

## Repentance

*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, and religious education; and in our community outreach ministries, our literary journal and programs, and many other opportunities. The October theme is Repentance.*

At first blush, the notion of repentance may seem dark and heavy — right up there with such theological concepts as “sin” and “depravity” that we Unitarian Universalists tend to reject. Yet every major world religion includes an understanding of repentance, so it is a discipline worthy of our contemplation.

It is difficult to consider repentance without including forgiveness, atonement, and amends, as all are intimately connected. Yet none of these are synonymous with this month’s theme. Repentance is the recognition that we have done wrong, the intention to change our behavior, and an attempt at restitution or reversal of the ill effects of our wrongdoing. Thirteenth-century Rabbi Jonah Gerondi offers a helpful concept of repentance when he advises “the repentant sinner [to] strive to do good with the same faculties with which he sinned... With whatever part of the body he sinned, he should now engage in good deeds. If his feet had run to sin, let them now run to the performance of the good. If his mouth had spoken falsehood, let it now be opened in wisdom. Violent hands should now open in charity.”

One of the Hebrew words for repent means “to turn,” and the word for repentance in Arabic – *tawbah* – literally means “to return.” Repentance is a commitment to turning as many times as it takes to change. Religious repentance is a ritual procedure, either formal or informal, with the goal of mending a broken relationship between the gods and the individual or the gods

and a group. In our lives, it may also be helpful to approach it as a restorative technique that can help us heal within and point us toward right relationship with those whom we have wronged.

Repentance also involves guilt, so it’s worth asking ourselves how we handle that tricky emotion: Are we fueled by guilt or paralyzed by it? Guilt might be motivating to us as individuals, but it is much more likely to paralyze when we look at a societal sin, and being paralyzed by guilt doesn’t serve the greater cause of healing. We can see this in terms of our efforts toward anti-racism. It is relatively easy to repent of prejudice and change one’s own behavior (such as censoring oneself when having a racist thought), but it is far more difficult to ask the question, “How can this church repent of the benefits that it has accrued as an institution over the history of racism?” Although repentance can be and often is a solitary activity, it can also be co-created by a community that has collectively engaged in harmful acts.

Another aspect of repenting in community is confession, which is integral to repentance in other faith traditions. To whom do we Unitarian Universalists tell our truth when we feel that we have erred? We might define confession as telling the truth to ourselves as a religious practice. Repentance does not have to be acknowledged in community, but it might be. Organizations such as Alcoholics Anonymous are deeply confessional, claiming that the power

of publicly acknowledging one’s wrongdoings is vital to personal repentance and healing.

It is perhaps not a coincidence that in a time when fewer people identify as religious, therapy has become increasingly popular. In a culture where we are more likely to have a relationship with a therapist than a priest, therapy might be seen as modern, secular confession. Like the priest, the relationship with a therapist offers some level of intimacy while being organized by clear boundaries, making it a safe space to confess our wrongdoings and resolve to do better.

However we attempt to repent, it is imperative to personal and societal well-being that we do the work. Thomas Carlyle wrote, “Of all acts of man, repentance is the most divine. The greatest of all faults is to be conscious of none.” Repentance across the generations is the force that bends the arc of the universe toward justice. As individuals and as nations, we must acknowledge our moral transgressions and commit to turn away together if we ever hope to reach the far end of the arc. As proclaimed in the Hebrew scriptures, “Great is repentance: it brings healing into the world” (Hosea 14:2).

— By Mae Gibson Wall  
and the cover article “theme team”

Repentance Resources  
Turn to page 9.

## Just Words

A few weeks ago I attended a gathering of clergy who oppose the so-called marriage amendment. We met at Hennepin United Methodist Church in Minneapolis. More than 130 of us came together for mutual support and inspiration. Grant Stevenson, the Director of Minnesota Clergy United for All Families asked us each to write a brief and simple sentence or two saying why we cared enough to show up and say no.

I thought about gay friends who'd loved me well when I was young. I thought about the many members of our church whose relationships are just as real and just as precious as my own. I thought of the amazing, healthy, creative, productive children being raised by same-sex parents. I thought of all the fear-bound, repressive arguments the so-called religious right is offering in hope of permanently embedding their prejudice in our State constitution. And then I realized that, important as they are, the heart of the matter for me is actually none of those things.

What I wrote on that card is this: "Marriage is my primary practice, my main path to wholeness, the way for me to move toward unity." That's it. That is the heart of the matter. I want everyone who feels that a primary relationship with another human being is the best way for them to live a loving, fruitful life and to have available sanction and support in pursuit of that path. It is my duty, my challenge and my prayer, our duty, our challenge and our prayer to help to turn the tide not only to defeat the Amendment but also, as soon as we can, to make marriage equality the law of the land.

We've come a long way since the late sixties when Unitarian Universalists voted to offer ceremonies of holy union. We've come a long way since the early seventies when we first ordained gay and lesbian ministers and then called them to active service. The tide is turning, friends. The signs are everywhere. President Obama has come out for marriage equality. Corporate America is lining up to do the right thing. General Mills Vice President Ken Charles was quoted in Friday's Star Tribune saying; "We do not believe the proposed amendment is in the best interest of our employees or our state economy. We value diversity. We value inclusion." General Mills is just the most recent major corporation to come out. Nike, Xerox, Time-Warner, Goldman Sachs, Viacom, Starbucks, Amazon, Microsoft and Boeing all stand in solidarity with us. It's almost embarrassing.

We're doing all we can to make a difference in November. We can't let up. We've lost in thirty States. And we can still lose in Minnesota if we let down our guard. The hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church is bringing its full strength to bear. Fortunately, the Archbishop has lost the support of a considerable percentage of his people. Many Roman Catholics stand on the side of love as do the Evangelical Lutherans, the United Church of Christ, the United Methodist Church and, despite the claims of those who would divide us, many communities of color stand with us as well.

But friends, we need to do more than simply win. This is not about political solidarity. This is not solely about civil rights. We're fighting now, as James Baldwin put it, "to achieve our country and change the history of the world." We're fighting in the purest sense for freedom of religion. We're coming out for marriage. I'm pleased to tell you conversations have begun to build on Heart-to-Heart and our Committed Couples classes by expanding our programs in support of marriage to become a resource to the community at large. We want people to know that Unity Church sanctions and supports their vows, as a place where their path toward wholeness and authenticity will be honored and nourished and sustained.

