated; from a young age, our desires are conditioned socially. So say scholars of sociology and psychology, business and politics. We assemble information about the outer world, then form opinions and values based upon our observations. That information is provided by a variety of sources, with varying degrees of direction and intention: by mother and father and friends at school, by Coca Cola and Ronald Reagan and the Berlin Wall.

Therefore, when confronted by a theological concept like "longing"—writing as I am in the context of a culture dominated by marketing messages intended to create false dependencies—I am immediately skeptical, and my posture is defensive.

Further, as a practitioner of *zazen* (Buddhist) meditation, I am steeped in the teaching that suffering—a pervasive condition—stems from a human tendency to observe in objects and beings (including our selves) a false quality of concretion or permanence. We become blinded by our own desires; we see only our projections. The way out is to abandon illusions and false desires, and our agenda of control, in order to see things as they truly are: interconnected, formless, and in motion.

When I sit *zazen*, I experience the transience of desire itself; I surrender my agenda of control. I realize interconnectedness through experience and a disciplined mind. Such is my practice.

And so, fueled by critical cultural analysis and Buddhist non-attachment, my initial reaction to this month's theme was a fairly strong rejection of the idea altogether...

"Longing... who needs longing?! That is an illusion! We should focus only on breath!" said the young practitioner. (Zazen meditation consistently draws one's focus to breath.)

"And just how does your body relate to breath?"

How indeed! No matter my resistance to any theology or psychology of longing, no matter how carefully I may consider and integrate information around me, I am bound by my biology to a life of longing. My body *longs* for breath; this transcends the impermanence of desire. In fact, this *longing* is the root of my practice!

Beneath my conditioned desires, beneath the impermanent noise of my own solemn assembly, I still *long*. Could it be that my hasty rejection of longing was, in fact, a backlash against the pain of false promises, marketed or otherwise? Maybe *longing* is not the stuff of desire after all. Maybe longing is much, much deeper... lying unwavering beneath my desires, a still small voice calling out from the dark center of my being...

COMMUNITY / FELLOWSHIP / LEARNING

Elders' Circle

Thursday, October 21

1:00–2:30 p.m.

The Elder's Circle is a group of church elders (self-identified!) who convene monthly for fellowship and fun. This month, in addition to worship and a theme discussion ("Longing"), we will discuss our hopes and expectations for the group, and we will plan events for the coming year. Refreshments will be served.

Fellowship Groups

Men's Retirement Group: Monday, October 11 and 25, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact: Phil Morton at 952-934-3578

Unity Singles Group: Events TBA. Contact: Bonnie Reiland at bonniereiland@aol.com

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

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

Unity Men's Group: Events TBA. Contact: Nels Otto at 651-484-4590

Unitots!: A playgroup for families with kids through preschool age. Fridays at 9:30 a.m. Contact: Michelle Hill at 651-264-0884

Grandparent Unitots!: A playgroup for grandparents and their grandkids. Mondays at 9:30 a.m. Contact: Ona Lentz at 651-222-8117

Unity Bridge Club: First Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Mary Barrett at 651-225-9708

Evergreen Quilt Group: Contact: Peggy Wright at 651-698-2760

Unity Book Club: Tuesday, October 12, at 7:00 p.m.

Job Transition Networking Group: Mondays at 9:30 a.m. Contact Wendy Frieze, Facilitator at wendyfrieze@mac.com, and Rachel Holtzer, Co-Facilitator at erholtzer@gmail.com.

It's Time to Sign up for Circle Suppers!

You are invited to sign up to enjoy good suppers and great company with other members and friends of Unity Church. Starting in October, Circle Supper participants will meet in the homes of church members for food and fellowship. There are a variety of suppers planned for families, vegetarians, those who strive to eat local, and more! If you are interested in hosting or attending a Circle Supper, please sign up in the Parish Hall after Sunday services during October. Circle Supper hosts will open their homes for 8 - 10 guests and potluck dishes will be organized. The hosts of one meal will, in turn, be guests at the next and so it goes. Questions? Contact Ryan Carlson at 651-699-2888 or rc_and_lauren@yahoo.com.

Unitarian Universalist History

Part 1: Early Christian and European Roots

Five Mondays: October 4, 11, 18, 25 and November 1 • 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Join Hallman Ministerial Intern Jason Seymour for the first of a three-part educational series that will explore enduring themes and major events in the evolution of our faith tradition. This first installment will cover the development of Unitarianism and liberal religious thought, from early Christianity to 19th century Europe. We will meet five times; each meeting will offer opportunities for fellowship, personal reflection and group discussion. Contact Jason Seymour at the Church Office (jason@unityunitarian.org) to reserve a space in the class and a reading packet!

Caregivers Group

Thursday, October 21 • Noon–2:00 p.m.

Are you a part-time or full-time caretaker of loved ones in your life? Do you need support in order to sustain the care you are giving? Join Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs and Pastoral Care Team member Cynthia Orange for an informal support group for caregivers. Contact Janne Eller-Isaacs if you would like to participate in this group.

Living With the Loss of a Loved One

Saturday, October 30 • 9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m., led by Janne Eller-Isaacs

Many of us have lost someone we loved in the past year. Everyone who has lost a loved one is invited to gather for the day to remember, to talk about the grieving process and to honor the legacy left behind. If you would like to attend or have questions, please contact Janne at the Church Office (janne@unityunitarian.org).

