

Reverence

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 Reverence.

In a northern California park, the cross-section of an old redwood tree trunk about ten feet in diameter has been balanced on its side so you can step right up and view its many rings.

When the tree fell 75 years ago, it was about 350 feet tall and 1,392 years old. It's a lifespan difficult to fathom, so park interpreters have provided cues to help. In the center of the trunk's cross-section, a small note says the tree sprouted in the year 544 CE when, on the other side of the globe, the Emperor Justinian ruled the Byzantine Empire. Nearby, another

note marks a ring of the tree that was growing when Mohammed was born, and a third points to the ring that grew when the Mayan civilization began in 680. Across the width of the trunk, you can touch your finger to the ring that grew during the Sung Dynasty in China or the Aztec civilization, or the year Columbus arrived in the Caribbean, at which time the tree was 948 years old – and still growing.

I am accustomed to feeling awestruck in the company of great, old trees that dwarf my stature, but standing next to that redwood's cross-section made me feel small – and fleeting – in time as well.

Reverence, it has been said, begins with an acknowledgement of human limitations in the presence of something greater, something more than we can ever be. As Rabbi Abraham Heschel put it, reverence is “the soul's salute,” a tribute of humility paid to the intrinsic value of another without seeking gain from that value.

Praised by ancient cultures around the world as the “guardian of civilization,” reverence has been lifted up as the virtue that sensitizes the conscience and helps humans find our proper place as neither immortal divine beings nor immoral monsters but somewhere in between. Reverence is as much about us remembering our common humanity – with all our wonder and our weaknesses alike – as it is about taking our shoes off to honor the holy ground on which we are standing.

One must first become small, May Sarton wrote in a poem about reverent listening. Nothing but a presence / Attentive as a nesting bird.

The opposite of reverence is hubris. In our supersized culture in our superpower nation, do we even know how to “become small” and “attentive as a nesting bird”?

Listening is a good place to start. And watching. Go outside on a clear, dark night where you can see the moon and stars. Listen to the wind rustling through the autumn leaves. Or wrap your finger in the soft, curled fist of a newborn child. Or step into the church sanctuary with its soaring ceiling and light-filled space. Look up. Look around you. Listen to the choir.

Notice, the feeling of reverence is not really about *becoming* small. It is about finding ourselves in a web of life and deep kinship so trustworthy we can safely admit we have always been small. In life's grand ecology of being, reverence is actually a matter of profound belonging.

After a windstorm, I once came upon the stump of a tree cut clean by a crew working overtime. I knelt down and ran my hand over its sappy surface, remembering its height and guessing which rings were growing when I was born.

We like to say that everything is holy now, but to experience reverence in a world brimming with holiness it helps to focus on just one thing. Listen to it. Let it remind you of your place in the world, small and mortal and passing – and beautifully tucked into a vast cosmos shining with grand miracles and mystery from one eternity to another.

Karen Hering
Consulting Literary Minister

Reverence

Worship Theme Resources

BOOKS

Reverence: Renewing a Forgotten Virtue, by Paul Woodruff, a humanist's thoughtful reflection on the virtue of reverence and its role in ancient Greece and China as well as our society today.

A Timbered Choir, by Wendell Berry, a collection of deeply reverent poems from Berry's Sunday morning practice of walking meditation.

Albert Schweitzer's writings, translated and collected in numerous books and anthologies.

The Color Purple, Alice Walker

MOVIES

The National Parks: America's Best Idea, a Ken Burns' documentary.

Cave of Forgotten Dreams, Werner Herzog's film shot inside the Chauvet caves of Southern France, capturing the oldest known pictorial creations of humankind.

JUST WORDS / WHEEL OF LIFE

Just Words

In the words of welcome each Sunday the person delivering them says, "We aspire to be a church for all souls." It is true. We aspire to be a church where everyone feels welcomed and feels the potential to be noticed, included, and held in the loving and broad embrace of this community. We also aspire to be a church where the young and old can gather in each other's company, where people of all ages feel renewed in each other's presence. We aspire to better represent the population of the Twin Cities where straight but not narrow people meet authentically with lesbian, gay, transgendered and queer folks and create community together. We aspire to be a church for all souls, where people who believe differently can still lift their voices in singing and agree to embrace the ambiguity and paradox present among us. We aspire to be a church for all souls, where diversity of class and race are present, acknowledged and celebrated. We aspire to be a church for all souls, where people of differing beliefs and opinions can listen deeply and respectfully to one another, where people seek truth with integrity. We speak these aspirations over and over again. We speak them because we want so desperately for the words to come true any day now. We say them knowing that there is a gap between our aspirations and the reality we find when we gather. Some people say that makes us hypocritical. I say it makes us hopeful and committed. It forces us to live in the tension between what we wish was true and what exists today. These aspirations are noble and worthy, but they are the kind of aspirations that may take years to fulfill. Working in confidence to make our aspirations real calls us to be faithful in ways that may not be familiar or comfortable.

Parker Palmer wrote in his newly published book, *Healing the Heart of the Democracy*, "Of all the tensions we must hold in personal and political life, perhaps the most fundamental and most challenging is standing and acting with hope in the 'tragic gap.' On the one side of that gap, we see the hard realities of the world, realities that can crush our spirits and defeat our hopes. On the other side of that gap, we see real-world possibilities, life as we know it could be... Possibilities of this sort are not wishful dreams or fantasies: they are alternative realities that we have witnessed in our own lives. Nonetheless, we continue to live our lives in the tragic gap—tragic not simply because it is heartbreaking but because it is an eternal and inescapable feature of the human condition. This is the place called human history where we must stand and act with hope though neither we nor any of our descendents will see the gap permanently closed."

Comfort with ambiguity and paradox is one of the things that supposedly distinguishes liberal religious groups from other more conservative ones. I believe that comfort with paradox and ambiguity should help us live with the tension between our aspirations for what we hope to be and what we are currently. It takes a whole community to translate our aspirations into reality. It is worthy work and we join you humbly in this most important and holy work. It isn't easy. It is demanding and challenging. And we are up to the task. I close with this words from 13th century poet, Jalal al-Din Muhammad Rumi:

*Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing
There is a field
I'll meet you there.
When the soul lies down in that grass,
The world is too full to talk about.
Ideas, language, even the phrase each other doesn't make sense*

— Janne Eller-Isaacs

The Wheel of Life

In Celebration

Janis Shearer and Johannes Frazier
married July 15, 2011

Daniel James Perron
born one more redeemer
August 11, 2011
to parents
Amber Lockridge and Michael Perron

Duncan James Peterson
born one more redeemer
August 16, 2011
to parents
Bridget and Jason Peterson

In Memoriam

John Michael Roszak
October 6, 1944–September 13, 2011

Marathon Alert

The Twin Cities Marathon will wind its way along Summit Avenue the morning of Sunday, October 2. 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.