See you in church and at the polls,

Yours,

Rob Eller-Isaacs

## The Wheel of Life

*In Celebration*

**Adam Robert Larson Geisler**

Born one more redeemer

August 24, 2012

to parents

Karl and Amy Geisler

## Marathon Alert

The Twin Cities Marathon will wind its way along Summit Avenue the morning of Sunday, October 7. 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 CALENDAR

## 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](http://www.unityunitarian.org).

### October 7

#### *Stop Apologizing* — Rob Eller-Isaacs

The universe doesn't care that you're sorry. Change your behavior. Easier said than done. Rob and Worship Associate, Don Lorr will wrestle with the reality of sin and the process of repentance. Fasten your seat belts. This is Twin Cities Marathon Sunday; please see page 2.

### October 14

#### *The Limits of Forgiveness* — Janne Eller-Isaacs

Inspired by the story of Simon Wiesenthal's refusal to forgive a dying Nazi as told in the book *The Sunflower*, Janne and worship associate Sherry Essen will explore the limitations of forgiveness and the provocative responses to Wiesenthal's question, would you have forgiven in a similar situation?

### October 21

#### *Rituals of Repentance* – Mae Gibson Wall

As keepers of a faith that denies human depravity, how might we benefit from the religious discipline of repentance? Are there rituals we already have or might create to help us acknowledge our wrongdoings and commit to positive change in our personal lives and in the life of our community? Join Hallman Ministerial Intern Mae Gibson Wall and worship associate Mary-Margaret Zindren as we explore the spiritual practice of repentance.

### October 28

#### *Forgiving Our Ancestors* — Rev. Kinga Reka Sigismund

We welcome The Rev. Kinga Reka Sigismund back to the pulpit. Kinga is minister of our partner church in Homorodsztpeter, Romania, and President of the Ministers Association of the Unitarian Church of Transylvania. A preacher of depth and good humor, Kinga and her husband, Csaba, are coming to St. Paul to attend the Heart to Heart Couples retreat and strengthen our partnership. This service for All Souls is for the entire church family. Kinga will be joined by Kerri Meyer and the ministers.

### Difficulty getting to church?

Does your access to transportation limit your ability to participate in the life of Unity Church? If you are an elder who no longer drives, a college student without a car, or someone who has taken (or attempted to take) the bus to church on Sundays, Ministerial Intern Jim Foti would like to hear from you. He's doing a review of church access issues and welcomes your perspective. Contact him at [jim@unityunitarian.org](mailto:jim@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x109.

## 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 7: New Orleans Pilgrimage Scholarship

In October 2012, church members and friends will once again journey to New Orleans for the 7th 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 14: Our Vote Our Future

Our Vote Our Future is the statewide ballot initiative campaign to defeat the restrictive photo ID amendment that will appear on Minnesota's November 2012 general election ballot. It is a broad campaign of individuals and organizations from across the state – including rural organizations, non-profits, faith-based organizations and community groups – united against this anti-voter amendment. Our Vote Our Future is educating and mobilizing Minnesota voters to vote NO on the photo ID amendment in order to ensure the voting rights of ALL eligible, law-abiding Minnesota voters aren't taken away. The Unity Church Racial Justice Ministry Team and other church members are currently working to defeat the photo ID amendment through organizations that are members of Our Vote Our Future.

### October 21: Minnesotans United for All Families

Minnesotans United for All Families is a broad coalition of organizations and community and business leaders having conversations with Minnesotans about why this amendment – which seeks to limit the freedom to marry for committed couples in Minnesota – must be defeated. Faith, labor, progressive, and nonpartisan organizations, communities of color, current and former elected officials, Republicans, Democrats, Greens, Independents, and Libertarians have all joined with our campaign to defeat this constitutional amendment and encourage Minnesotans to vote NO in November. Minnesotans United For All Families has been the guiding force in the Unity Church campaign to defeat the amendment.

### October 28: ECSE—Birth To Three

Early Childhood Special Education Birth to Three is a program provided through the St. Paul Public Schools. Federal law mandates these services for infants and toddlers who are determined to be eligible due to a delay in play and learning, communication, motor or sensory, social/emotional skills or through a condition known to hinder school success such as prematurity. Services are provided in the home or other natural environments by an interdisciplinary team of professionals. This offering would allow the Birth to Three teams to provide toys, equipment and supplies to use in delivery of services to low-income families. Unity Church member, Donna Blaney Johnson, works as a Birth to Three social worker.

# ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE

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*“We have a future yet unseen, but so full of promise”*

Unity Church-Unitarian. Our church. Our home.

# Carry It Forward

## Making Your Annual Pledge

As we watch our new space unfold, many in our community are looking toward the future. Along with the beautiful new environment comes the autumn rhythms of our church; religious education, membership classes and other groups within our community. Our vibrancy is sustained by the energy of this community, as well as the financial support provided through the pledges of members and friends.

We are about to begin our Annual Pledge Drive. October will be a time for us to celebrate our community and imagine our future within ourselves, among one another, and beyond the walls of our beautiful environment. We invite you to consider your current pledge to Unity Church. You will be receiving a pledge card for 2013 either by email or by U.S. mail. This will give you a chance to review your current and future commitment to Unity Church.

*Whether you have already pledged for 2013, or are preparing to make your pledge, come celebrate with us at...*

## Unity's Pledge Drive Gala Evening

**Saturday, October 13**

**6:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

**SteppingStone Theatre**

You will be treated to music, food, drinks, fun for the kids, and the storytelling of Kevin Kling.

This evening will be a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate our generosity, for the community to connect, and for us to *carry it forward!*



Kevin Kling is best known for his popular commentaries on National Public Radio's All Things Considered. Kling's autobiographical tales are as enchanting as they are true to life: hopping freight trains, getting hit by lightning, performing his banned play in Czechoslovakia, growing up in Minnesota, and eating things before knowing what they are.

Kevin Kling describes his zodiac sign as "Minnesota with Iowa rising..." He grew up in the Minneapolis suburbs of Brooklyn Park and Maple Grove and graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1979 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in theater. His storytelling started when a friend from the now defunct Brass Tacks Theatre asked him to perform his stories. Since then, he has been awarded numerous arts grants and fellowships.

# MINISTERIAL INTERNS

## Mae Gibson Wall

2012-13 Hallman Ministerial Intern



I am a religious weeper. I cry often during services, blubbing through hymns or sobbing during worship. I remember the first time the floodgates really opened in church, when I found myself at All Souls New York one Sunday in 2007. The remarkable theologian Rev. Forrest Church was in the pulpit that day, but that fact alone meant nothing to me. I had been a Unitarian Universalist for exactly four months and had only ever been in my tiny church on the Iron Range. I had no understanding of our faith in a larger context before that Sunday in Manhattan, when I slid into a pew and spotted a copy of *Singing the Living Tradition*.

