

HOSPITALITY

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 September theme is Hospitality.

It was Abraham who long ago set the bar for hospitality so high. His storied welcome of three total strangers tells us what true hospitality looks like. Abraham did not wait for the unannounced visitors to arrive at his tent; he ran out in the heat of the day to greet them, inviting them under the shade of his oaks. He did not ask for names, country of origin or photo ID. Instead he bowed, requesting the privilege of washing their feet. Offering them “a little bread,” he did not serve whatever he had on hand. He ordered fresh cakes made from choice flour and a tender calf from his herd slaughtered and prepared especially for the three strangers whose names he did not know, wayfarers who turned out to be God or angels.

How far we’ve come. If someone called me to ask what Abraham’s example might mean today, would I even pick up the phone if I didn’t recognize their caller ID?

Hospitality is often regarded as the basis of one’s relationship with God or with the holy blessing of Life itself. In folklore from around the world, God shows up disguised – as beggar, foreigner, undesirable neighbor or even pesky creature – and the one who opens the door and welcomes the stranger to the table is the one who “entertains angels unawares.” Not only does this earn favor in God’s eyes; it also, not coincidentally, creates a harmonic social order in which food and shelter are shared and the possibility of friendship is invited. Hospitality is both an ethical and a practical virtue.

The understanding subtly woven into many hospitality stories and customs is one of reciprocity in which the roles of guest and host are cosmically linked and known to shift. In Arabic, Latin and Greek etymology, a single root word connotes both guest and host, suggesting a basic truth – the person who is host on one day will be guest on another.

So what does hospitality ask of us today? What do we ask of ourselves, as both host and guest?

Arab custom says the guest – including the stranger or even the enemy – has a right to three days’ hospitality before the host can send you on your way. It is a practice engendered in a hostile desert environment where Bedouins appreciated the price of common survival as the sharing of food and shelter.

Here, in our own verdant and well watered summer, as rivers run high and tomatoes hang heavy on the vines, we are certainly called to share the harvest bounty with those who hunger, near and far. But our hospitality might also be wisely shaped by asking what other kinds of desert conditions exist in our own lives today. If we hunger for relationship, are we running out to meet the strangers passing by? If the heat of the day has hardened the landscape in politics and religion, are we making room for others under the shade of our oaks? Are we bringing them water, without knowing their names – or how they last voted?

In a climate made hostile by polarization and alienation, a free faith tradition declaring “We need not think alike to love alike,” surely has welcome shade to offer. Are we opening our doors wide to those who most need it?

If you have a great view from your window, the Sufi poet Hafiz said, you really ought to share it. He wrote:

Friends do things like this:

Tell which mat their housekey is

Hidden under. . . .

For you would not believe

The extraordinary view

Of God

From my bedroom

Window.

HOSPITALITY Worship Theme Resources

Books

Reaching Out, by Henri Nouwen, an insightful exploration of hospitality as a spiritual practice

Radical Hospitality, by Lonni Collins Pratt and Daniel Homan, stories and wisdom culled from the discipline of hospitality at the root of Benedictine life.

The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris, by David McCullough, a sweeping historical account of the many 19th century American intellectuals and artists who made their home in Paris.

JUST WORDS / WHEEL OF LIFE

Just Words: A *Unity Tomorrow* Update

We begin the new church year with good and challenging news from *Unity Tomorrow*. Halfway through the "quiet phase" of the capital campaign, one hundred church households have pledged four million dollars to support the renovation of our church home. This auspicious beginning allows us to set a goal to double that amount by the end of the campaign. We are moving ahead with architectural planning, developing the budget for Board approval and working hard to assure that we put our money where our values are by writing clear and effective minority hiring policies.

Now that we have completed schematic design we have a much better idea of the scope of the project. Eight million dollars will allow us to completely renovate the infrastructure of the building. There will be:

- New, efficient heating and air conditioning. The Parish Hall and Chapel will be air conditioned for the first time
- Religious Education classrooms will have new ventilation, new lighting, and improved hallways
- The entire building will be equipped with sprinklers and a full fire suppression system
- A new commercial grade kitchen
- New and expanded bathroom facilities
- Improved way finding
- A new courtyard that will lead to a fully accessible unified entrance

Though our fund raising efforts have been very successful so far we cannot yet afford to build a new sanctuary. We are convinced the renovations and improvements planned are both necessary and prudent and that the congregation will be inspired to move forward as funds become available.