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OCTOBER SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION

Sunday Worship Calendar

Sunday worship services are held at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m., and 4:30 p.m. except where noted. Sermon podcasts and archives are available online at www.unityunitarian.org.

October 2: *To Begin Again in Love* — Rob Eller-Isaacs

The Jewish High Holy Days, called by some, “the days of awe” present an opportunity to make amends. They are a time to ask forgiveness and to forgive. What right have we to ask? What right have we to offer? Rob and Janne will be joined by Worship Associate Marg Walker as we once again embody the spirit and strength of the Holy.

October 9: *Unity Tomorrow*

Operating Pledge Drive and Capital Campaign Kick-off

The Rev. Dr. James Gertmenian, Senior Minister of Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis, will be a guest minister, offering a perspective on what it means to be a large, liberal congregation in an urban setting.

October 16: *Miracles Abound* — Janne Eller-Isaacs

There are miracles to be found in nature and in our daily lives. The practice of reverence encourages us to see the world anew and fresh. Join Janne and Worship Associate Mike Huber as they explore the miraculous in our every day lives.

October 23: *Reverence for Life* — Karen Hering

Twentieth century humanitarian, medical doctor and minister Albert Schweitzer described the cornerstone of his ethical system with the phrase, "Reverence for Life," which he said calls us into spiritual relationship with the universe. Karen and Worship Associate Jeanne Barker-Nunn will explore what "Reverence for Life" might mean today and how we can awaken it and accept its invitation into more connected living.

October 30: *Sugar Skulls* — Kerri Meyer

Dia de los Muertos is the Mexican feast honoring the dead and calling to mind the mortality of the living. The festival is a blend of prayerful graveside remembrance and raucous street party. Is it possible that irreverence might be the most natural expression of reverence? Why should we faithful laugh in the face of inevitable death or feast at the tombs of our ancestors? Join Unity's Director of Religious Education Kerri Meyer, and Worship Associate Carol LeBourveau, as they examine the blessings that come when we allow ourselves to hold the sacred lightly.

Lectio Divina

Every Sunday at 10:15 a.m. in the Ames Chapel.
Details on page 11.



Blessing of Animals

Sunday, October 16 • 1:00-2:00 p.m.
Details on back cover.

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 the chosen community non-profit recipient. **Please make checks payable to Unity Church.**

October 2: *New Orleans Pilgrimage Scholarship Fund*

In November 2011, church members and friends will once again journey to New Orleans for the 6th annual Unity Church Pilgrimage to help rebuild the city after the flood that occurred following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The New Orleans Pilgrimage Scholarship Fund is for travelers who would like to join the trip but need assistance with some of the travel costs.

October 9: *REAL*

The mission of Resources for the Enrichment of African Lives (REAL) is to fund and support girls in Ethiopia as they enter a college readiness program or vocational training. With the help of a local committee, REAL identifies girls who would not otherwise be able to continue their education without support. REAL supports a full-time mentor to help the girls manage their school work and to help them learn about the world beyond their village. Unity Church members, Mary Gallagher and Jon Eversoll are supporters of REAL.

October 16: *“Two Who Dared”*

Over the past ten years, a group of talented researchers, educators and filmmakers have developed “Two Who Dared, The Story of Martha and Waitstill Sharp,” a documentary about Waitstill Sharp, a Unitarian Minister and his wife Martha, a social worker. In 1939, the Sharps left their home and their children, risking arrest and torture, to help hundreds of Jews and dissidents escape Nazi persecution in Czechoslovakia and France. This offering will go towards raising the final funds to complete this inspiring documentary and the accompanying curriculum.

October 23: *HandsOn Twin Cities*

HandsOn Twin Cities actively engages individuals, groups, and faith based organizations in meaningful volunteer community service and leadership development. Nearly 300 local non-profits and their private sector affiliates have benefitted from resources provided by HandsOn. HandsOn has worked with Unity Church Outreach Ministry Team community partners such as the Jeremiah Program, AMICUS, Mano a Mano International Partners and the St.Paul Public Schools. Unity Church member, Judy Lykins serves on the board of HandsOn.

October 30: *SULAH*

With an office on the second floor of the Unity Church building, the Summit University Living at Home/Block Nurse Program (SULAH) serves seniors living in their own homes in the Summit University and Frogtown neighborhoods. Some of the services provided by SULAH include education and exercise programs, transportation, friendly visits, arranging for in-home nursing and personal care.



Unity Tomorrow: It Takes a Community

Operating Pledge Drive and Capital Campaign

from Lee Carey, Capital Campaign and Operating Pledge Team

The *Unity Tomorrow* fundraising campaign kicks off this month, during which everyone will be asked to support Unity Church in two ways: the 2012 Operating Pledge Drive and the *Unity Tomorrow* Capital Campaign. We encourage you to make an operating pledge and a capital campaign commitment that are true expressions of your commitment to the church – gifts that are significant, meaningful and generous.

We often hear people ask, "How much should I give?" Here is some information that we hope will help you answer this important question.

3/3/3

THREE is the magic number for the *Unity Tomorrow* Campaign! Everyone is being asked to:

- commit to a sustaining **THREE**-year operating pledge to see the church through the *Unity Tomorrow* process;
- consider a minimum **THREE**-percent increase to the operating pledge in each of those years; and,
- make a *Unity Tomorrow* Capital Campaign commitment to be paid over **THREE** years.

Operating Pledge

We ask you to consider an operating pledge equal to 5% of your household income.

Why 5%? Because churches that are supported at this level have the financial foundation to be responsive to the needs of their congregations and communities through worship, programs and outreach.

- If you are already giving 5%, we ask you to increase your pledge for 2012 by 3% or more.
- If you are giving less than 5% of your household income, we ask you to make a financial commitment for 2012 that moves you toward that benchmark.

Capital Campaign Commitment

This capital campaign is the opportunity for all generations at Unity Church to step up and take responsibility for ensuring that our beloved institution is strong and vibrant in the future.

One of the biggest things that differentiates a capital campaign from a pledge drive is the numbers. The goal for *Unity Tomorrow* is \$8 million. That's a big number and it will only be achieved when everyone at Unity Church is as generous as they can be.

How much is that? We ask you to consider a financial commitment equal to five times your annual operating pledge, payable over three years.

For example, someone pledging \$1,500 to the Operating Budget makes a financial commitment to the Capital Campaign five times that amount, which is \$7,500. Paid over three years, that's \$208/month.