I picked up the hymnal and wept; the same songs I had been singing in my little church were being sung here, in this spectacular sanctuary that was less than twenty blocks from my old apartment. I had spent many recent years living in New York, a time of deep personal struggle. During that time – before I became acquainted with Unitarian Universalism – I had rejected the idea of church but felt a deep, spiritual longing for community that I could not then articulate.

So when I picked up that hymnal, my soul felt like it broke open to let in the light. In the city I had called home for all those years but where I had felt lost and lonely, I was finally coming home to a place I had not known existed. Here was the safe space I had yearned for, the place where I could repent for the broken places in my life and strive toward wholeness. And it wasn't just a place – it was a faith and a people that I could find wherever I went.

Last Sunday, during a beautiful procession by Unity's remarkable choir, I felt the familiar sting of tears. A friend leaned over and asked if this was pretty different from my church on the Range. I answered yes but have since changed my mind. Yes, there are technical differences, but no, it's really not all that different. That's what I knew that day at All Souls. Whether it's a packed metropolitan sanctuary or a tiny rural church, I find myself in a loving community of good and faithful people, and God meets me there.

And I cannot help but weep.

Mae Gibson Wall can be reached by email at [mae@unityunitarian.org](mailto:mae@unityunitarian.org) and by phone at 651-228-1456 x129. And if you happen to find yourself next to her in a service, please pass the tissues.

## Jim Foti

2012-13 Ministerial Intern



As a former newspaper journalist, I sometimes get asked by friends to look over their letters to the editor or op-ed submissions. I recall reading one particularly biting commentary piece and then trying to figure out how to ask its author a difficult question:

Is your goal to express your feelings, or is your goal to change minds?

Like many people, I've had strong urges both to vent and to persuade ever since the Legislature put the anti-marriage and voter restriction amendments on the ballot. I've been furious about the resources and attention diverted to these manufactured conflicts, and I have wanted the world to know.

I wanted a yard sign to announce my position from my balcony, and I felt oddly oppressed by condo association rules forbidding such things. I put a "VOTE NO" sticker on my car, and I'm planning to add one that says "VOTE NO TWICE." My spirits are lifted daily by all the decals and yard signs and banners, symbols of equality-minded people on every highway and in every neighborhood, and I have wanted to be part of that chorus.

And yet, I have had to ask myself some difficult questions:

How many times has my own mind ever been changed by a bumper sticker or a yard sign? (Zero.) How many times has my mind been changed by conversations or by meeting new people? (Countless times.) Is my goal to express myself, or is my goal to persuade?

So my path for the next five weeks, in this season of falling leaves and discouraging poll numbers, is to go both routes — to sing out with signs and bumper stickers to raise awareness and inspire the faithful, and also to pursue the hard work of one-on-one interactions with people of a different view. If a majority of Minnesotans vote for equality and freedom next month, it will be the directness of human experience that will have guided them.

Jim Foti can be reached by email at [jim@unityunitarian.org](mailto:jim@unityunitarian.org) and by phone at 651-228-1456 x109.

**4,000!** That's the number of conversations about the Minnesota Marriage Amendment that members and friends of Unity Church hope to have by Election Day. Turn to page 12 to learn how to report your conversation totals.

## Welcome Words

To welcome is to receive with gladness. As we gather for worship and community each week, I invite you to reflect on how we receive each other with gladness here at Unity Church. How do we greet the friends of all ages we are so happy to see? How do we greet those whom we do not yet know, and invite them into friendship? How do we build a congregation of all souls, one glad greeting at a time? It is joy to be together to give and receive the gift of community. See you in church!

Blessings, Lisa



Lisa Friedman  
Director of Congregational Life

## Pathway to Membership

If you have questions about Pathway to Membership classes or would like to sign up, please contact Julie Handberg at 651-228-1456 x110 or [julieh@unityunitarian.org](mailto:julieh@unityunitarian.org). Childcare is provided by request to Christy Randall at 651-228-1456 x127 or [christy@unityunitarian.org](mailto:christy@unityunitarian.org).

### Welcome to Unity: A Class for Newcomers

Wednesday, October 10 • 7:15–8:30 p.m. ~ or ~

Sunday, October 28 • 10:15–11:30 a.m. & 5:45–7:00 p.m.

If you have been visiting Unity Church and would like to find out more about Unitarian Universalism and our congregation, we invite you to join us for a *Welcome to Unity* class. Together, we will explore the mission and vision of this church, as well as historical and contemporary Unitarian Universalism.

### Finding Yourself at Unity: A Deeper Exploration

Saturday, October 6 • 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. ~ or ~

Thursday, November 1, 8, 15 • 6:30–8:30 p.m.

In this class, we will have an opportunity to share part of our religious journey, to take a more in-depth look at Unitarian Universalism and the history of Unity Church, to discuss the expectations and benefits of membership, and get to know the programs and ministries of the congregation. Come join us for lively discussion, great food, and a chance to meet others who are exploring Unity as a spiritual home.

### Committing to Unity: Joining Unity Church

Saturday, November 3 • 9:30–11:30 a.m.

This class explores the deeper meanings and expectations of membership and shared ministry. It offers time to reflect on the meaning of generosity and how you can discover the places in your life where the world's needs meets the gifts and joy you have to offer. The class will conclude with a celebration ceremony as participants sign the membership book and officially join the church! There will be a special New Member recognition ceremony on Sunday, November 4.

## Ongoing Groups at Unity Church

All Unity Church groups have been asked to find alternative meeting spaces throughout the Unity Tomorrow construction schedule. If you are a group leader and are holding meetings off-site, please contact the Church Office with the date, time, and location of the meeting. If you are looking to connect with a group, please contact the person listed below or visit the church website at [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org) for meeting information or call the church office at 651-228-1456.

**A New Look at the Bible:** Second Thursday of the month (October 11) at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528 for meeting locations during construction.

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

**Caregivers Group:** An informal support group for caregivers. Third Thursday of the month (October 18) from Noon–2:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at [janne@unityunitarian.org](mailto:janne@unityunitarian.org). Watch for details about meeting locations.

**Evergreen Quilters:** Second Tuesday of the month (October 9) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and fourth Saturday of the month (October 27) from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Contact: Peggy Wright at 651-698-2760 for meeting locations during construction.

**Grandparent Unitots!:** This group is not meeting during construction.

**Lectio Divina (Spiritual Reading):** Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

**Living With Grief Group:** A group for people living with grief and loss. Third Tuesday of the month (October 16) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at [janne@unityunitarian.org](mailto:janne@unityunitarian.org). Watch for details about meeting locations.

**Men's Retirement Group:** Monday, October 8 and 22, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact: Phil Morton at 952-934-3578 for meeting locations during construction.