As we anticipate spending millions of dollars over the next year to eighteen months we are acutely aware of the economic dimensions of systemic racism. How can we have a positive impact while at the same time being good stewards of the congregation's resources? We're doing our homework. So far we have:

- Consulted with the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ
- Studied policy language developed by the University of Minnesota and the State Department of Human Rights
- Consulted with Neighborhood House, Amicus and other non-profits
- Considered vendor diversity programs developed by both the University of Minnesota and Deluxe Corporation
- Asked the Unity Church Board policy team to assess and as necessary to revise the governing policies to reflect these concerns

We are working closely with Unity's Anti-Racism Leadership Team in pursuit of more effective ways to make our best intentions real. We welcome your suggestions.

It's going to be a gratifying roller-coaster of a year at Unity Church. Annie Dillard writes: "It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews." I'm not so sure about crash helmets but how about hard hats dear friends? See you in church.

Yours for Unity today and tomorrow,
Rob Eller-Isaacs

The Wheel of Life

In Memoriam

Margaret (Peggy) Ann Bard
October 16, 1934–August 6, 2011

Church Calendar Update

The Church Office will be closed Monday, September 5, in observance of Labor Day.

On September 18 we will return to our three-service Sunday schedule with services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

SUBMIT
N O W

Cairns

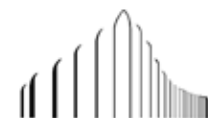
The Unity Church
Journal of the Arts

Deadline:

October 10, 2011

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

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



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SEPTEMBER 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.

September 4 • 10:00 a.m. Service Only

***Cheap Labor, Meritocracy and Inherent Worth* — Dane Smith**

The national motto of France and our own national birth certificate tell us that *liberté* must be balanced with *égalité* and *fraternité*, and that all humans are created equal. We love our liberties, spiritual and social and economic. And we Unitarian Universalists have distinguished ourselves in American history for demanding equality of opportunity and greater evenness of result. But how do we reconcile the durable conservative conviction that we live in a meritocracy with the frightening reality of growth of inequality in our society? And what can we actually do to counter the unprecedented assault not only on organized and unorganized labor, but on the inherent equal worth of each of God's children? Musician: Rochelle Lockridge, guitar and vocals.

September 11 • 10:00 a.m. Service Only

Merging of Waters

All congregation worship and picnic

Bring the water you have collected during the summer for this annual water ritual.

Come merge the waters of the world in a time of reunion as the entire church family gathers to turn with the turning of the year. Together we will consider the dangers and opportunities implied by the 10th anniversary of 9/11. Musical guest: Irie Sol. This worship service and picnic will be held in the park directly north of Obama Elementary (located north of Unity Church on Holly), rain or shine. **Important details are available on the back cover of this newsletter.**



September 18

The Golden Door: The Invitation of True Hospitality

— Janne Eller-Isaacs

Janne and Worship Associate Laura Schlatter will explore what it is to be a stranger in a strange land and how our perceptions of "others" has shifted over the years.

September 25

***Universal Aspirations* — Rob Eller-Isaacs**

We say we want to be a church for everyone. Our theology calls us to a universal embrace. But it's clear to those with eyes to see that our aspirations are in conflict with our social reality. Rob and Worship Associate Patricia Ohmans will wrestle with the tangled tensions of religious identity.

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.**

September 4

Hamm Clinic

Hamm Clinic provides mental health care for our community, particularly for those who are underserved because of racial, cultural and financial barriers. Some of the outstanding features of the Hamm Clinic include bilingual, bicultural therapists; an active research department; and active participation in many community events. As a Hamm Clinic participant, Unity Church member Liz Curran has benefited greatly from this program.

September 11

Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA) Maia (Water) Project

There is a growing water crisis in Palestine that affects agriculture, industry, and the health of virtually every adult and child in the Gaza Strip. Poor sanitation and over-extraction have polluted the limited water supply. In September 2009, MECA launched the Maia Project to provide Palestinian children with clean, safe drinking water. MECA is working in partnership with community organizations in Gaza to build water purification and desalination units in schools throughout the Gaza Strip. They have now provided clean water to 14 large UN Schools in Palestinian refugee camps and to 12 kindergartens in refugee camps, towns and villages.

September 18

Unity Center for Youth Leadership

Formerly "Unity Summer" or "Unity Leadership" at First Universalist Church in Minneapolis and now an independent non-profit agency affiliated with the church.