We know that this is an important decision and we believe that you shouldn't have to navigate this alone. So, throughout the month of October, you'll have the chance to gather with friends, family, and colleagues at various events at church, a local restaurant, and homes, to hear about what's going on and to decide on your financial contributions.

Look at the kind of events being offered (see box at right), figure out which one might work with your schedule and preferences, and then sign up in the Parish Hall after Sunday services or online at <http://www.unityunitarian.org/it-takes-a-community.html>

These *Unity Tomorrow* events are designed to give members of the church community an opportunity to gather for inspiration and to consider and make their Operating Pledge and Capital Campaign Commitment. Sign up for these events in the Parish Hall on Sundays, or online at www.unityunitarian.org

Kick-off Sunday

Sunday, October 9 • All services

Rev. Dr. James Gertmenian, Senior Minister of Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis will be our guest minister.

Unity Tonight

Friday, October 14, 21, 28

7:00–9:00 p.m. • Parish Hall

Join us for a cabaret of talents and testimonials, music and inspirations. Childcare provided.

October 14: Laura Caviani, jazz piano and Pete Whitman, sax

October 21: Ruth MacKenzie

October 28: Unity Singers and other "homegrown talent"

Family Fun

The Amazing Cow Boat Puppet Show

Saturday, October 15

11:30-2:00 p.m. • Unity Church

Join us for this acclaimed production featuring puppets, songs and surprises. Great for all ages and lunch is included!

Unity in our Community

Saturday, October 15 • 7:00 p.m.

Mai Village on University Avenue

Come for a fabulous meal at Mai Village. This is a wonderful way to gather and support our community. \$25 per person

Small Group Gatherings

Saturdays and Sundays in October

Get together with Unity friends at small-group events hosted by church members. Dates and details to come!

Personal Visits

There are canvassers ready to meet with you. Contact Barbara Hubbard at the Church Office to schedule a visit.

CURRENT SITE UPDATE / PARISH HALL ARTIST

Unity Tomorrow Current Site Update

The *Unity Tomorrow* Current Site Team has completed its schematic design alignment with the capital campaign goals for the *Unity Tomorrow* project.

This alignment process allowed us to see that the expanded sanctuary portion of our planning efforts are not achievable at this time. We will defer any additional design work on the new sanctuary and renovated great hall until our first two objectives have been completed and/or until the capital campaign exceeds its projected goals and allows a funding opportunity for this expanded capacity objective as well.

Therefore, the Current Site Team will move into the next phase of design for the following scope of work :

- **Building infrastructure includes:** roof repairs, window replacement, mechanical, electrical and ventilation system replacement or upgrades, ADA access, and fire suppression. In providing these upgrades throughout the current facility, many finishes will be disturbed and, therefore, will need to be refinished or replaced.
- **Current facility improvements include:** new and upgraded bathrooms, expansion and renovation of the kitchen, a new portico entrance near the elevator lobby, a new unified entrance with gallery and courtyard at the corner of Portland and Grotto.

This next phase of design, called Design Development will further detail the level of design and facility improvements to be made. Three Design Development Teams will be created, drawing from members of our *Unity Tomorrow* teams, the staff and others with particular expertise. These three groups — Infrastructure and Life Safety, Entry and Courtyard, Kitchen and Restrooms — along with a Design Development Steering Committee comprised of the Executive Team and Owner's Representative will kick-off the Design Development effort in early October.

The *Unity Tomorrow* project is also moving ahead in hiring a Construction Manager to work with the design team and to actually build the project. This method of delivering a capital project is one of the topics covered in the orientation sessions recently provided by Unity's Owner Representative, Lorelee Wederstrom. Hiring the Construction Manager now, as we complete design, will allow us to keep the scope of the project within the capital campaign goals as this firm will continuously assess and estimate the decisions made by the design team. At the end of design development the construction firm will provide Unity Church with a guaranteed maximum price for the project.

Other activities coming in October include soil borings surrounding the church building to determine the soil quality and groundwater conditions and an asbestos survey to identify the precise location of any asbestos containing materials so that proper abatement can occur prior to construction next spring.

Again, for individuals unable to make any one of the *Unity Tomorrow* Project Planning and Management 101 sessions offered in September, content of this orientation is available on the *Unity Tomorrow* website: <http://www.unitytomorrow.org/current-site.html>. We further expect to offer opportunities for design review and comment to the broader church community later in October and again at the end of Design Development in December. Please watch for these dates.



October Parish Hall Artist

KATHERINE LAMM

Katherine was born and raised in Little Falls, Minnesota, and currently lives and works in South Minneapolis. She studied at the University of Minnesota and received a BFA with high distinction from California College of the Arts in San Francisco.

Katherine's work is inspired by nature's palette and celebrates the beautiful details of our natural world. The subject for her imagery is often found in the woods or in her own backyard. To create these images she utilizes a large format scanner, composing her subjects directly on the surface of the scanner. These high-resolution scans reveal the amazing details found in nature that we don't otherwise notice.

Lamm is also a graphic designer and her design work has been recognized by Graphis, Print and the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA), among others.



Unity Tomorrow
Unity Two Update
Turn to page 15.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES / ANTI-RACISM LEADERSHIP TEAM

Board of Trustees

from Rob Fulton, Chair • robwfulton@gmail.com

This summer, my partner and I have taken up sailing. We've taken the necessary lessons to get our basic sailing level. We have been getting into the water two to three times a week to better learn how to read the winds and improve our ability to manage the boat. What we now know is that there is seldom a straight line between where we are in our boat and where we want to go. So you have to "tack" and "jibe" to get to your goal. This is a good example of how it sometimes feels for the Board of Trustees.

As we move into implementing our *Unity Tomorrow* dreams, we are addressing the many issues in front of us and seldom do we move to solutions directly. So, while the worship schedule gets cut back to one summer service a Sunday, the work of the trustees continues at a rapid pace.

On Saturday, September 10, the Board of Trustees spent six hours addressing important items. We spent much time with Lorelee Wederstrom first learning about the lingo and the process of construction. We then reviewed and approved a major contract with our architectural firm for design development on the renovations and new construction. We also learned about the process of selecting the construction manager and the firm that will do the actual construction work. It is impressive that the first criteria for this important contract is the firm's success in employing persons of color and women on the project and contracting with disadvantaged business enterprises. In part, we are living out our End Statement's commitment to anti-racism.

We also spent over two hours reviewing with the Executive Team how they hope to carry out the means to meeting our Ends Statements. We focused on our End Policy Statement "Beyond," looking and what it means to reach the End Statement and more importantly, how we know if we are meeting this statement.