Job Transition/Networking Group

Meets every Monday • 9:30–11:30 a.m.

The Job Transition Networking Group was created to offer support, encouragement, information, and skill-building resources to Unity Church members who are unemployed or underemployed. Contact Wendy Frieze, Facilitator at wendyfrieze@mac.com, and Rachel Holtzer, Co-Facilitator at erholtzer@gmail.com.

Meditation, Every Week at Unity Church

Tuesdays • 5:30–6:30 p.m.

"If you continue this simple practice every day, you will obtain some wonderful power. Before you attain it, it is something wonderful, but after you attain it, it is nothing special." — Shunryu Suzuki

Find renewal and grounding each week in a supportive group setting. Meditation is an accessible spiritual practice that offers awareness, clarity and peace. Join facilitator Jason Seymour for a communal exploration of contemplative practice. People of all experience levels are welcome. Please arrive promptly; newcomers are encouraged to arrive 10 minutes early.

COMMUNITY / FELLOWSHIP / LEARNING

Covenant Groups Begin in October

Covenant Groups are groups of 8-12 people who meet regularly for spiritual reflection and sharing. Each Covenant Group has a trained facilitator and the content for each meeting is based on the monthly theological theme. Members of each group make a commitment to share deeply and build connections quickly, to explore one's faith through reflection and deliberate listening, to practice radical hospitality, and to participate in a group spiritual practice. Group members create a covenant (a sacred promise) with one another for group interaction. Covenant Group meet for five months. At the end of the five-months, new groups are formed, continually making room for the newcomer.

Are you interested in becoming a Covenant Group Facilitator?

Covenant group facilitators are people who have good people skills, are genuinely interested in helping people to become spiritually engaged with one another, can feel comfortable learning to guide group dynamics in positive ways, are comfortable being primarily responsible for the administrative details of group meetings, are reliable, and support the covenant group model (i.e., committing to meet for 5 months, then either ending or forming two new groups).

If you are interested in joining a Covenant Group or becoming a facilitator, please contact Leon Dunkley at the Church Office.

Pathway to Membership at Unity Church

A Series of Three Classes

Welcome to Unity is geared to newcomers, visitors, and those seeking to learn more about Unitarian Universalists and Unity Church. Upcoming classes:

Wednesday, October 13
7:10 – 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 17
12:10 – 1:00 p.m.

Finding Yourself at Unity includes Unitarian Universalist and Unity Church history (including a tour of the church), opportunities to share parts of your religious journey, and discussion of the expectations and benefits of membership. Upcoming classes:

Tuesday, November 16, 23, and 30
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Light supper provided

Committing to Unity is designed for those who are ready to make the membership commitment. This class explores the deeper meanings and expectations of membership and shared ministry. Upcoming class:

Saturday, December 4
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Contact Julie Handberg at the Church Office (julieh@unityunitarian.org) to sign up for these classes.

Black Friday at Church

Feeding the Spirit on the Feast Day of Consumption

Friday, November 26, 2010 • 10:00 a.m. until 11:15 a.m.

This Year's Theme: *Wanting What We Have*



photo courtesy of Ed Linn

Unity Church's third annual "Black Friday at Unity Church" offers an opportunity to launch the Advent and Christmas season with spiritual renewal, fellowship, and good cheer, instead of frantic consumerism. Sometimes called "the holiest of shopping days," Black Friday is no longer just a feast day of consumption.

Join fellow Unity Church members, families, and neighbors on the Friday morning after Thanksgiving (Black Friday in the consumer world) in a worship service featuring cultural critique, spiritual depth, conversation, children's participation, wonderful music, and some fun. Our special guest speaker for this service is Sister Irene O'Neill, Executive Director at Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Ministries Foundation.

After the service, we'll share fellowship, warm drinks and conversation in the Parish Hall and, for those who would like, an opportunity to join in a reflective conversation about the service and how to integrate the theme "wanting what we have" into our personal lives. Activities for children and families, and child care will be provided.

For the "collage of voices" to be read during the service, we hope you will share your thoughts about this year's service theme. As the Black Friday service team planned for this year's service, we were moved by words written by UU minister Forrest Church. As he lived with terminal cancer, Forrest Church wrote, "I have a mantra that I've come to live with over the past few years, and it's served me very well. It is 'Want what you have; do what you can; be who you are.'"

Our question for your reflection: How do the words "want what you have" speak to you? We invite you to e-mail your responses to this question to laurasues@earthlink.net. We will compile many of your responses and share them in the service.

Wellspring Wednesday

Turn the page for all you need to know.



WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY

Wellspring Wednesday at Unity Church

Each Wednesday evening, the church community is invited to gather for a night at Unity. This is a time to engage in religious community, a time to cultivate our values and beliefs.

Schedule for the Evening

6:00 p.m. The evening begins with a hot, nutritious meal and a good conversation. Menus are posted as available online and are also listed in *This Week at Unity*. See below for cost.

6:45 p.m. Everyone is invited to a short worship service in the Ames Chapel.

7:10 p.m. Classes and programs follow worship and begin at approximately 7:10 p.m. Programs are offered for people of all ages. There is a range of lectures, crafts, music, films, theater, yoga, meditation, martial arts, OWL classes, OWL Parenting classes, classes on UU history... You name it. In fact, you are invited to "name it" by suggesting future programs or running one yourself! Check out the Wellspring Wednesday page at: www.unityunitarian.org/wellspringwednesdays or contact Leon Dunkley (leon@unityunitarian.org) at the Church Office for more details.