Unity Center for Youth Leadership engages high school youth in the Twin Cities, including youth of color, to learn about and act on racial, cultural and social justice. This is in partnership with community organizations who share Unitarian Universalist values of equity, justice, authentic engagement and the dignity of every person. This program engages over 100 youth a year from 33 different high schools. Unity Church members, Ruth MacKenzie and Tom Vellenga have both been a part of programs in this new effort.

September 25

Since this Sunday is titled, "Share the Plate: See Where the Offering Goes," the offering will go to the Unity Church Community Outreach Ministry Program to help support future Samuel Morgan Forums. "Share the Plate" Sunday is an opportunity for people to meet the representatives from community non-profit organizations that have received an offering from Unity Church offering in the past few years. This will take place in Parish Hall following both morning services.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES / UNITY TOMORROW

Board of Trustees

from Laura Smidzik, laura.smidzik@gmail.com

Unity Church is a large congregation by the Unitarian Universalist Association's standards. With several other large congregations in the Twin Cities it may appear as the norm. While attending the Prairie Star District Conference this past spring I was reminded of the broad range of fellowships and congregations across our region. Many fellowships have no paid staff or ministers and form a religious community through an entirely lay-led structure.

During one conversation, a member of a small fellowship mentioned how those of us in large congregations with a full staff don't have to volunteer our time. This was a perception I was quick to refute. Sure, there are many here who simply attend services and support the church through annual pledges, but there are also an astounding number of hours and remarkable leadership and service woven into every aspect of Unity's life. As a Board member I am acutely aware of the seeds planted in service by incoming members who "sample" ways to serve during their time in the *Finding Yourself at Unity* series. We hear reports on social justice initiatives, *Unity Tomorrow*, religious education, music ministry, and many more committees and groups which comprise Unity Church. With hundreds of volunteers, we are a vital and engaged faith community.

Serving on the Board of Trustees provides a distinct view of this complex church. Our gifted Executive Team presents their insights into how they (and we) are working toward our defined Ends Statements. As board members we envision and look to the future of Unity Church and monitor progress toward our Ends.

It is a responsibility and an honor to be in such a role in this congregation. Early each fall we nominate three new board members for approval at the November Annual Congregational Meeting. If you are interested in applying or learning more about the role please contact me.

Prairie Star District Annual Conference Workshop Applications Now Being Accepted

Prairie Star District is seeking workshop applications for the PSD Annual Conference 2012, "Lessons from War & Peace: Stories of Hope, Faith, and Courage," to be held April 13-15, in Bloomington, Minnesota.



Workshops are sought that respond directly to this theme, or will foster leadership development, and/or strengthen our community through multigenerational conversation. Information about the conference and applications are at www.psduua.org/drupal/AnnualConference2012. Deadline to apply is Monday, September 26.

Unity Tomorrow Update

Over this summer, the Current Site Team has neared the completion of the schematic design effort for the following facility improvement program areas:

1. Building infrastructure, envelope and utility upgrades
2. Current facility improvements – bathrooms, kitchen and entrances
3. Expanded sanctuary

The team is in the process, as this newsletter goes to print, of aligning these primary program elements with schematic design cost estimates and Unity's capital campaign goals. We expect to complete this alignment process before the capital campaign kicks off this fall. Once reached, the Current Site Team will enter the next phase of design for the project, called Design Development.

Unity's Owner Representative, Lorelee Wederstrom, will be conducting a series of project orientation sessions in September to help all stakeholders gain a better understanding of the capital project planning, management and construction delivery process. These sessions will help to define the four phases of design on a capital project along with the various layers of capital planning and project management. We will also take a look at the roles and responsibilities of key participants, stakeholders and consultants in the capital project delivery process.

These sessions, *Unity Tomorrow* PPM 101, have been scheduled at various times throughout the month with hopes for as much attendance as possible. Sessions are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, September 7 • 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 8 • 11:00 a.m. – Unity Staff Only

Saturday, September 10 • 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, September 18 • 12:30 p.m.

For individuals unable to make any one of these sessions, PPM101 content will be available on the *Unity Tomorrow* website, www.unityunitarian.org.





It Takes a Community

from Lee Carey, Capital Campaign and Operating Pledge Team



*We build on foundations we did not lay.
We warm ourselves at fires we did not light.
We sit in the shade of trees we did not plant.
We drink from wells we did not dig.
We profit from persons we did not know.
We are ever bound in community.*

— Rev. Peter Raible

I found this wonderful quote on the blog of the most-wonderful Justin Schroeder (former ministerial intern and staff member at Unity Church, now Senior Minister at First Universalist Church in Minneapolis). When I read it, I thought it reflected perfectly the sentiment of this fall's fundraising campaign during which everyone at Unity Church will be asked to support two initiatives: the 2012 Operating Pledge Drive and the *Unity Tomorrow* Capital Campaign.