Finally, Unity Church is participating in the Unitarian Universalist Association "Leap of Faith" program. We are serving as a mentoring church to the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara. They are hoping to grow their church, move to policy governance and learn from us how we are succeeding in many of our outreach programs. A small group from Santa Barbara will be joining us in mid-November for several days including attending our Board meeting on Saturday and joining us for worship on Sunday.

Anti-racism Leadership Team

Conversations About Race and Racism

The Saint Paul Foundation announced it is hosting *New Conversations® About White Privilege* on Thursday, October 13, from 9:00–11:00 a.m. at Tubman in Minneapolis.

New Conversations®: Uncovering the 5 Myths That Support Racism will be held on Thursday, October 20, from 1:00–3:30 p.m. at Rondo Community Outreach Library in Saint Paul.

The sessions are free, but pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, please visit http://www.facingrace.org/events/upcoming_events/

If you're interested in hosting a New Conversations dialogue, email FacingRace@saintpaulfoundation.org.

SAVE THE DATE

Overcoming Racism Conference November 18 and 19, 2011

Metropolitan State University, Saint Paul
Keynote Speakers: Joe R. Feagin and Dr. BraVada Garrett-Akinsanya
<http://www.overcomingracism.org/>

Speaking Up Against Bigotry

Speak Up is a program/publication that came out of hundreds of stories of everyday bigotry from people across the United States. People spoke about encounters in stores and restaurants, on streets and in schools, with friends and family. They shared what they did or didn't say — and what they wished they did or didn't say.

Teachingtolerance.org is a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

As Rob Reiner once said: "Everybody talks about wanting to change things and help and fix, but ultimately all you can do is fix yourself. And that's a lot. Because if you fix yourself, it has a ripple effect."

Unity Tomorrow: Operating Pledge Drive and Capital Campaign. Turn to page 5.



UNITY CHURCH INTERNS / PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP

Rachel Long: 2011-12 Hallman Ministerial Intern



As some of you know, I am getting married in a few weeks. Brian, my fiancé, is Catholic. He's not a regular mass-goer, but the sacraments matter to him. Consequently, we found ourselves spending a recent weekend in a ballroom at the University of St. Thomas with

80 other engaged couples, learning how to have a faithful Catholic marriage.

As someone who was raised in our liberal faith, I had many moments of struggle during the retreat. As a graduate of the precursor to the Our Whole Lives program, I know that my church expects my choices regarding relationships and sexuality to be responsible. As an adolescent, I was provided with information and guidance to make the best choices for me. During our 'marriage prep weekend,' presenter after presenter told us that it is immoral to use contraception. Minimal explanation or justification was given. We were told to follow the church's teachings, that morality is not ours to decide. After deeply internalizing Unitarian Universalist teachings on sexuality, it hurt to hear a church—even one that I am not part of—say that it does not trust me.

That said, parts of the program were beautiful. The Catholic Church understands marriage as a vocation, a call from God. As a ministerial intern, I devote tremendous time to discerning the call that drives my professional life. I was reminded to treat my personal life with the same seriousness. (This also made me deeply grateful that in our tradition one can answer calls to ordained ministry and married life.) We were also told that through our love for one another, we—and those around us—can catch a glimpse of God's love for the world. That is powerful and humbling and is now one of my greatest hopes for my marriage. May my love for my fiancé—and the love that each of us has for people dear to us—be a liberal, lavish glimpse of divine love.

Rachel Long can be reached at the Church Office by email at rachel@unityunitarian.org or by phone at 651-228-1456 x129.

Jim Foti: 2011-12 Ministerial Intern



"Your seminary is in Chicago and you live in Minnesota – how does that work?" It's a question I hear often, so here's a look at how Meadville Lombard Theological School, one of only two Unitarian Universalist seminaries, is operating in the 2010s.

Under the traditional model for UUs pursuing a master of divinity degree, students spend three years on a seminary campus and a fourth year as a ministerial intern. In Meadville's newest model, inaugurated in 2009, there are no residential students – my classmates and I can continue to live in our home communities, and we enroll in a mix of intensive and distance courses. A two-year, half-time congregational internship is built into the program, meaning we can earn our degrees in three years.

I spend about five weeks a year in Chicago, mostly for intensive courses, mostly in January. Intensives meet all day for a week, which adds up to the same amount of classroom time as a semester-long graduate seminar (and four theology lectures in one day is quite something). We tackle reading lists beforehand and turn in papers afterward. A few courses are exclusively online – my scriptures professor was on the East Coast, students debated Bible passages via a discussion list, and we submitted our quizzes and papers through the Web. Other classes make use of conference calls and video.

This learning model makes it possible for students in a wide range of life situations to enroll, and my incoming class of 30 was the largest in memory. In part because it doesn't need classroom space most of the year, Meadville recently sold its campus near the University of Chicago and will be a long-term tenant at an educational organization downtown. Meadville's four historic buildings had their charms, but many of us are grateful to be moving to classrooms that have more than one three-pronged outlet!

If you'd like to know more about my educational journey, don't hesitate to give me a call or catch me at church.

Jim Foti can be reached at the Church Office by email at jim@unityunitarian.org or by phone at 651-228-1456 x212.

Pathway to Membership: A Series of Three Classes

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

Welcome to Unity is geared to newcomers and those seeking to learn more about Unitarian Universalists and Unity Church. October classes include Wednesday, October 12, from 7:10 – 8:30 p.m. and Sunday, October 30, from 12:15 – 1:45 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. The November series will be held on Tuesday, November 1, 8, and 15, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. and a 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. The next class will be held on Saturday, October 15, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

WELLSPRING WEDNESDAYS

A weeknight at church including dinner, worship, and learning. All are welcome.

6:00 p.m. Dinner: \$7/adult, \$4/child ages 5 to 12, \$2/child ages 2 to 4, and \$20/family, and can be paid by cash or check.

6:45 p.m. Worship service in the Ames Chapel.

7:10 p.m. Programs follow worship. Childcare is available.

October 5

Dinner: To be announced.

Inside the Music of Peter Mayer

Join Peter Mayer and the Unity Men's Group in a conversation about music, the nurturing of community and the expression of deep emotion in strength and dignity. All are welcome.

Great College Search: Week 3

Financial aid basics.

Session includes a presentation followed by time for questions, information sharing, and encouragement.



Wellspring Wednesday Ongoing Offerings

Yoga • Weekly, \$10 per class or \$50/6 classes • Linda Imbertson will cover the different disciplines and techniques of yoga including learning how to move your body while you center your mind and open your spirit.