**Unitots!:** A playgroup for families with kids through preschool age. Unitots is not meeting during construction.

**Unity Book Club:** Second Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Contact Jack Hawthorne at [jack.hawthorne@comcast.net](mailto:jack.hawthorne@comcast.net) for meeting locations during construction. The book they will be discussing on October 9 is *Wisdom of the Last Farmer: Harvesting Legacies from the Land* by David Mas Masumoto

**Unity Bridge Club:** Friday, October 5, at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Priscilla Swartz at 651-454-3209 for meeting locations during construction.

**Zen Meditation:** Find renewal and grounding. Tuesdays from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Meetings will resume October 2. Contact Ken Ford at [kford5@comcast.net](mailto:kford5@comcast.net). See page 7 for information about a meditation workshop offered in October.

## Join a Welcome Team

Each Sunday, there is a wonderful team of people who arrive early and prepare a warm welcome for the congregation as they arrive. Welcome team members greet members and visitors as they arrive to church, welcome them to Religious Education and to worship, pass out orders of service, ring the church bell (how cool is that?), collect and count the offertory, and assist with serving coffee during our fellowship time after the service. In short, they embody Unity's ministry of hospitality and community-building to all who enter our doors each Sunday. Welcome Team members commit to one service once a month. If you would like to join this ministry, or for more information, please contact Lisa Friedman, Director of Congregational Life at [lisa@unityunitarian.org](mailto:lisa@unityunitarian.org).

## Interested in a Young Adult group?

**Thursday, October 11 • 6:30 p.m.**

Are you a young adult at Unity who is interested in connecting with other young adults in our congregation? Do you have ideas for specific programming and activities you'd like to see? Come and join other young adults and Rev. Lisa Friedman, Director of Congregational Life, and Drew Danielson, Coordinator of Youth and Campus Ministries, for coffee and conversation, and a chance to brainstorm the possibilities for Young Adult programming at our church.

## Elders Circle Group

**Wednesday, October 10 • 1:00-2:30 p.m. • Location to be announced**

Thanks to everyone who made last month's picnic a success! This month we'll gather for a conversation with Lisa Friedman, Unity's new Director of Congregational Life. Lisa is an ordained minister who served the Unitarian Universalist congregation in Mankato for eight years, during which time its membership doubled. Come meet Lisa, hear about her ideas for hospitality and adult programming, and visit with other church members. Everyone is welcome, and refreshments will be served. Because of construction, we'll be meeting offsite at a handicap-accessible location that will be announced on the monthly postcard and the *This Week at Unity* insert. For more information, contact Ministerial Intern Jim Foti at [jim@unityunitarian.org](mailto:jim@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x109.

## Wellspring Wednesday Wagon

Wellspring Wednesday dinners and programming will return in their full schedule on January 9 after the construction is complete. If you are longing to gather with other Unity Church folk midweek to explore topics of faith and spirituality, you don't need to wait until the new year—the Wellspring Wednesday Wagon can come to you!

Each month we will be offering a Wellspring Wednesday Wagon box complete with a chalice, a short worship service, and a discussion guide around the monthly worship theme. There will be an adult and family-friendly version offered. So consider inviting some Unity Church friends and neighbors over and bringing Wellspring Wednesday to you! Contact Lisa Friedman at [lisa@unityunitarian.org](mailto:lisa@unityunitarian.org) to offer to host a Wagon gathering, or to sign up to attend one.

## Dine with Nine suppers are about to begin!

Sign up to join other Unity members and friends for great food and lively conversation. Dine with Nine groups will gather in each other's homes once a month for food and fellowship. With our parish hall and kitchen still under construction, this is a wonderful opportunity to still enjoy a fabulous meal with other Unitarian Universalists! If you are interested in signing up, or have more questions, please email Teresa Wernecke at [teresa475@gmail.com](mailto:teresa475@gmail.com) or fill out the form on our website. Please include your contact information and let us know if you would like to sign up for a family or adult only group and whether you have particular location or transportation needs.

## Working Toward Prayer

**Saturday, October 20**

**9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Rob Eller-Isaacs offers this class intended to help participants summon a quality of attention, a way of being, he calls prayer. Contact Martha Tilton by email at [martha@unityunitarian.org](mailto:martha@unityunitarian.org) to register and Christy Randall at [christy@unityunitarian.org](mailto:christy@unityunitarian.org) to request childcare. Cost: Pledging: Free // Non Pledging: \$75

## Meditation

*The Art of Coming Home*

*A training/exploration workshop*

**Saturday, October 27**

**9:00 a.m. - noon**

The fleeting present is the only time and place we have to know the happiness of being alive, to act from a place of joy, and to relax in the deepest sense. Yet most of the time a deeply ingrained habit of being "elsewhere" - our minds caught up in the swirl of regret, ambition, and expectation—keeps us anxiously apart.

Meditation is the art of coming home to the present moment. We learn to free our consciousness from the grip of the mind's incessant chatter so we can be more clearly present. This is the great rest: the rest that allows us to know ourselves more intimately and to engage with the world less anxiously and, therefore, more helpfully.

The Unity Church meditation group invites you to a workshop with Ken Ford, layteacher at *Clouds in Water Zen Center*, for exploration and training in the art of meditation grounded in the Zen tradition. We'll meet from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, October 27, in the Ames Chapel. No experience is required. A \$15 requested donation supports the ongoing practice of the Unity meditation group, which is always open to receiving new participants. Contact Christy Randall at [christy@unityunitarian.org](mailto:christy@unityunitarian.org) to request childcare.

# ANTI-RACISM LEADERSHIP TEAM

## Columbus Day: Relearning Our History

From Pauline Eichten, Anti-Racism Leadership Team

October 8 is a holiday named for Christopher Columbus, whose arrival on this continent heralded an era of European conquest. We've been taught that Columbus "discovered" America.

The language of "discovery" comes directly from a European doctrine, developed by popes and embraced by monarchs, which claimed that when Christian Europeans landed on a shore inhabited by non-Christians, they assumed all rights to the land and its people as if they had discovered it. The Doctrine of Discovery (<http://www.uua.org/multiculturalism/dod/index.shtml>), as it has come to be known, is still the legal basis for the modern-day treatment of indigenous peoples by the U.S. government.

At the 2012 General Assembly, Unitarian Universalists passed a resolution repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery and calling for study and elimination of its presence from the current-day policies, programs, theologies, and structures of Unitarian Universalism.