Cost for Dinner

The cost for dinner is: \$6/adult, \$4/child ages 5 to 12, \$2/child ages 2 to 4, and \$18/family, and can be paid by cash or check. (Children under the age of 24 months are free.) Reservations for dinner are not required. Financial assistance is available to cover the cost of dinners, contact Leon Dunkley.

Childcare and Children's Programming

Each Wellspring Wednesday, preschool and school-aged children can join other Unity kids for fun and fellowship. Families should check their children in on the evening's sign-in sheet in the Parish Hall before heading to their program.

Regular Wellspring Wednesday Offerings

These offerings meet after Wellspring Wednesday worship at approximately 7:10 p.m.

Yoga with Jen Seymour • \$10/class • Offered Every Wednesday

Jen Seymour began her yoga journey in 2000 and was certified to teach in April of 2009. Since then she has taught all levels of students in group and individual settings. Jen is thrilled to be teaching yoga at Unity Church. Yoga is appropriate for people of all levels of experience and all physical abilities. Wear comfortable clothing and bring water and a yoga mat. 75-minute yoga class cost: 10 classes for \$80 or a single class for \$10. First time participants are encouraged to try at no cost. For more information contact Jen at jenseymour@me.com.

Junior High Youth Group • Meets Every Wednesday

The Junior High Youth Group will start meeting every Wednesday in October. They will be baking, creating, serving, learning, and laughing. All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are invited to participate. See page 15 for more information.

UU Families Dinner Table Talk • Every Fourth Wednesday During Dinner

Have you ever struggled with how to talk with your children about Unitarian Universalism? Look for tables at Wellspring Wednesday dinner marked "UU Family Table Talk" where adults and children of all ages will discuss Unitarian Universalist values that connect to Unity's monthly theme.

Sharing Group for UU Parents • Meets Once a Month • October 27

All are invited to a unique experience created by the Young UU Families Group. We will gather to share our challenges, struggles, and wisdom about raising our children religiously in the UU tradition. The structure will allow parents to share questions and dilemmas and learn from the experiences of other UU parents.

U-Knitarians • Meets the Third Wednesday of the Month • October 20

Are you a knitter? Do you crochet? Love needlepoint or counted cross stitch? If you are a person who just has to have some needlework project going at all times, please come and join the U-Knitarians on a Wellspring Wednesday. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:10 p.m. right after the worship service. We work on our projects and get to know one another. Some of the knitters are making Caring Shawls for the Pastoral Care Team. Come and stitch with us!!

R.E. Orientation • Offered the First Wednesday of the Month • October 6

For families new to Unity Church who are interested in Religious Education for their child(ren). Contact Kerri Meyer (kerri@unityunitarian.org) to attend.



Wellspring Wednesday • September 29

Who's Allowed In?

The History of U.S. Immigration

Donna Gabaccia, Professor of History and Director of the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota will present an overview of United States and Minnesota immigration history at Wellspring Wednesday. In a long and distinguished teaching and research career, her specialties include international migration studies, U.S. immigration and labor history, comparative women and gender, food studies and world history. An interactive question and answer time will follow this historical presentation.

WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY OCTOBER FEATURED EVENTS

October 6

The Music of Failure: Celebrating the Poetry of Bill Holm



Poet, essayist, memoirist and musician, Bill Holm has marked the culture of Minnesota with his art. *The Music of Failure*, the 25th anniversary edition

of Holm's most influential essays, was published in 2010. In the words of Tobias Wolff, "Bill Holm's essays test the general assumptions of Americans about themselves against the private realities of their lives." In the words of Robert Bly, the beauty of failure is the theme.

Unity Church and Common Good Books are joining forces to create a public reading of his work, a stirring tribute to the excellence of his witness. Readers include: Jim Heynen (who wrote the introduction to *The Music of Failure*), Phebe Hanson, Carol Connolly, Freya Manfred, Joyce Sutphen, and more...

October 13 Transcendental Revolutionaries



Henry David Thoreau was a mid-19th century transcendentalist, a reflective intellectual and a believer in healthy civil dissent. Dorothy Day was an American journalist, a devout Catholic and a revolutionary activist in the tradition of non-violence. Bayard Rustin was a civil rights activist, a counselor to the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the chief organizer of the March on Washington in 1963. As Cornel West would say, "They are part of the same tradition... Who so ever will, let him or her come forward, make a commitment and pay a cost!"

Terrence Wiley is a Ph.D. student from Princeton University who has been working with Cornel West to understand the connective tissue between these three energies: Unitarian Transcendentalism, Catholic direct action and non-violent resistance. Join us for a spectacular discussion about how these three people have shaped who we are today.

October 20

Capote, the Story of a Storyteller Part One

The town of Holcomb, Kansas, was torn apart in 1959. In mid-November, Richard Hickock and Perry Smith committed a crime that shocked the nation. Their misdeeds were reported in the New York Times—"Wealthy Farmer, 3 of Family Slain." The saga unfolded slowly over the next six years. Truman Capote set himself to the task of writing the story. *Capote, the film* starring Phillip Seymour Hoffman and Catherine Keener, is the story of that saga. In the film's unfolding, Truman Capote (played by Hoffman) offers passages from *In Cold Blood* in a public reading:

What does it add up to, anyway? Well, four innocent and two guilty people murdered. Three families broken. Newspapers have sold more papers. Politicians will make more speeches. Police and parole boards will get more blame. More laws will be passed. Everybody will pass the buck. And then, next month, next year the same thing will happen again.