Tween Youth Group (grades 4-8)

Weekly, all are welcome!

Our Whole Lives

Weekly, registration required

U-Knitarians

Monthly, watch for details.

UU Families Dinner Table Talk

Monthly, watch for details.

Childcare/Children's Programming

Weekly, families should check their children in on the evening's sign-in sheet in the Parish Hall. Free.

October 12

Dinner: Roasted vegetables with harissa, mixed greens salad with goat cheese, couscous, and apple crisp.

Immigration in the United States

Come hear Donna R Gabaccia speak on what UUA president Peter Morales refers to as "one of the most important issues of our time." Donna R Gabaccia is the Rudolph J. Vecoli Chair in Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota. She is author of many books and articles on immigration. Her current research includes an interdisciplinary collaboration that seeks to explain the experience of international migrants over 500 years.

A Guide to Parenting

What Works and Why (Part 1 of 3)

Three sessions for parents (and grandparents) of infants to adolescents. A presentation will be followed by group discussion and will be based on *The Ten Basic Principles of Good Parenting* by Laurence Steinberg, one of America's leading experts of parent-child relationships. Dr. Steinberg distills decades of research into a simple guide that universally applies for moms and dads in the trenches, regardless of the background or age of their child. The focus is on the fundamentals of raising happy, healthy children. Stienberg gives warm, pragmatic, insightful advice that applies the science of child development to parent-child relationships.

Each participant family will receive a free copy of Dr. Steinberg's book. Class is limited to 20 families. To sign up contact Martha Tilton by email at martha@unityunitarian.org by October 7. Unity Church member Dr. Marty Rossman, Professor Emeritus, Family Education at the University of Minnesota, will lead these sessions.

October 19

Dinner: To be announced.

A Guide to Parenting

What Works and Why (Part 2 of 3)

Understanding a Hero Named Rocky Decoding the Postmodern Cultural Environment

In 1976, Sylvester Stallone ran up the stone stairs of the Art Museum in Philadelphia and captured the heart of the cultural imagination. What was going on in American culture at that time (and now) that creates such a need for a hero like Rocky Balboa? Come find out!!

Pilgrimage to India

Learn more about the first Unity Church Pilgrimage to India scheduled for March of 2012. This opportunity is a part of the Unitarian Universalist Association Holdeen India Program that has supported justice projects for the most vulnerable people in India over the past 27 years.

October 26

Dinner: To be announced.

A Guide to Parenting

What Works and Why (Part 3 of 3)

Civil War, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Series

What does it mean to step out of the book of history and choose your own way? The Fool Soldiers did exactly this. Sworn to protect peace, this tradition has existed for 200 years. When they chose to resist the justifiable and defensive violence of their own people, they were challenge dand rejected. Yet, they were doing precisely what they were charged to do. They were protecting the peace. Join Unity's own Bill Curtis in a discussion about the power of human values and their importance in our world.

Adoption series coming to Wellspring Wednesday in November. Turn to page 11 for details. 

LITERARY MINISTRY / LIBRARIES AND BOOKSTALL

Writing As Spiritual Practice Upcoming Literary Programs

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 Reflection Topic: Reverence

Sunday, October 2 • 1:00-3:00 p.m. – NOTE NEW TIME! • Unity Church

Free; RSVP karen@unityunitarian.org

“Without reverence, things fall apart,” writer Paul Woodruff has observed. “To teach reverence,” he says, “you must find the seeds of reverence in each person and help them grow.” You are invited to uncover the seeds of reverence planted within you and to help them grow in this writing session. Registration not required, but an email to karen@unityunitarian.org is requested to help in planning space and materials.

Reflection Topic: The Yin/Yang of Writing

Saturdays, October 8 and 15 • 9:00 a.m.–noon

Registration Deadline: September 30

The Loft Literary Center • 1011 Washington Avenue South, Minneapolis

Registration and fee information at: www.loft.org

The practice of writing, like the philosophy of Yin and Yang, can be a rich conversation between this and that, being and becoming, self and other, and reality and imagination. Drawing from the Tao Te Ching and using guided writing exercises, this 2-session class explores the Yin and Yang of writing and the relationship between opposites. For writers at all levels of experience.

The Circumference of Prayer

Thursday, October 27 • at moonrise, 8:55-11:30 a.m.

Wisdom Ways, Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Ave., St. Paul

Registration and fee information at: www.wisdomwayscenter.org

“There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground,” the poet Rumi reminded us long ago. This morning session explores the many prayerful possibilities in our own daily lives, including the prayer of deep listening.

Lectio Divina

Beginning Sunday, October 2, weekly between Sunday morning services

10:15-10:45 a.m. • Unity Church, Ames Chapel

Dietrich Bonhoeffer called it “spiritual reading.” Others following a sixth century Benedictine practice call it “lectio divina” or holy reading. Both names describe a reflective practice of meditating on the written word and listening for “what is found there” by each reader and listener. Weekly lectio divina sessions at Unity Church will resume in October between Sunday morning worship services. No experience or registration is necessary. Join us for a quiet, facilitated practice of reflecting on a particular poem on the month’s worship theme. Sessions will be led weekly, 10:15-10:45 a.m., in the Ames Chapel.

Other Programming and Resources

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



What’s New in the Library and Bookstall

from Shelley Butler, Library Team

Parker Palmer: “A wise public intellectual of our time.”

A work six years in the making, Parker Palmer’s new book, *Healing the Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create a Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit* is “a book born for this moment,” according to Terry Tempest Williams.

From *Healing the Heart of Democracy*:

If you hold your knowledge of self and world wholeheartedly, your heart will at times get broken by loss, failure, defeat, betrayal, or death. What happens next in you and the world around you depends on how your heart breaks. If it breaks apart into a thousand pieces, the result may be anger, depression, and disengagement. If it breaks open into greater capacity to hold the complexities and contradictions of human experience, the result may be new life. The heart is what makes us human—and politics, which is the use of power to order our life together, is a profoundly human enterprise. Politics in the hands of those whose hearts have been broken open, not apart, helps us hold our differences creatively and use our power courageously for the sake of a more equitable, just, and compassionate world.

Parker J. Palmer is: founder of The Center for Courage and Renewal; author of nine books; Madison, WI resident; Quaker; recipient of ten honorary doctorates and numerous other honors and awards.

Find this and more books by Parker Palmer in the Unity Bookstall (open Sunday mornings in the Parish Hall) and in the Anderson Library (2nd floor, Eliot Wing).

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Ongoing Groups

Open to everyone.