The UUA website has a number of suggested actions. Here are just a few along with a couple of ways to learn more locally:

- **Take action to rename Columbus Day "Indigenous Peoples Day."** "Indigenous Peoples Day" reimagines Columbus Day and changes a celebration of colonialism into an opportunity to reveal historical truths about the genocide and oppression of indigenous peoples in the Americas—to organize against current injustices and to celebrate indigenous resistance. South Dakota, Alabama, and Hawaii have renamed Columbus Day. Other states (New Mexico, for one) have come close. Check out Denver's Transform Columbus Day Alliance (<http://www.transformcolumbusday.org/>) for more information and resources.
- **Provide age-appropriate education on Native lives and cultures as part of our religious education programming.** Check out the books *Through Indian Eyes* and *A Broken Flute*. Go further by creating a task force to find out what your children learn about Columbus in school. You can use *Lies My Teacher Told Me* and *Rethinking Columbus* to evaluate textbooks and offer suggestions.
- **Hold a movie screening with a discussion afterward.** There are a number of films that can generate rich discussion. One resource is the video loan library from the Unitarian Universalist Association's Multicultural Growth & Witness department (look under "American Indian Issues").
- **Visit the Minnesota History Center to view the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862: An Exhibit.** You can examine the evidence, hear heart-wrenching stories and learn about the broken treaties and promises that led to this disastrous chapter in Minnesota history.
- **Join "Minneapolis One Read" of *Spirit Car: Journey to a Dakota Past* by Minnesotan Diane Wilson, a book of vignettes she created in her desire to honor the lives of her Dakota Indian family. The story of Wilson's family begins with a vivid account of the 1862 Dakota War in Minnesota.**

## 2012 Overcoming Racism Conference

*Decolonizing Minnesota & Beyond: Historical & Current Struggles*

November 16-17, 2012 at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul

Registration opens October 1—mark your calendar!

<http://www.overcomingracism.org/2012/2012%20home.html>



## Healing Minnesota Stories

Wokiksuyek Woyouniha

(Remembering and Honoring)

In this series Dakota people will be present to share their stories, experiences and history of their people in the years since the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862.

**Mondays: 7:00–9:15 p.m.**

**October 15: Documentary Film, *Dakota 38***

Jim Miller, Lakota Spiritual Leader and partner, Alberta Iron Cloud, Oglala Lakota; Retracing on horseback the 330 mile journey to the site of the hanging in Mankato, Minnesota, as a means of bringing healing to all. This program will be held at Anderson University Center, Hamline University.

**October 22: Dakota Voices I**

Gabrielle Strong, descendant of Dakota 38 and JB Weston, tribal historian

**October 29: Dakota Voices II**

Sydney Beane, educator/activist, Art Owen, historian and spiritual leader

**November 5: Future Voices**

American Indian students tell stories and hopes

The series is made possible in partnership with the Saint Paul Area Council of Churches/Department of Indian Work, St. Paul Public Schools Indian Education Program and the Wesley Center for Service, Spirituality and Social Justice of Hamline University. Details are available online at [www.spinterfaith.org](http://www.spinterfaith.org).

## Teachers Night Out!

Friday, October 5

In gratitude for volunteer teachers' service to the church community, Unity offers 2012-13 R.E. teachers a monthly night of free childcare so that you can rest, recharge and have some fun. We'll look after your kiddos from 6:00 until 8:30 p.m. (light snack provided) at Unity Church. Pre-registration is necessary for staffing purposes; contact Christy Randall at 651-228-1456 x127 or [christy@unityunitarian.org](mailto:christy@unityunitarian.org).

## Parents Night Out (Free babysitting!)

Friday, October 12

Unity parents are warmly invited to take advantage of our quarterly offering of free childcare for children six-months to 12 years of age. Your children will enjoy the company of other Unity kids and adults from 6:00-8:30 p.m., snack included. What's the catch, you ask? Parents are expected to spend this time with other Unity adults, especially ones you don't know well, yet! We can help connect you with other Night Out families if you're just getting to know Unity. Please feed your child(ren) dinner before arriving and have a phone number where we can get in touch with you. **RSVP required:** email [christy@unityunitarian.org](mailto:christy@unityunitarian.org).

## MEA Weekend

No R.E. classes, special activities for attending kids!

There's no Sunday School on Sunday, October 21, 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 Lower Level Eliot Wing.

## Family Sharing and Consultation Group

Saturday, November 3 • 10:00 a.m.-noon

*Ever wish you had more ideas about how to raise your kids religiously in the Unitarian Universalist tradition?*

*Have a family-centered religious experience that you'd love to share with other parents?*

All parents are invited to share experiences, struggles and wisdom in a facilitated conversation on raising our children religiously in the Unitarian Universalist tradition. Childcare will be provided. Please contact Louise Livesay at [louiselivesay@yahoo.com](mailto:louiselivesay@yahoo.com) to RSVP including the number of children for childcare.

## 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](mailto: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 Church permission to provide care outside the parameters of the Safe Church Policy.

## Repentance Resources

### BOOKS

*Speaker for the Dead*, by Orson Scott Card. This science fiction novel witnesses a protagonist who, after almost exterminating an alien race, attempts to atone when a new race of aliens comes along.

*The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness*, by Simon Wiesenthal. A prisoner in a Nazi concentration camp finds himself unable to aid a dying SS soldier who attempts to repent.

*The Big Knife*, by Clifford Odets. In this play from the 1940s, a Hollywood legend attempts to repent for his behavior by standing up to the corrupt system that created him.

*No, David!*, by David Shannon – In this children's book, a mischievous boy engages in all manner of childhood shenanigans against his mother's warnings, but becomes penitent at the end when he is assured of her unconditional love.

### FILMS

*Searching for Sugar Man*. Music becomes the rallying cry for young adult Afrikaners who want to speak out against apartheid.

*Grand Torino*. A disgruntled Korean War veteran sets out to reform his neighbor, a young Hmong teenager, which leads to his own repentance.

*Pinocchio*. A living puppet, with the help of a cricket as his conscience, must prove himself worthy to become a real boy.

*For past worship themes including readings, reflections, and sermon podcasts please visit:*

[www.unityunitarian.org/monthly-theological-themes.html](http://www.unityunitarian.org/monthly-theological-themes.html)

# UNITY TOMORROW

## Unity Tomorrow Update

From Lorelee Wederstrom, Unity's Owner Representative

The *Unity Tomorrow* project marches onward at warp speed. The high performance work team that was promised to Unity Church is operating at its peak and we can be very confident of quality workmanship, budget compliance and extraordinary care of our beloved church home.

I thought it might be important at this stage of the project to provide a budget update to you. We have just passed the halfway point in our construction schedule with a revised estimated completion date of November 15th. And as I write this, we have authorized Pay Application #3 to McGough Construction along with numerous other invoices which will give us expenses to date as of August 31, 2012. Here is a summary of those expenses.