Truman Capote is one of the most influential storytellers of our time. From his most commercial work, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, to his most powerful, *In Cold Blood*, the writings of Truman Capote have helped to shape the American literary landscape since the Second World War. Join Shelley Butler and Leon Dunkley in a discussion about the film that tells the story of a storyteller.

October 27

She Looks Just Like You The Unity Church Library Team Presents Author Amie Miller

Amie Klempnaur Miller reads from *She Looks Just Like You: A Memoir of (Nonbiological Lesbian) Motherhood*.

Come hear Amie Miller read from her new book which has been described as "part love story, part comedy, part quest." As a midwestern, station wagon-driving, stay-at-home mom—and as a

nonbiological lesbian mother—Amie both defines and defies the norm. Like new parents everywhere, she wrestled with the anxieties and challenges of first-time parenthood, but unlike most mothers, she experienced pregnancy and birth only vicariously. Unlike biological parents, she had to stand before a judge to adopt her own daughter. Miller began searching for a role that would fit her experience, somewhere in the unexplored zone between mother and father, gay and straight.

For The Love of the Game

Are you a baseball fan? The Opening Day for the 2010 World Series is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 27. Wellspring Wednesday is taking advantage of the fact by recruiting a team of congregants to geek out about baseball. Fans of all ages are invited to watch a portion of the game together. Popcorn and soda will be served. Bring your gloves! Maybe we'll get lucky enough to catch a foul ball!!!!

November 3 Shock Waves



Unity Church member Cynthia Orange discusses her latest book.

In the United States, about 60 percent of men and 50 percent of women experience, witness, or are affected by a traumatic event in their lifetimes. Many may develop post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)—a life-altering anxiety disorder. Once connected mainly with veterans of war, PTSD is now being diagnosed in many situations that cause extreme trauma such as rape, physical attacks or abuse, accidents, terrorist incidents, or natural disasters. Not reflected in the statistics are the millions of family and friends who also suffer from the shock wave effects of a loved one's trauma. Feelings—for both trauma survivors and those who love them—can become intense and unpredictable. Join Cynthia and the rest of the Unity Library Team in a discussion of this important work.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Guest at Your Table

Guest at Your Table is the annual Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) financial campaign to support their work for:

- Rights in Humanitarian Crises
- Economic Justice
- Civil Liberties
- Environmental Justice

By welcoming a Guest at Your Table, you will be helping nurture a spirit of gratitude and the Unitarian Universalist (UU) values of justice, equity and compassion in human relations. The gifts placed in the box you put on your table will be a tangible way to invite the reality of human need into your home and to remember the struggle for basic human rights that happens each day around the world.

How to participate:

- On Sunday, October 31, pick up a Guest at Your Table box and a copy of *Stories of Hope* in the Parish Hall.
- Place your box where you share your meals and at mealtime, read a story from *Stories of Hope*. These stories will connect you to real guests, people with hopes and dreams, who are involved in the struggle for human rights.
- Insert coins or bills into your Guest box. Think of your special guests and how you are showing concern for their well-being.
- Decide how much to give as a total gift. Maybe the cost to feed one or two of the special guests. Any box with \$100 or more will be matched by a UU congregation in Manhasset, N.Y.
- On or before January 9, return your box to the Parish Hall at Unity Church. Convert coins and bills into a check made out to UUSC. Unity will send all contributions to the UUSC. Gifts not identified for memberships will be combined as a gift from Unity families to UUSC.

What's Up?

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC; www.uusc.org)
from David Byfield and Marty Rossmann, Unity Church UUSC Representatives

Water: On July 28, 2010, the United Nations adopted a nonbinding resolution that recognizes the human right to water and sanitation. The resolution was introduced by Bolivia, a country where voters approved a statement on the human right to water. Despite UUSC's urging, the U.S. abstained on procedural grounds in the voting, due to a requirement for "advice and consent" of the U.S. Senate in order to commit the U.S. to international obligations. The U.S., however, stated a deep commitment to finding solutions to the world's water challenges. UUSC is working with partners and allies to establish policies to lift up these urgent human-rights issues in the international arena.

Women: Patricia Jones, Manager of UUSC's Environmental Justice Program is traveling in Kenya and Tanzania to meet with partner organizations dealing with the global water crisis. In her blog (on the UUSC web site) she writes that UUSC's partner organization Tanzania Gender Networking Program (TGNP) is working on a bottled water campaign, as well as action to modernize the water sector. She says TGNP is working toward having the time women take to get the water to be taken as their contribution to the water services in the country and counted in the GDP. She concludes: "Remarkable women, remarkable efforts, with concrete results. Look out world, the women are coming!"

Tolerance: On Monday, August 9, UUSC sent a letter to NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg expressing strong support for the Cordoba Center, an Islamic mosque and community center proposed for Lower Manhattan. The text of the letter is on the UUSC web site. UUSC suggests you raise your voice for religious tolerance by sending your own letter of support. UUSC encourages taking further action by cultivating understanding in our community with their Building Bridges Tool Kit.