Please contact the person listed for more information or contact the Church Office by phone at 651-228-1456 or by email at unity@unityunitarian.org

A New Look at the Bible: Second Thursday of the month (October 13) 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

Caregivers Group: An informal support group for caregivers. Third Thursday of the month (October 20) from Noon–2:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at janne@unityunitarian.org

Evergreen Quilters: Second Tuesday of the month (October 11) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and fourth Saturday of the month (October 22) from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Contact: Peggy Wright at 651-698-2760

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

Job Transition/Networking: Mondays at 9:30 a.m. Contact Rachel Holtzer, Facilitator, at erholtzer@gmail.com

Lectio Divina or Spiritual Reading: Sundays after the 9:00 a.m. service. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at janne@unityunitarian.org

Living With Grief Group: A group for people living with grief and loss. Third Tuesday of the month (October 18) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at janne@unityunitarian.org

Men's Retirement Group: Monday, October 10 and 24, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact: Phil Morton at 952-934-3578

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

Unity Book Club: Second Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. On October 11 they will discuss *Empires of the Sea* by Roger Crowley and on November 8, *Borrowed Time* by Robert Goddard

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

Unity Singles: Watch for announcements in *This Week at Unity*. Contact: Bonnie Reiland at bonniereiland@aol.com

Zen Meditation: Find renewal and grounding in the practice of Zen meditation. Tuesdays from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Contact Ken Ford at kford5@comcast.net

Elders' Circle Group

Tuesday, October 18 • 1:00-2:30 p.m.

The Elders' Circle is a group of church elders (self-identified) who convene monthly for fellowship, reflection, and fun. For more information, or to coordinate transportation, contact Ministerial Intern Jim Foti via e-mail at jim@unityunitarian.org or via phone at 651-228-1456 x212. Refreshments will be served.

Black Friday at Church

Feeding the Spirit on the Feast Day of Consumption: Deeper Thanks, Deeper Giving

Friday, November 25, 2011 • 10:00 a.m. until 12:15 p.m.

Unity Church's fourth 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 habitual consumerism. Sometimes called "the holiest of shopping days," Black Friday is no longer just a feast day of consumption. This year we explore meanings of gratitude and giving with our theme *Deeper Thanks, Deeper Giving*.

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 service will include a special guest speaker. 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, what Advent might look like from a Unitarian Universalist perspective, the opportunities to be found in the Christmas season, and how we might make changes in our own lives. Activities for children and families, and child care will be provided.

We invite you to share your thoughts in advance of the service so that we may include some of them in the Collage of Voices in the service. If the the Black Friday theme evokes a response, if the words *Deeper Thanks, Deeper Giving* remind you of a time when you were moved to a new or deeper kind of gratitude in your life, or a renewed understanding of what it means to give, please share your thoughts in writing with us. E-mail your writing to Laura Schlatter at laurasueschlatter@gmail.com by November 4, 2011.

Heart to Heart

A Couples' Enrichment Weekend

Friday, November 4, 7:45 p.m. – Sunday, November 6, 4:00 p.m.
Koinonia Retreat Center • Annandale, MN

Heart to Heart is a program led by three experienced couples and is designed to enrich communication and intimacy in your relationship. All committed couples are welcome — same-sex and opposite-sex, married and unmarried. The cost is \$405 per couple and includes two nights lodging and meals Saturday and Sunday. Space is limited to 15 couples. More information is available at <http://heart.mn.cx> or by calling 651-227-0486.

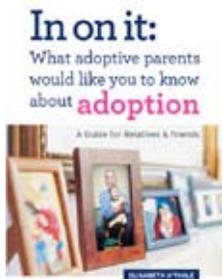
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

November is National Adoption Awareness Month

Welcoming Others Into Adoption: Saturday, October 29 • 10:00 a.m.

A Saturday morning event for adoptive families. Elisabeth O'Toole, author of *In On It: What Adoptive Parents Would Like You To Know About Adoption, A Guide for Relatives and Friends*, will talk with adoptive parents about the shared responsibility to educate others about adoption, how to include others in the lives of adoptive families, and strategies to do just this. Meanwhile, along with Unity Church staff, Karen Henry Clark will speak with a younger audience about her family's adoption experience, her book *Sweet Moon Baby: An Adoption Tale*, and share a related activity. Both books will be available for purchase in the Bookstall.

Wellspring Wednesday Adoption Series: November 2, 9 and 16 • 7:10 p.m.



November 2: Facilitated by Elisabeth O'Toole, author of *In On It: What Adoptive Parents Would Like You To Know About Adoption*, this frank and friendly workshop will provide information about contemporary adoption and the adoption process itself, as well as insights into some of the common concerns and challenges of adoptive parents and adoptive families. Strategies for supporting adoptive parents and families — both during the adoption process and as established adoptive families — will be offered. Visit www.inonadoption.com for more information.

November 9: Elisabeth O'Toole will return for a second workshop which will focus on the common experiences of adopted children. Experiences based on their adoptive status and personal histories and examine how others — in schools, faith communities, and workplaces — can support adopted children. Strategies and suggestions for creating an “adoption-friendly” environment will be offered along with an explanation of how doing so benefits us all, regardless of our adoptive status or connection to adoption.

November 16: The third evening will be led by Karen Henry Clark and will offer her family's adoption story and the story of her subsequent development and publication of *Sweet Moon Baby: An Adoption Tale*, an artist's and mother's perspective on adoption.



Lectio Divina or Spiritual Reading

Have you ever left the service and yearned for a quiet and supportive environment in which to think about the service and meditate on the theme of the service? Have you ever wanted to hear one of the readings over again? If so, you are invited to drop in and experience a practice that will be offered each week between morning services in the Ames Chapel.

The experience is called Lectio Divina or Spiritual Reading. Lectio Divina is a practice of several people reading the same piece of world scripture or poetry several times, inviting the participants to meditate on the words spoken and having done so, to find deeper meaning in the words. It is a simple format but one that has been practiced through the centuries. Many of our religious ancestors in New England adopted this practice as a way to deepen their understanding of a reading or a piece of world scripture.

Participants do not need to sign up or reserve a spot. You are invited to come and experience this whenever you can. Newcomers to the congregation are especially welcome. If you have questions please contact Janne Eller-Isaacs by email at janne@unityunitarian.org or Karen Hering at karen@unityunitarian.org.



2011 Unity Men's Retreat: Save the Date

All men of Unity Church are invited to this year's Unity Men's retreat on Saturday, December 3. The retreat, “Building a Nurturing Community,” will be held at Unity Church starting with a pancake breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and concluding with a plenary session ending at 8:00 p.m.