Item	Budget	Paid to date: August 31, 2012
Construction including \$473,532 contractor contingency	\$6,496,635	\$2,526,257
Professional Fees	\$789,989	\$727,648
Owner Contracted Costs (i.e. hazardous material abatement, furniture, moving and storage, security and IT upgrades, signage)	\$208,250	\$121,935
Capital Campaign and Management Fees	\$181,256	\$143,099
Short Term Construction Financing	\$625,870	\$170,502
Owner Contingency	\$320,000	\$93,715
Totals	\$8,622,000	\$3,783,156

### Contingency Spending

As we planned the *Unity Tomorrow* project, we also planned for surprises knowing that nearly 60% of our expected costs were associated with renovation of older facilities and conditions. The *Unity Tomorrow* project budget carries two different contingencies: a Contractor Contingency of \$473,532 and an Owner Contingency of \$320,000.

While it is impossible to avoid spending contingency during large renovations, determining the need for that spending is reviewed arduously and weekly by the entire delivery team. These recommendations are reported routinely to the Executive Team and to Unity's Board of Trustees. Here are some examples of contingency expenditures to date.

#### Contractor Contingency (included in the Guaranteed Maximum Price)

This contingency is held by the contractor and is used for latent and unforeseen conditions in the project or for corrections found during field conditions.

- Permanent support at existing beam: \$1,350. Field condition revealed a support beam had been cut during a previous renovation.
- Rerouting duct and pipe in hallway: \$6,866. Field condition revealed insufficient clearances for new ducting.
- Sanitary sewer revision in lower level of sanctuary: \$8,366. Field condition revealed abandoned piping and piping at improper slope.
- Buttress underpinning: \$10,000. Additional foundation support poured for east side buttresses to original sanctuary,
- Replace parish Hall wood floor substructure: \$21,700. In attempting to demo the parish hall wood floor for replacement, substructure came up with it revealing insufficient support.

- Fuel oil tank and vault removal: \$3,000. Unforeseen condition.
- Removal of buried debris and house foundation: \$12,500. Unforeseen condition.

#### Owner Contingency

Owner Contingency is generally preserved for owner generated changes that are outside the scope of the project design and specification documents. In other words, they are not included in the design and they are items that the owner decides they want, as opposed to being required by field or unforeseen conditions in a project.

- Hazardous material abatement NOT identified in hazardous material inventory: \$45,700
- Power operated projection screen for parish hall: \$2,974
- Self diagnostics to emergency lighting devices: \$1,665
- Chapel sprinkler modifications – elbow/concealed channel: \$3,150
- Temporary fire alarm system: \$6,527
- Temporary cooling of sanctuary: \$9,000
- Electrical rough-in for flat panel messaging and communication systems: \$18,931

I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of Unity's Executive Director, Barbara Hubbard in bridging so many elements of the *Unity Tomorrow* project....capital campaign, bank requirements, pay application procedures, financial reporting, daily activities of the delivery team, etc, etc. Her skills, expertise and efforts are truly amazing and well beyond her routine duties as our Executive Director. **Thank you, Barbara!**

I hope many of you had a chance to take a building tour during September!



# UNITY TOMORROW

The Parish Hall floor is prepped for new hardwood.



The staircase to the lower level at the entrance addition.



The kitchen (right) and hallway (left) begin to take shape.



All of the windows in the Sanctuary, Ames Chapel, and Parish Hall are being restored.



The beautifully renovated Spirit Play restroom.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

### Talking for the Sake of Love

From Laura Schlatter, Unity Church member

In mid-September, as I write this piece for the October newsletter, this is how things stand with the Vote NO Don't Limit the Freedom to Marry campaign. Our t-shirts, our yard signs, our buttons – still, we are not making enough of a difference! We have to do more. The more conservative polls say the constitutional amendment limiting the freedom to marry is supported by 50% of Minnesotans and opposed by 43%. The more Democratic-leaning polling group says it's 48% for the amendment, 47% against the amendment. No matter how you look at it, this is not good news.

I called the folks at Minnesotans United for All Families, one of our partners in the campaign to defeat the amendment, and asked for their perspective. The person I spoke with said they talk to people in greater Minnesota who are afraid to put up lawn signs because they are afraid of the response of their neighbors and communities, afraid of vandalism. They talk to people who are afraid to have conversations about why they plan to vote "No." I heard about public school students in a Twin Cities suburb who were afraid they would get kicked out of school for wearing "Standing on the Side of Love" t-shirts to school.

If this amendment is to be defeated, each one of us needs to speak, from the heart, at every opportunity, about why it is important that same-sex marriage not be prohibited by Minnesota's constitution. For me, it is so that my gay and lesbian children can get married if they choose, and share the love and commitment that my husband Ron and I have modeled for them all their lives. Don't think it doesn't count to talk to people who "are already on our side." It absolutely counts. Maybe you will inspire one of them to go out and talk to more people. Or help people get to the polls. Or, on election day, maybe if someone you talked to is having an overwhelming day and thinking about not voting, that person will remember something you said, and decide it is worth putting forth a little extra effort to go vote.

We, as a community, covenant to affirm and promote certain principles and purposes. The first two of them are – The inherent worth and dignity of every person; and Justice, equity and compassion in human relations. We don't often get asked to put ourselves on the line, to do something outside our comfort zone, for the sake of our principles. This is about our principles. It is about our children and our community. It is about our hearts and our love. Talk to someone today and every day, between now and the election, about why you are voting no. If you are uncomfortable, we are offering training for conversations every Sunday. Just an hour and we'll help you feel more comfortable doing it. And then let us know how many conversations you've had. Even though it feels hard, you really are not risking much by talking. And think of the reward.

## T U T O R

### Make a difference in a child's life!

Make a difference in a child's life by becoming a tutor with the Minnesota Reading Corps at Obama Elementary across Holly Avenue from Unity Church.

Volunteers are needed to tutor one first through third grade student who is struggling with reading and/or math skills. Volunteers are asked to spend one hour per week for three months in this meaningful and significant service to children in our community. For more information or to register, please contact Pat Haff at [pat@unityunitarian.org](mailto:pat@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x126.

## Conversations! Conversations! Conversations!

When we have heartfelt conversations with our family members, friends and neighbors about why marriage matters – for all loving and committed couples – they are 67% more likely to **vote no on the marriage amendment**. That's huge!

Have your conversations with other Unity Church congregants in the following ways:

### Make telephone calls!

- Join in a calling session (training included) at the church duplex from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on one of the following dates:
  - Tuesday, October 2
  - Wednesday, October 10
  - Monday, October 15
  - Thursday, October 25
- Call from your home by contacting Pat Haff at the church office for a training packet and a list of church members to call.