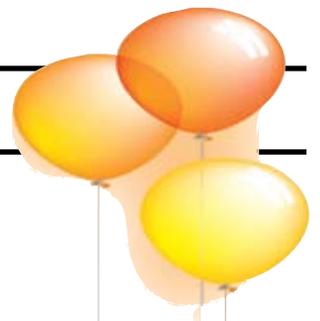
Pakistan: The growing enormity of the humanitarian disaster caused by the floods in Pakistan has compelled UUSC to launch a relief fund. Donations will be put to immediate use, since UUSC already has partner organizations in the region. Make an online donation at www.uusc.org.

Team members are needed! Are you looking for a way to "find yourself at Unity"? You're invited to join the newly forming UUSC team. As a member of the team, you could choose one of many ways to be a little or a lot involved such as: phoning in once a month for an hour-long UUSC conference call for local churches, helping with the Guest at Your Table project, marketing UUSC membership to the Unity congregation, gathering and sharing information about specific UUSC projects such as Haiti or Pakistan, studying and reporting on immigration or torture, or participating in a UUSC "Just Works" project such as a trip to Uganda in November or (tentatively) a trip to Haiti in January!

UUSC Membership: Consider becoming a UUSC member. Here's what Unity member Babara Ford said, "I see Ken's and my contribution to UUSC as part of our giving to other national/international groups such as Oxfam and Amnesty International. Each group has a little different approach and all are needed. Each group has its own circle of influence. Encouraging membership would fit well at Unity Church—part of the 'beyond' efforts of the church." Membership costs are: \$40 General; \$75 General (dual); \$10 Student/Youth; \$20 Student/Youth (dual); \$20 Senior; \$40 Senior (dual). Consider a gift to a friend (or yourself) a membership in UUSC! Get the form on the UUSC web site.

Contacts: David Byfield at 612-374-4786 or DBYF@aol.com or Marty Rossmann at 651-690-4370 or rossm001@umn.edu.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY



Community Outreach Ministry Fair

Sunday, October 31 • Parish Hall • After the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services

Join all the Community Outreach Ministry Teams for the fourth annual Unity Church Outreach Fair. The Community Outreach Ministry Teams were created to further the ministry of Unity Church in service to the larger community. These teams (listed below) will be present to share their current community ministries and ways for people to get involved in short or long term projects and/or events.

Current Community Outreach Ministry Teams and Projects

Evergreen Projects Ministry: The Evergreen Projects hold monthly food drives for Sharing Korner Foodshelf, provide meals at the Family Place, and support the Jeremiah Program. The Evergreen Quilters group provides "joyful fundraising" through the making and selling of quilts. Contacts: Karen Buggs (651-297-0111/buggs1072@hotmail.com) and Mary Barrett (651-225-9708/marbar9@juno.com)

The Affordable Housing Team partners with Metropolitan Interfaith Coalition for Affordable Housing (MICAH) and Habitat for Humanity. The team also partners with Project Home as a homeless shelter during the month of May. Contacts: Priscilla Morton (651-766-8375/prismorton@cs.com) and Hal Clapp (651-775-6681/hcpp@minnesotahomes.com). Project Home contact: Anna Newton (651-483-2986/newtona@comcast.net)

The Restorative Justice Team engages the church community in healing conversations and activities. This team is partnered with Amicus, a Minnesota non-profit focused on improving public safety by helping inmates and ex-offenders, as well as Second Chance, a coalition of organizations that advocate for fair laws that allow those who have committed crimes to redeem themselves and contribute to their communities. Contact: Ray Wiedmeyer (651-699-5590/raka1260@aol.com)

Mano a Mano Team (Spanish for "Hand to Hand") supports the work of Mano a Mano International, a Minnesota non-profit dedicated to providing health care, building of clinics, public education, roads, and safe water supplies in Bolivia. Contacts: Andrea Bond (651-292-0003/abond@briggs.com) and Joan Velasquez (651-558-9168/manoamanousa@comcast.net)

The Partner Church Team fosters a mutually rewarding relationship between the Unity Church community and that of our sister church in Transylvania. Contacts: Sally Foster (651-227-1105/sallyfoster@msn.com) and Laurel Lein (651-227-0486/laurel.ucu@apts.cc)

The Green Sanctuary Team has worked on projects including recycling, sustainable transportation, energy use, composting, community gardening and the carbon footprint of Unity Church. This team is partnered with the Peace Coffee and Whole Farm Cooperative. Contact: Dale Howey (612-327-8138/howey55@msn.com)

The Racial Justice Team works to provide opportunities for the congregation to connect to people of color in the larger community and particularly to interracial community churches. Contacts: Terri McNeil (651-699-9896/tmcneil003@yahoo.com) and Steve Lewis (651-690-9805/steve.lewis@deluxe.com)

The Interweave Ministry Team exists to lead the church community as it expands and deepens its welcome and support of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer people and allies. Contact: Ann Hite (651-644-7444/amh1960@gmail.com)

The Generosity Ministry Team facilitates the giving of the weekly offering to non-profit organizations. Contact: Richard Buggs (651-222-7222/unuseddreams@msn.com)

The Education Ministry works with the St. Paul Council of Churches/Support Our Schools mentoring project at Obama Service Learning Elementary across the street from the church. Contact Pat Haff (pat@unityunitarian.org)

Holdeen India Program is a long running program of the Unitarian Universalist Association in India. This program features opportunities to teach English in a girl's school in India. Contact Wendy Harris (651-917-8880/worldsigner@gmail.com)