The schedule will include hands-on workshops and presentations telling the stories of our individual spiritual journeys, celebrating the power of music in our lives, and other topics which we hope will draw you in and fill you up. Come build new friendships and deepen old relationships as we connect intra- and inter-generationally with other Unitarian Universalist men.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the retreat, contact Steve Harper by email at Steve.Harper@alumni.maclester.edu or by phone at 651-324-4843.

Transforming the way we think about raising our children in the Unitarian Universalist tradition. Turn to page 14 for details.

**SUBMIT
NOW**

Cairns
The Unity Church
Journal of the Arts
Deadline:
October 10, 2011

Send your submission to:
literaryjournal@unityunitarian.org
or
Drop in the Literary Journal mailbox
in the Unity copy room

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Love + Commitment = Marriage

Open Meeting: Sunday, October 2 • 12:30 p.m. • Center Room

This will be a time to hear of the interfaith collective efforts that are being developed by Minnesota United for All Families to defeat the 2012 Marriage Amendment and how Unity Church can support these efforts. All are welcome to attend this meeting.

Mentors/Tutors Needed!

This will be the fifth year that volunteers from Unity Church will serve as mentors/tutors to 4th, 5th and 6th grade students at Obama Service Learning Elementary across the street from the church.

Volunteers 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 mentor/tutors. 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, contact Pat Haff by email at pat@unityunitarian.org or by phone at 651-228-1456 x126.

UUSC Update

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) partnered with the Unitarian Universalist Association on a joint volunteer trip to Haiti for 11 youth and young adults, August 20–27. The troop leader, Evan Seitz, UUSC's Associate for Experiential Learning and Youth Services, sent the following observations soon after arriving in the Central Plateau of Haiti:



"We are at the training center of our partner, the Papaye Peasant Movement (MPP.) We had a chance to meet MPP's inspirational founder, Chavannes Jean-Baptiste. He said MPP really needs our help. They have already put us to work on the new project – an eco-village.

It is clear that, without the UUSC, families who escaped the ruin of Port-au-Prince and want to rebuild sustainable lives would be lost. Without the UUSC, MPP would be alone constructing a place for displaced Haitians to live. I don't know if they'd be building it at all!

Without the UUSC, MPP would struggle to teach sustainable farming methods to families living in the village. With our help MPP is finding innovative and permanent solutions to the problems of homelessness and poverty in post-earthquake Haiti.

Today, our group passed rocks hand to hand to help MPP workers construct a foundation. There are two houses ready for families and four more well along. The outline of the main street is becoming a reality! I'm glad the UUSC is here to stand with the forgotten ones – to protect human rights and promote social justice.

Yours as we build a new Haiti, Evan Seitz"

Coming Soon! Fair Trade Chocolates will be featured in Unity's Coffee Hour.

These tiny tasty dark chocolate bars will spread the word to help:

- End poverty among cocoa farmers
- End abusive child labor in the cocoa industry
- Promote fair trade
- Protect the environment

For questions, or to help with Unity UUSC projects, contact Marty Rossmann by email at rossm001@umn.edu.

Pilgrimage to India

Learn more about the first Unity Church Pilgrimage to India scheduled for March of 2012. This opportunity is a part of the Unitarian Universalist Association Holdeen India Program that has supported justice projects for the most vulnerable people in India over the past 27 years.

The first information session for the trip will take place on Sunday, October 2, at 10:15 a.m. and the second session will be on Wednesday, October 19, at 7:10 p.m. For more information, contact Pat Haff by email at pat@unityunitarian.org or by phone at 651-228-1456 x126.

Project Homeless Connect Monday, December 12

Project Homeless Connect pairs volunteers with homeless individuals in an effort to help those in transition access specific services. Many volunteers are needed and training will be provided. If you are interested in volunteering for Project Homeless Connect, please contact Priscilla Morton at prismorton@comcast.net or 651 766 8375.

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. Suggested items for October 16: hygiene products (shampoo, hand soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and deodorant).

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 12. Orders will be delivered to Unity Church on Wednesday, October 19.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY FAIR

Community Outreach Ministry Fair

Sunday, October 30 • Parish Hall • After the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services

Join all the Community Outreach Ministry Teams and projects for the fifth 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 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.

Evergreen Projects Ministry: The Evergreen Projects hold monthly food drives for Sharing Korner Foodshelf, provide meals and support at 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)

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 Hannah Kaytonah (651-646-1276/kaytonah@hotmail.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@aolc.om)

Unity Tomorrow
Unity Two Update
Turn to page 15.

The 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 rural 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 Homorodszentpeter, Transylvania. Contact: Hal Freshley (651-778-8765/halfresh@q.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 neighborhood churches. Contacts: Terri McNeil (651-699-9896/tmcneil003@yahoo.com) and Steve Lewis (651-690-9805/steve.lewis@deluxe.com)

The Generosity Ministry Team facilitates the giving of the Sunday 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)



The Rainbow Chalice Alliance Ministry is currently focused on addressing bullying and harassment issues of LGBTQ youth in school and community settings. Contact: Mike Huber (612-825-7648/mikehuber@comcast.net)

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) and Laney Ohmans (651-270-2349/dolores.ohmans@gmail.com)

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Team partners with the UUSC. Contact: Marty Rossmann (651-690-4370/rossm001@umn.edu)

Building in New Orleans sponsors annual pilgrimages to New Orleans to help in the rebuilding of the city after Hurricane Katrina. Contacts: Rick Heydinger (651-222-5305/rheydinger@gmail.com) and Matt Brown (651-224-6108/mhbbrown@usfamily.net)

Pat Haff is the Coordinator of Community Outreach Ministry at Unity Church. Pat can be reached at the church office by phone at 651-228-1456 x126 or by email at pat@unityunitarian.org. Community Outreach Ministry pages can be found at www.unityunitarian.org, click on the "Community Outreach Ministry" page under "Shared Ministry."

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Transforming the way we think about raising our children in the Unitarian Universalist tradition.

Tongue-tied when your children ask about God and heaven? More confident about what Unitarian Universalists (UUs) do not believe than about what we do believe? Everyone agrees that religion is taught—or caught—mainly in the home, yet we think of religious education as something occurring for an hour on Sunday mornings.

Family therapist Bill Doherty will lead a workshop on the challenges and possibilities for Unitarian Universalist families trying to pass on our liberal religious heritage to our children. The last time this workshop occurred, a group of parents began meeting to create the Young UU Families Initiative which is now ready to launch a new community of families at Unity Church. This workshop will be both a learning opportunity for parents and a kick-off for a community initiative that could transform the way we think about raising our children in the Unitarian Universalist tradition.