The Operating Pledge Drive is short term — it keeps the doors open, supporting each other and our community in the coming year (or three*). The *Unity Tomorrow* Capital Campaign is long term — it helps us do the same for years, even decades, to come.

This quote reminds me that the money my husband and I give to Unity Church isn't just for our benefit. Our financial gifts, when combined with the gifts of others, build foundations — both literally and figuratively — that can help our community bloom within, among and beyond. This is a powerful image. Through our gifts today, we will be "ever bound in community" for years to come.

Many of you are familiar with the annual pledge drive, but most of you probably haven't gone through a capital campaign, much less a concurrent strategy. It can be confusing to figure out what you're supporting, how much to give, and how to do it.

Well, we don't want you to be confused! Throughout the month of October you'll have the chance to gather with friends, family, and colleagues at various events at church to hear about what's going on and to decide on your financial contributions.

Take a look at the box on the right for the kind of events being offered. Figure out which one might work with your schedule and preferences, and then come to church in September ready to sign up! Watch for more info about how to do that on our website, through email, and at our table in the Parish Hall on Sundays.

**So what's with the number three? Actually, it's 3/3/3: We're asking everyone to commit to a sustaining three-year operating pledge with a minimum three-percent increase in the second and third year. And, you'll be asked to make a financial commitment to the capital campaign that would be paid over three years.*

It Takes a Community Kick-off

Sunday, October 9 • All services • Sanctuary

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.

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, and time for you to consider and make your financial commitments. Child care provided.

Featured musicians:

October 14: Laura Caviani, jazz piano

October 21: Ruth MacKenzie

October 28: Unity Singers and other "homegrown talent"

Family Fun

A Saturday in October • Watch for date and time.

Sanctuary and Parish Hall

Bring the whole family for an entertaining, intergenerational program. This event is designed for families with children who want to share in the process of intentional giving through activities that will spark generosity, dreaming and gratitude.

Unity in our Community

Saturday, October 15 • 7:00 p.m.

Mai Village on University Avenue

Come for a fabulous meal at Mai Village and stay for some equally fabulous presentations and testimonials with time to consider and make your financial commitments. This is a wonderful way to gather as a congregation and support our community. The cost for this event is \$25 per person and space is limited.

Small Group Gatherings

Saturdays and Sundays in October

Hosted by Unity Church members in their homes

Get together with other Unity friends at small-group events hosted by church members who will open their homes for questions, conversation, and the time for you to consider and make your financial commitments. Watch for specific information about signing up for one of these gatherings.

Personal Visits

If you prefer to be canvassed individually, we have canvassers ready to meet with you. Contact Barbara Hubbard by email at barbarah@unityunitarian.org or by phone at 651-228-1456 x116 to schedule a visit.

UNITY CHURCH INTERNS

Rachel Long

2011-12 Hallman Ministerial Intern



Who are your heroes of hospitality? Is it a generous relative? Perhaps a church community that welcomed you with open arms?

My hospitality heroes are a family in Syria. Ten years ago, a friend and I were visiting Aleppo. We arose one morning to discover that it was Eid al-Adha, the Muslim feast of sacrifice. People celebrate this holiday at home with their families. No stores were open. As twenty year old Americans with minimal Arabic and less foresight, we didn't know to purchase food before everything shut down for the holiday. A day of hunger was averted with a kind invitation. A man asked us to share the holiday with his family. We gladly accepted his invitation.

When we arrived at his home, my traveling companion and I were quickly whisked into a room where the women and girls would be spending the day. As others arrived, they removed heavy coats and headscarves and gave us friendly but quizzical looks. They spoke no English and our Arabic consisted of little more than "good evening, how are you?" The women turned to music, singing beautiful Arabic melodies as we all feasted. We responded with "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" and a few of The Beatles greatest hits. They tried to teach us a traditional dance; we all laughed good-naturedly at our failure to do so.

This Syrian family is my model for hospitality. They welcomed bewildered, hungry foreigners and attempted to connect across barriers of language and culture. As news broadcasts are filled with reports of the Syrian government's violence against its own people, I pray for the safety of this family and their fellow citizens. I also pray that I might be as hospitable to strangers as they were to me.