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Team partners with the UUSC (see page at left). Contacts: David Byfield (612-374-4786/DBYF@aol.com) and Marty Rossmann (651-690-4370/rossm001@umn.edu)

Mentors Are Needed

Obama Service Learning Elementary

This will be the fourth year that volunteers from Unity Church will serve as mentors/tutors to 5th and 6th grade students at Obama Service Learning Elementary across the street from the church. Mentors may serve Monday through Friday for 30 minutes to one-hour per week (day and time of the week depend on volunteer availability) or as after-school mentors on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:30 to 4:40 p.m. Mentors serve as positive role models working one-to-one in classrooms to help students build literacy skills and increase confidence, self esteem and goal attainment. Training will be provided. For more information or to sign up, contact Pat Haff at the Church Office.

Whole Farm Coop



Buy meat, cheese, produce and more from local, sustainable farms and pick it up at Unity Church!

Order from www.wholefarmcoop.com or call 320-732-3023 by Wednesday, October 13. Orders will be delivered to Unity Church on Wednesday, October 20.

Evergreen Foodshelf

The third Sunday of every month is Evergreen Food Drive Sunday. Donations can be brought anytime and should be placed in the barrels located at both the Holly and Portland Avenue entrances.

October 17 suggested items: shampoo, hand soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and deodorant.



A Day in Seminary

with Rev. John Buehrens

Saturday, November 6

A Day in Seminary • Parish Hall at Unity Church

9:00–9:30 a.m. • Gathering

9:30 a.m.–Noon • How to Read the Bible

Learn the ways that the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, named as one of our wisdom sources, offer much inspiration and food for thought—even for skeptics.

Lunch

1:00–2:30 p.m. • Our Theological House

A look at ways that religious liberals can engage in deeper reflection and discussion about our faith tradition.

Break

3:00–4:30 p.m. • A People's History:

Unitarians and Universalists in America

A reflection on our democratic way of governing ourselves, known as "congregational polity," which is deeply rooted in the history and beginnings of our nation.

Sunday, November 7

Worship Services • Sanctuary at Unity Church

9:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. • 4:30 p.m.

Book signing following each service.

Freedom and Covenant

Rev. John Buehrens' sermon will take off from Jonathan Franzen's new novel, *Freedom*, which is set in part in St. Paul. Rev. Buehrens will reflect on how covenantal relations—in family life, congregational life, and interfaith relations—are commonly misunderstood, and yet necessary to mature use of the freedoms that we cherish. Worship Associate Hal Freshley will help to conduct the service.



About the Speaker

John Buehrens served as president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) from 1993 to 2001. He is now minister of First Parish in Needham, MA, and is a member of the adjunct faculty at Harvard Divinity School, from which he graduated in 1973. He serves as national co-chair of Freedom to Marry (www.freedomtomarry.org), as a member of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee board, and as chair of the UUA International Advisory Panel and of the UUA 50th Anniversary Task Force. He is the author of *Understanding the Bible: An Introduction for Skeptics, Seekers, and Religious Liberals*, and is coauthor (with Forrest Church) of *Our Chosen Faith: An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism* and (with Rebecca Parker) *A House for Hope: The Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-First Century*. The recipient of three honorary doctorates, he has served ministries in New Jersey, New York, Texas, and Tennessee, and has been active in interfaith cooperation for justice and peace.

Registration: To register for "A Day in Seminary," contact Martha Tilton at the Church Office by phone at 651-228-1456 x105 or by e-mail at martha@unityunitarian.org. Registration is also available at the door.

Childcare: Contact Christy Randall at the Church Office to reserve childcare by phone at 651-228-1456 x127 or by e-mail at christy@unityunitarian.org. Childcare reservations must be made by Wednesday, November 3. Childcare is free, but please bring a lunch for your child.

Fees: \$10 per class. Lunch is included if you register for all three classes. Copies of Rev. Buehrens' books will be available for purchase at the Unity Church Bookstall.

UNITY LIBRARIES / LITERARY MINISTRY



What's New at Unity Libraries?

Anderson Adult Library ◇ Bookstall
◇ Whitman Children's Library
Bookmobile ◇ Cairns Literary Journal

October Book Readings Deux Temps

Not one, but two fantastic book readings this month. First, you won't want to miss Harper Lee Award winner and New York Times bestselling author **Sena Jeter Naslund**. Thanks to Rob's interesting connections, she will read from her brand new novel *Adam & Eve* on Sunday, October 3, 2010, at 2:00 p.m., at Unity Church. Her sixth book *Adam & Eve* is said to be "a tour de force by a master contemporary storyteller."

On Wellspring Wednesday, October 27, 2010 at 7:00 p.m., **Amie Klempnauer Miller** shares *She Looks Just Like You: A Memoir of (Nonbiological Lesbian) Motherhood* (Beacon Press). With insight, humor, and humility, *She Looks Just Like You* is a venture into the all-too familiar joys and concerns of motherhood, the challenges unique to lesbian couples, and the very personal realm of one loving family. Mark your calendar!

Unity Bookstall Under New Management

Have you heard the one about the man that went to a bookstore and asked the salesperson, "Where is the self-help section?" She said if she told him, it would defeat the purpose.* All joking aside, the Unity Bookstall has a fresh and inviting look, as well as great new books in stock, and that is thanks to the energetic, new Bookstall team leaders, Jan Gestner and Barb Foss. So, stop by, take a look around, and say hello to the wonderful Bookstall leadership; they look forward to meeting you.