### Report your conversations!

Report all conversations to Unity Church in the following ways:

- Send an email with your conversation count to Emmy or Harold Reppe at [conversationscount@gmail.com](mailto:conversationscount@gmail.com)
- Fill out the online form at [unityunitarian.org/conversations](http://unityunitarian.org/conversations)
- Fill out a short form during coffee hour on Sundays
- Leave a voicemail message with your conversation count at 651-228-1456 x126

### Learn how to have a conversation!

Attend a training session held at the church duplex (722 Holly Avenue) on one of the following Sundays:

- October 7: noon-1:00 p.m.
- October 14: 10:00-11:00 a.m.
- October 21: noon-1:00 p.m.
- October 28: 10:00-11:00 a.m.

## UUSC News

From Marty Rossman,  
Unity Church  
UUSC Representative



### Got Water?

When we gathered on September 9, our offering of \$1,303 was sent to support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee **Got Water?** campaign. The UUSC in a leadership role with partners succeeded in getting AB685, a bill for clean water for southern California, sent to the Governor's desk on September 14. UUSC continues to campaign to ensure sustainable access to safe, sufficient, affordable water to every person everywhere.

### Bill Schulz is coming to Unity!

Bill is President and CEO of the UUSC and is a widely sought-after public speaker. He'll be with us for TWO days – December 8–9. He'll speak on different topics at a Morgan Forum on Saturday morning, and in the evening, at a dinner in our new Parish Hall. Bill will preach all three Sunday sermons. Details about reservations will come soon. Save the dates!

### Surge of Violence

The UUSC condemns both the anti-Islamic video that purportedly started the 9/11 riots and the violence that continues to spread throughout the region. The UUSC is monitoring the situation on the ground with its partners and will continue to work for universal respect for human rights and civil liberties.

### Restaurant Workers' Wages

The tipped minimum wage has been stuck at \$2.13 since 1991 — leaving many restaurant workers, especially women, in poverty. Alongside partners, the UUSC continues to push Congress to give a raise in the minimum wage to all restaurant workers.

### Join the UUSC

Join online at: [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org)

## Tales from the Polls, 2016

From Jane Thomson on behalf of the Racial Justice Outreach Team Voter ID Task Force: Terri McNeil, Sue Conner, Carol Bauer, Carol LeBourveau, and Steve Lewis

Projecting some real-life people and their situations into a future in which the Minnesota constitution requires state-issued picture ID for voting...

On Halloween, Jack was robbed. As he got out of his car in front of his apartment building, an assailant demanded "Gimme your wallet, I got a gun!" The wallet wasn't worth his life – Jack handed it over. He lost his Visa card, pictures of his girlfriend and of his nieces and nephews, \$27, and his driver's license. He called the police; cancelled his card, wrote off the money, and applied for a new license. He got a temporary license and the promise of a permanent picture ID in about 3 weeks. Election day came less than a week later. Jack really wanted to vote, he had strong ideas this time; but he didn't really believe that the provisional ballot that he would be entitled to cast without a picture ID, would be counted. He was working two jobs, was still shaken from being mugged, so he decided to forget about voting. "What's one vote, anyway?" he said.

Marna was a sophomore going to community college in Minneapolis. During her freshman year, she shared a tiny apartment near MCTC with a friend. As she had for three years, she worked at a coffee shop near her mother's apartment in St. Paul on weekends (she had also worked all summer). During the weekends she stayed with her mother. Then her mother had to move. Marna spent the summer with her father, also in St. Paul. In the fall when school started, she moved in with her best girlfriend in N.E. Minneapolis. She will bus downtown to MCTC; bus to St. Paul on weekends to work. Where to vote? It will be her first time in a presidential election – she finds that exciting. Her driver's license has her mother's old address on it. When to get it changed, what with school, homework, work, waiting for buses? Let's hope Marna is motivated enough to make the changes in order to be allowed to vote. She is intelligent and caring and deserves to be heard.

With the U.S. Army in World War II, Russell lost an arm. He considers himself lucky, after seeing the way some of his buddies died. He is living in a high-rise, public housing. His polling place is on the first floor. Russell has no driver's license or state issued picture ID. He has never missed voting; but he has heard that in order to get the ID he will have to produce his birth certificate. That may be much harder even than getting to the license bureau. Russell was born out in the country in 1932. There was a lot more to worry about in his big family than a birth certificate. "Why, after having fought for my county, do I need a picture ID to vote?" he said. (Russell used a few words I can't use here.) He also said "Your vote doesn't mean as much as it used to."

What might your story be? Will grim reality, or a trick of fate, deprive you of a picture ID on election day? Do you care about these other folks? For them, even for yourself, vote NO on the unnecessary picture ID amendment!

## Voting Amendment Forum and Q&A

**Sunday, October 14, 1:30-3:30 p.m.**

**First Universalist Church: 3400 Dupont Avenue South, Minneapolis**

Join us for a 90-minute educational forum with Minnesota Secretary of State, Mark Ritchie. He will discuss the proposed constitutional amendment related to elections and voting. This forum will be followed by a 30-minute Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA) action planning event. A light lunch will be served starting at 1:15p.m. More information about MUUSJA's Voting Rights work is at [www.muusja.org/voting](http://www.muusja.org/voting) or by contacting Voting Rights co-chair Jenny Jewel Thomas at [jjt@jjthomas.net](mailto:jjt@jjthomas.net).

## Black Friday at Church

*Feeding the Spirit on the Feast Day of Consumption: Living into our Gifts*

Friday, November 23 • 10:00 a.m.

Service followed by optional reflection discussion.

Unity Church's fifth annual "Black Friday at 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 abundance and doing more with what we have with our theme *Living into our Gifts*.

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 special guest speaker, James Farrell, Professor of History, American Studies, Environmental Studies and American Conversations at St. Olaf College. Professor Farrell is an interdisciplinary scholar whose teaching has included courses on Environmental History, the Mall of America, Nuclear Weapons and American Culture, Walt Disney's America, Consuming College Culture, and Campus Ecology.

After the service, we'll share fellowship 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 Black Friday theme evokes a response, or if the words *Living into our Gifts* bring to mind a story of being called to do "something bigger" with one's gifts, please share your thoughts in writing with us. E-mail your writing to Jim Foti at [jim@unityunitarian.org](mailto:jim@unityunitarian.org) by November 5.



## What's New in the Library and Bookstall

From Louise Merriam, Library Team

Some might call "change" a portmanteau word — a suitcase into which one can pack lots of stuff. Here at Unity Church–Unitarian, we are undergoing great changes. Some of these changes will be embraced by all immediately; others will take more time. We all deal with change differently, just as each one of us packs a suitcase with a unique style.