Jim Foti

2011-12 Ministerial Intern

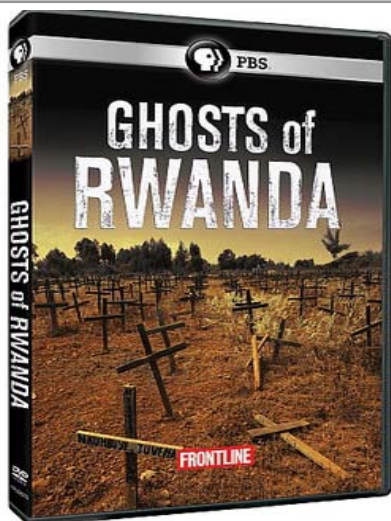


I'm having a bit of déjà vu — the first internship I ever had was in St. Paul. In the broiling summer of 1988, when I was a journalism undergrad, I landed a summer gig at the Pioneer Press, and I lived in a third-floor apartment without air conditioning just a few blocks from Holly Avenue. I was church-avoidant in those days — I didn't know about Unitarian Universalism, nor about the existence of Unity. So I'm very glad and grateful that the intervening decades worked their magic to bring us together at last.

I left the world of journalism a year and a half ago to pursue a master of divinity degree at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. The program, which takes me to Chicago about five weeks a year, includes a half-time, two-year congregational internship, so I will be here with you through a time of significant and exciting change for the church.

I live in Minneapolis with my partner, Ralph Wyman, the director/organizer of the Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance. I just finished up a summer internship as a hospital chaplain at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview, so I can now add pastoral care to the growing list of things I enjoy about ministry. That list includes theological discussions, crafting sermons, social activism, direct service, and spreading the word about liberal religion. That last one is particularly important to me — there might be someone without a faith community living alone in a stuffy apartment a few blocks from church, and I want him or her to know that our open hearts are just around the corner.

Thank you for welcoming me into your spiritual home. I look forward to learning, listening, sharing, and celebrating with you all.



Join Unity Church in its collaboration with a local organization called World Without Genocide at William Mitchell College of Law as together we present

Ghosts of Rwanda

A 10th Anniversary PBS FRONTLINE film, 2004

Thursday September 22 • 7:00-9:30 p.m.

Unity Church • Foote Room

Rwanda was supposed to be easy. When the United Nations sent peacekeepers to Rwanda, policy-makers believed it would be a straightforward mission. The objective was to restore the U.N.'s battered reputation after failures in Bosnia and Somalia. Few could imagine that, Rwanda was heading toward a crisis that still haunts our souls. *Ghosts of Rwanda* is a special documentary of the Rwandan genocide. Learn about the people who made a difference in a seemingly impossible situation. This screening is followed by a discussion with experts from the American Refugee Committee. This showing is free and open to the public. No reservations are necessary.

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 \$18/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.

September 14

Dinner: Taco Bar!

The Great College Search: Week 1

Can't tell the SAT from the ACT? Got your Wheatons mixed up? Freaked out by the FAFSA? Finding a college can be a stressful for the whole family. Unity Church member Craig Allen will help you learn how to optimize the process and become a critical consumer of colleges. The first three weeks will cover these topics:

September 14: Getting ready for the college quest. Conducting a search.

September 21: Creating a list of schools. Applying to the schools you select.

September 28: Financial aid basics.

Sessions will consist of presentations followed by question and answer sessions. After the first three sessions the hope is to form an ongoing college search support group. This series is for high school students and/or parents who are currently in, or interested in, starting a college search and application process. We'll also discuss topics of special interest to Unitarian Universalist searchers.

Craig Allen is a member of Unity Church and is currently completing his certification program in college admissions counseling through UCLA Extension. He is also a member of the Higher Education Consultants Association (HECA) and the Minnesota Association for College Admission Counseling (MACAC).

Beyond the Birds and the Bees

In connection with the Religious Education Orientation, Grit Youngquist and Chico Hathaway will lead an orientation session for parents whose children are participating in the Our Whole Lives sexual and relational health curriculum. How we understand our bodies, our souls and our selves is a life-long endeavor. Come learn how to build a community of adults concerned with how best to invite our children into embodied wisdom and maturity.

September 21

Dinner: To be announced.