*George Carlin

OPEN PAGE: reflecting with pens in hand

These guided writing sessions, led by Consulting Literary Minister Karen Hering, are invitations to the creative spirit, opportunities to correspond with "the still, small voice within." No writing experience necessary; only an empty page and an open heart and mind. Check individual listings for location, pre-registration requirements and registration fees.

OPEN PAGE Writing Session

Sunday, October 17 • 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Unity Church-Unitarian • 732 Holly Avenue, St. Paul

Reflection Topic: Longing

Free; RSVP karen@unityunitarian.org

We are all, as Kahlil Gibran noted, the "sons and daughters of life longing for itself." But our consumer culture often conflates longing and desire, as if longing could be satisfied by purchases, progress or possessions. In this session we'll explore the nature of longing and how we respond to it. What is it that our longing points us toward? And what would happen if we let ourselves belong to our deepest longing? Registration not required, but an e-mail to karen@unityunitarian.org is requested to help in planning space and handouts.

The Awakened Heart: Monthly OPEN PAGE Sessions

Tuesday Evenings • 6:30–9:00 p.m.

October 26, November 23 and December 7

Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Avenue, St. Paul

For fees and registration, visit: www.wisdomwayscenter.org

A Day of Rest: An OPEN PAGE session on the creativity of Sabbath

Saturday, October 9, 9:00 a.m.–noon

The Loft Literary Center, Minneapolis

For fees and registration, visit: www.loft.org

The Yin/Yang of Writing: A 6-week OPEN PAGE Series

Thursday mornings • 10:00 a.m.–noon

October 28–December 9

The Loft Literary Center, Minneapolis

For fees and registration, visit: www.loft.org

On-line literary resources

For more information about the *Faithful Words* literary ministry and additional writing programs offered in other locations, visit www.unityunitarian.org/WritingMinistry.htm. To receive periodic e-mail notifications of upcoming literary programs and invitations for member writings, contact Consulting Literary Minister Karen Hering at karen@unityunitarian.org. These programs are supported by a grant from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism and contributions from individual donors.

Unity Church Book Club

The Unity Church Book Club will meet from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 12. The book they will be discussing is *Day* by A. L. Kennedy. **Everyone is welcome — even if you haven't read the book!**

October

Parish Hall Artist

**The Elemental Eye ~ In Proximity
Photography by Peter Freeman**



I am a “noticer.” The juxtapositions and interactions of elements in a visual field—light, shadow, lines, shapes, textures, patterns, directionality, colors and tones—combine to form a subject of interest. I am fascinated by what I see, what we all can see, when we really notice the world around us.

I take portraits of the world. The frame of the photograph allows me to capture interactions among the elements; how they hang together and play off each other. The elements combine to become a complex subject at once familiar and yet unfamiliar, something uniquely common. I can still look at an image and discover something new, something fresh.

I want viewers of my photographs to interact with the images and themselves. Stand back and take in the image as a whole, or come forward and step into the image and look around at the various elements in detail. Spend a bit of time. Notice your experience.

We all are complex subjects with juxtapositions of elements, uniquely common. In my professional life as a psychotherapist, coach and organization development consultant, my role is to notice, affirm, and facilitate adaptation, growth and change.

Important Dates for Your Family Calendar

Sunday, October 3: regular R.E. Celebration of New Lives – 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 10: All-congregation Worship at Harriet Island – 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 17: regular R.E.

Wednesday–Monday, October 20–25: High School Boston Pilgrimage

Sunday, October 24: No R.E. Classes – Special activities for kids (MEA Weekend)

Sunday, October 31: Story Sunday, New Rotation cycle: On Being Human

Junior High Youth Group

Meets on Wellspring Wednesdays

Junior high youth, please take this quiz.

1. Are you in 6th, 7th or 8th grade?
2. Do you like to have fun?
3. Do you have plans on Wednesday nights?

If you answered "yes" to the first two questions and "no" to the third, we have opportunities for you!

The Junior High Youth Group will start meeting on Wednesdays in October. We will be baking, creating, serving, learning, and laughing. We want you to be a part of it all. Look for more details in the upcoming Sunday *This Week at Unity* inserts and in an e-mail from Kerri Meyer. We look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones!

Family Sundays

Family Sundays take place five times each church year: Merging of the Waters (September), Thanksgiving (November 21), Christmastime (December 19), Easter (April 24) and Flower Communion (May 22). On Family Sundays, children experience the entire worship together with their families in the Sanctuary. A children’s message and activity books related to the stories and sermon help children to engage in the experience of worship. Regular religious education programming does not take place on Family Sundays; however, the nursery is open for children under three years of age.

Story Sundays

Story Sundays happen frequently throughout the church year, with school-aged children (Workshop Rotation, Grades 1-6) beginning their morning in worship with the congregation in the Sanctuary. After the opening hymn, prayers, embracing meditation, anthem and children’s message, the children proceed with their Journey Guides to their classrooms for regular religious education programming. Story Sundays for the 2010-11 church year include: October 31, January 16, and February 13.