There will be two opportunities to participate in the workshop:

- Saturday, October 1, 9:00 a.m.-noon • Sign up by September 26
- Saturday, October 22, 1:00-4:00 p.m. • Sign up by October 17

Both sessions will be held in the Foote Room. To sign up, please contact Pamela Johnson by email at PAJOHNSO@travelers.com. To reserve childcare, please contact Christy Randall by email at christy@unityunitarian.org.

MEA Weekend

No religious education classes, special activities for kids!

There is no Sunday School on Sunday, October 23, but if you're attending worship, bring your kids along for some fun activities directed by parent volunteers and youth workers. Activities will be provided at all three services. Sign in will take place in the Yellow Hallway downstairs.

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.



Religious Education is off to a wild start!

The third and fourth graders performed "The Sound the Hare Heard" (with scripts and as improvisation), a story about the animals of the forest and what happens when they are convinced the world is coming to an end.

Parents' Night Out

Friday, October 7 • 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Get to know other Unity parents while church provides free childcare! Parents' Night Out will be offered Friday, October 7, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Volunteers will care for your children ages 6 months through 12 years; the only stipulation is that parents use this time to get to know other adults from Unity! Advance registration is required and spots are limited by our Safe Church policy, so contact Christy Randall at christy@unityunitarian.org by Sunday, October 2, to sign up your family.

Family Sundays

Family Sundays take place five times each church year: Merging of the Waters (September), Thanksgiving (November 20), Christmas (December 18), Easter (April 8) and Flower Communion (May 20). 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, and children's message, the children proceed with their Journey Guides to their classrooms for religious education programming. Story Sundays for the 2011-12 church year include: October 30, January 15, February 12, and March 18.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Music Notes

from Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministry



The true artistry is in the preparation and feeling that happens before the beater hits the drum. That is what is so exciting. That's where the mastery comes in. — Barry Green, The Mastery of Music: Ten Pathways to True Artistry

And so, another season begins with new goals, ideas, challenges and opportunities. It has that old familiar feeling of 'starting over' as everything seems to 'begin again' when one recognizes fall as a new program year. Certainly for the musician, just as one in school, September marks that 'start.' My thought always goes to how I can do it better, offer more enrichment, find new ways of process, etc.

In reading various articles and journals I keep running into the idea of recognizing the richness of every moment. One reading which truly humbled me was of an elderly woman who could only walk slowly with her walker. Certainly difficult and even frustrating. However, her choice was to see more clearly the small details of her surroundings and to appreciate them more deeply. Ah, I thought, how many times did I hear that from my teachers or ask the same of my singers: to see and reach deeply enough to find the true artistry and gift of that moment in sound. To fill each note with meaning from the deep internal reservoir of life experience unique to each individual. It seems always to be in the 'stretch' — of time, of perception, of imagination, of individual input, of the heart, that true artistry suddenly presents itself, not because we created it, but because we finally made room for it.

So, as the preparation begins, note by note, that is my new question. How do I make room for it... the true artistry of music, of life.

I believe the distance between good and great that the Itzhak Perlman's of this world have traveled is a distance we all can travel, because it's the distance between being us and being ever more fully ourselves. It is what's inside you—whether you're in music or the fire service, business or education—that makes you unique, special, or even great.

— Barry Green, *The Mastery of Music: Ten Pathways to True Artistry*

Women's Ensemble

This is inspired by the group of women who worked with Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministry, at the Women's Retreat in January 2011. Let's build on this experience! Please contact Ruth Palmer by email at ruth@unityunitarian.org or by phone at 651-228-1456 x118 if you are interested in participating in this group. We will rehearse at specific, short-term announced dates for particular times to sing. Check the *commUNITY* for dates and announcements.

Turning North

Unity Tomorrow: Unity Two

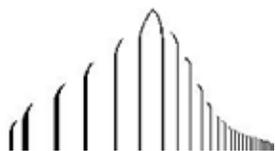
from Carol Bauer, Unity Two Team Leader

It seems like a long time since the stakeholders of Unity Church were asked to provide input to the *Unity Tomorrow* team on three different paths to growth for the next fifty years. You may recall that the three paths were 1) stay where we are and maximize our space, 2) move to another larger location or 3) stay where we are and move some of our church activities to a second site north of Unity Church. Ultimately, we decided to stay put, but there was clearly interest in the idea of a second site to facilitate community connections. Wisely, the stakeholders recognized that we do not need a physical space to do this work. In fact, we need to build the relationships first.

Throughout 2011, a small team of stakeholders has been working on this challenge. We call ourselves Unity Two—U2 "for short." Our goal is to build relationships with our neighbors to the north with the idea that, eventually, we might want to do something wonderful together. What we do is simply this: we invite people in the community to meet with us to engage in deep conversation about their hopes and dreams. We listen to their stories, we find out what is exciting to them, and we look for common ground and ways that we might work together.

Over the summer, the U2 team has met with a dozen or so people from the neighborhoods to the north. We started with people we know and are gradually fanning out to meet more people that are less visible to the outside world, but known as leaders in their communities. The work is slow, but rewarding. We are humbled by how open people are to receiving us, how quickly they get to their truth. We've heard amazing stories and been invited and encouraged to be a part of their communities. We've learned that showing up matters, that we are welcome.

Where are we going? We don't know. This is not that kind of project. For now, we are content to embrace our neighbors—people with whom we might not otherwise intersect—in a mutual desire for strengthened human connections and understanding. This fall, we are inviting others who may be interested in this work to join us. If you are inspired by the idea of radical hospitality beyond our walls, please contact any of the U2 team members: Carol Bauer (team leader), Leon Dunkley, Rob Eller-Isaacs, Rob Fulton, Pat Haff (staff liaison), Rick Heydinger, Ann Kirby, Priscilla Mac Dougall, Mary Mahnke, Denny Miller, and Laura Park.



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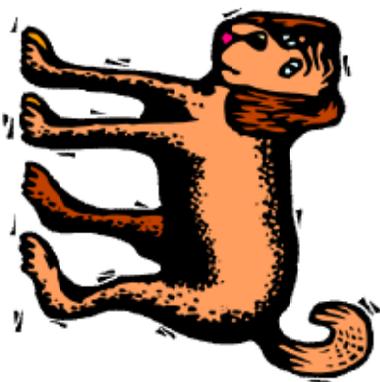
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 16 • 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. The short service will include readings, songs, 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, Director of Religious Education Kerri Meyer, and Director of Youth and Campus Ministries Luke Stevens-Royer.



Have questions about Unity Tomorrow?

Ask me!

UNITY TOMORROW

Look for someone at church wearing this button!

Unity Tomorrow
Operating Pledge Drive and Capital Campaign
Begin in October! Details on page 4.