The Library and Bookstall Team (LBT) provides resources that help the Unity Church community approach and deal with transitions and changes in their lives. We sell books, run libraries and offer programming. Right now, our books are stacked in the sanctuary, waiting to be reshelved in the renovated libraries. When the libraries reopen in the late fall, things will be different. In the meantime, here are two titles from the Unitarian Universalist Association Bookstore that will be in the libraries.

1. *Be the Change: Poems, Prayers and Meditations for Peacemakers and Justice Seekers*, by Stephen M. Schick. 2009.
2. *Finding Our Story: Narrative Leadership and Congregational Change*, by Larry Golemon. 2010.

If you can't wait for the libraries to reopen, you can always buy these and other books through the Unity Library web page at [www.unityunitarian.org/library-and-bookstall.html](http://www.unityunitarian.org/library-and-bookstall.html). Click on the [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) link and support Unity Libraries.

The UUA website has also posted several sermons, speeches and articles on change (go to [uua.org](http://uua.org) and search "change"). There is much to think about as we move forward. And when you pack your suitcase, don't forget to include a book or two.

## Submit to the Journal and join the community!

*Cairns: The Unity Church Journal of the Arts*, Vol. 4, 2012



*"Every day brings us invitations to leap – or to step cautiously, even reluctantly – into our lives. To move forward despite our fears, to let the world bless us with its wind and its waters, to step away from what we have known before and to think a new and full thought as we do."*

— Karen Hering, "Time to Think a Thought,"  
*Cairns* Vol. 3, 2011

Have you considered that your own perspective, your questions, your very thoughts are a gift to be shared with our congregation? To be in community, we rely on give and take with one another to stretch our knowledge and points of view, share our joys and sorrows, learn from the past, imagine the future, and to be reminded to see the joy and beauty among us. Please contribute to *Cairns* and share your gifts with Unity Church.

**Deadline for ART: October 1. Deadline for POETRY and PROSE: October 8.**

Photo: *Quetico Cairn* by Ann Hite.

# MUSIC MINISTRY

## Music Notes

From Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministry

*The creative is the place where no one else has ever been. You have to leave the city of your comfort and go into the wilderness of your intuition. You can't get there by bus, only by hard work and risk, and by not quite knowing what you are doing. What you will discover will be wonderful. What you discover will be yourself. — Alan Alda*

As we all wind up our overly busy schedules, I witness both myself and others already giving up that time for quiet and listening that is essential for creative wonderment and discovery. And then, at some future time we all rush to recover and "create" time for this because we know how uniquely important it is to our well-being and very presence in this world. It seems a curious but quite common human process. So, just a few thoughts for all of us as we struggle to keep this balance. I particularly love the very real manner of Minnesota writer, Brenda Ueland, in describing the difference of working at something versus being in something as her description of "living in the present." The following passage is from her book, *If You Want To Write: A book about Art, Independence and Spirit*.

*In music, in playing the piano, sometimes you are playing at a thing and sometimes you are playing in it. When you are playing at it you crescendo and diminish, following all the signs.....So, you dutifully do that. But this is intellectual and external.*

*Only when you are playing in a thing do people listen and hear you and are moved. It is because you are moved, because a queer and wonderful experience has taken place and the music suddenly is yourself, your voice and your eloquence. The passionate and wonderful questions in the music are your questions. And with all the qualities of a composer, it is you talking to those who listen.*

Hopefully, music may be a part of your venture toward those "queer and wonderful experiences" that help you play *in* your life rather than at it.

## SING in a Unity Church Choir!

Here at Unity Church we have a vital choral program and invite you to consider joining us this year. Yes, for the adults, it is a huge help to have some musical experience such as music lessons at some time in your life or having sung with a choir. Of course, if that is not in your background but you have a passionate interest and the courage to jump into the flow of things in order to learn a new skill, we invite you to come and sing with us. We have a great time together!

Please contact Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministries, with any of your questions at [ruth@unityunitarian.org](mailto:ruth@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x118.

### Current Choirs

**Children's Choir** (grades 1 - 5) Religious Education  
Music Room: Sundays from 10:15–11:00 a.m. Kathleen Radspinner, director

**Unity Choir** (adult, high school and beyond) Sanctuary:  
Thursdays from 7:30– 9:15 p.m. Ruth Palmer, director

**Unity Singers** (auditioned membership) Sanctuary: Tuesdays,  
from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Ruth Palmer, director

### Beginning in December

**Check upcoming newsletters for dates and announcements.**

**Carmina Singers** (adult, high school and above): This group will sing at the 4:30 p.m. service. Rehearsals will be held on Sundays from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. Ruth Palmer, director

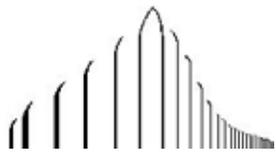
**"Walk-in" Choir** (adult, high school and beyond): An opportunity for those who would love to sing but just cannot make choir rehearsals. It could be a folk song with guitar, a round, an African call and response, etc. Ruth Palmer, director

**Women's Ensemble:** This originates with the group of women who worked with Ruth at the Women's Retreat in January 2011. The hope this year is to rehearse every other Sunday from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. Ruth Palmer, director

## Music Support Team

Please consider joining with us to support the many associated needs for our singers, musicians and entire music program area. We need your help as greeters, Welcome Team, kitchen assistance, music filing, upkeep of musical supplies, and more! Events and areas of need such as the Holiday Carol Sing/Concert/Dessert Buffet, Foote Music Sunday choir receptions and Choir/Storage Room need your unique abilities. And, SPECIAL this year only.... unpacking and organizing music program areas in mid-November. Please feel to contact Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministry, with your interest and questions at [ruth@unityunitarian.org](mailto:ruth@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x118.





# UNITY CHURCH-UNITARIAN

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**TIME SENSITIVE  
MATERIAL**

## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

### Unity's Pledge Drive Gala Evening

Saturday, October 13 • 6:00-9:00 p.m.  
SteppingStone Theatre • See page 4

### Election Night Vespers

Pray for the Nation  
Tuesday, November 6 • 8:00-9:00 p.m. • Sanctuary

Please join us after the polls close for an evening of prayer, gratitude, and community. We will gather together to pray and to sing for our nation's return to civility and progress. Childcare is available. Please direct any questions and/or childcare requests to Mae Gibson Wall at [mae@unityunitarian.org](mailto:mae@unityunitarian.org).



The Elders Circle gathered for a picnic at Hidden Falls park on September 14. Turn to page 7 for information about their October gathering.

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