Childcare for Church-Sponsored Events

Unity Church is committed to making all church-sponsored activities more accessible to families by providing childcare free of charge. Families who need care for their child or children ages six months to 12 years should contact Christy Randall, Religious Education Program Assistant, at christy@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x127 at least one week prior to the event. Parents should note that there may be occasions on which only one childcare worker can be present to provide care to a maximum of two children. This provider may be a youth aged 12 or older. In such situations, parents may be asked to take a pager and sign a waiver stating that they give Unity permission to provide care outside the parameters of the Safe Church Policy.

MUSIC MINISTRY / OCTOBER BOOK READINGS

Music Notes

from Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministry

"Our art is at its best when it transcends mere entertainment and impacts all who are part of this communal world of song in body, mind, spirit and voice!"

— Anton Armstrong, Director of Choirs at St. Olaf College,
world renowned conductor

As our all-congregation service on October 10 approaches and we prepare to gather together in worship and in song, I cannot resist speaking to the idea of community singing together and how that inspires and supports our intentions. We live in a state that has one of the longest and deepest traditions of choral singing in the country. As a church community, UUs are not generally noted as 'singing congregations'. However, it strikes me when I hear us join in on a familiar tune that we have great potential to join together, not only as a committed community in our living, but in our singing!

Anton Armstrong, in his address given at the Collegiate Choral Festival in 2009, says, "I want to strongly propose that what is a highly distinctive element of our shared choral legacy is the desire that the choral art is to be offered in service to others. I believe our choral art must be equally transformational for the performer and the listener." Or as one singer in the documentary *Never Stop Singing* said, "I sing to stay human!" Choral singing does indeed remind us of our shared humanity.

National Song Festivals as seen in nations such as Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are unique among world cultural institutions. In fact, in the case of Estonia, this 'shared singing community' literally acted as the primary thread of Estonian cultural, ethnic, and national solidarity during decades of occupation. Sometimes swelling to a massed choir of 100,000 people, one can imagine the power of one voice starting a song of shared meaning, quickly spreading throughout the thousands, suddenly uniting many into a community.

Multiply this example by the many cultures for whom singing is their bond, their communication in either overt or coded messages, their ritual, their education... the expression of their soul. No great voice is needed, only one willing to sing and join with others. "Come, come, whoever you are" and sing with us!



Book Reading
**Amie
Klemmawer
Miller**
Wellspring Wednesday
October 27, 2010
7:00 p.m.

She Looks Just Like You
A Memoir of
Photographic
Lust
Amie Klemmawer Miller



Book Reading
**Sena Jeter
Naslund**
Sunday
October 3, 2010
2:00 p.m.

SENA JETER
NASLUND
ADAM
&
EVE
A NOVEL
HER FIRST HISTORICAL NOVEL



Singing Opportunities at Unity Church

Unity Choir

Adult, high school and beyond: rehearsals every Thursday from 7:30 to 9:15 p.m.

4:30 Service "Walk-In" Choirs

1st grade through adult: meet at 3:30 p.m. in the Foote Room and sing in that day's service. October 24 and November 21. Childcare provided.

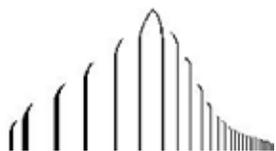
4:30 Service "Carmina" Choir

Adult, high school and beyond: meet at 3:30 p.m. in the Foote Room for two rehearsals, December 5 and 19; sing in the December 19, 4:30 p.m. service. Childcare provided.

Gather and Sing at the 4:30 Service

Gathering music for the 4:30 p.m. service will be a time for community singing. The singing will begin at 4:20 p.m. and end promptly at 4:30 p.m. when the service begins. Come and be with us to add your voice or just to enjoy the singing.

Please feel free to contact Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministries, with any questions at ruth@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x118.



UNITY CHURCH—UNITARIAN

732 HOLLY AVENUE • SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55104
651-228-1456 • FAX: 651-228-0927 • WWW.UNITYUNITARIAN.ORG

LAURA SMIDZIK, CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JANNE ELLER-ISAACS, CO-MINISTER
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**TIME SENSITIVE
MATERIAL**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

All God's Critters (got a place in the choir!)

Change of venue - Harriet Island is flooding!

Sunday, October 10 • 10:00 a.m.

**All congregation worship at the
RiverCentre Grand Ballroom!**

The whole church family, including bees, crickets, wolves, fish, a moose and a whale will gather at the RiverCentre Grand Ballroom (199 Kellogg Blvd. West) for songs and stories, praise and prayer. The service will include a multitude of voices including Mila, Unity Singers, Unity Choir, Kerri Meyer and the Ministerial Team.

The RiverCentre Ballroom is located on the second level of the St. Paul RiverCentre. When parking, enter the RiverCentre parking lot from Kellogg Avenue, tell them you're from Unity Church, and park for FREE!

Due to the change of location there will NOT be a picnic following the service.

Visit www.unityunitarian.org for a map and directions.

Please contact the Church Office by phone at 651-228-1456 or by e-mail at unity@unityunitarian.org with questions or if you would like to carpool.

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 3 • 1:00-2:00 p.m. • Courtyard

The Blessing of the Animals is an intergenerational service celebrating the many ways animals contribute to our lives, in reading, song, and a special blessing ritual. Bring a leashed or contained pet (or a picture of an animal or pet) to our Courtyard at 1:00 p.m. The service will be led by Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs, Hallman Ministerial Intern Jason Seymour and Director of Youth and Campus Ministries Luke Stevens-Royer.