Radical Hospitality

Grandfather used to say that a bird which flies into your house is an angel. You must look upon his presence as a blessing. — "House of Sand and Fog"

Sheikh Mohammad Raza Raswani welcomed Brooklyn Park police Sgt. Greg Burstad to a prayer service at the Anjuman-E-Asghari Mosque in Brooklyn Park. The mosque opened its doors to Jews and Christians during Ramadan, the Moslem month of fasting. It was part of their Taking Heart program of outreach and community building. In this month of commemoration, memory and hope, come learn from representatives from the Anjuman-E-Asghari Mosque about the grace that is born of breaking the fast and breaking the bread together.

Great College Search: Week 2

Creating a list of schools. Applying to the schools you select.

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

The Work of Our Hands

Wellspring Wednesday needs a group of ten to fifteen volunteers to lend a few hours a month (three to five hours) to help make Wellspring Wednesday sustainable. These volunteers would commit to serving on cooking teams organized by a capable leader. Tasks would be assigned according to the gifts of the volunteers and teams would be created in order to make Wellspring Wednesday a continuing success. If you can offer just a few hours a month, contact Leon Dunkley by email at leon@unityunitarian.org or by phone at 651-228-1456 x107.

September 28

Dinner: To be announced.

Survival and Compassion Amidst Ambiguous Loss

Called to Ground Zero after the Manhattan Towers fell, Pauline Boss learned a great deal about survival. Everyone experiences loss but we all process loss in different ways. Some of those ways are determined by our constitutions and others are determined by the nature of the loss itself. Clear loss is difficult enough but what about losses that are unclear or ambiguous?

For Pauline Boss, loss was defined by immigration, addiction, divorce, and aging parents. Loss can also be defined by ambiguity. Ambiguity was a marker in the aftermath of 9/11 and ambiguity remains the marker still today.

Join us for a conversation about finding and keeping your balance when great challenge arises.

Great College Search: Week 3 Financial aid basics.

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

Ongoing Offerings

Yoga • Weekly, \$10 per class

Tween Youth Group

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.

Sharing Group for UU Parents

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.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Fellowship Groups

These fellowship groups are open to all. Please contact the person listed for more information.

Men's Retirement Group: Monday, September 12 and 26, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact: Phil Morton at 952-934-3578

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

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

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

Unity Men's Group: Third Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Nels Otto at 651-484-4590

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

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

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

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

Unity Book Club: Second Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. See ad at right for book titles.

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



Job Transition/Networking Group

Meets every Monday • 9:30–11:30 a.m.

The Job Transition Networking Group offers support, encouragement, information, and skill-building resources to Unity Church members who are unemployed or underemployed. For more information contact Rachel Holtzer, Facilitator, at erholtzer@gmail.com.

Zen Meditation

Tuesdays • 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. • Robbins Parlor

Find renewal and grounding in the practice of Zen meditation. People at any level of experience are welcome. Newcomers are encouraged to arrive 10 minutes early and are welcome to contact Ken Ford at 612-701-0841 or kford5@comcast.net with questions.

Unity Church Book Club

Everyone is welcome — even if you haven't read the book!

The Unity Church Book Club will meet from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 13. The book they will be discussing is *The Spanish Bow* by Andromeda Romano-Lax. On October 11 they will discuss *Empires of the Sea* by Roger Crowley and on November 8, *Borrowed Time* by Robert Goddard

Caregivers Group

Thursday, September 15 • Third Thursday of the month • Noon–2:00 p.m.

Join Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs and Pastoral Care Team member Cynthia Orange for an informal support group for caregivers. Contact Janne Eller-Isaacs by email at janne@unityunitarian.org if you would like to participate in this group.

Living With Grief Group

Tuesday, September 20 • Third Tuesday of the month • 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs will offer a group for people living with grief and loss. All are welcome to come to discuss issues related to the grieving process. Contact Janne by email at janne@unityunitarian.org if you are interested in attending.

Heart to Heart: A Couples' Enrichment Weekend

Friday, November 4, 7:45 p.m. to 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. Sponsored by Unity Church. More information is available at <http://heart.mn.cx> or by calling 651-227-0486.

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.

Please join us for

**THE
LIBRARY &
BOOKSTALL**



**OPEN
HOUSE**

Sunday, September 25, 2011
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Anderson Library, Eliot Wing

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Unity Church is Hiring Classroom Buddies for Our Children with Special Needs

A Classroom Buddy is a consistent, predictable person who helps the child with special needs feel safe, comfortable and welcome at Unity Church.

Many of our Religious Education students have special needs which affect their mobility, communication, self-care, social interactions and personal safety; these needs are not barriers to participation in Sunday School or the life of the church, but rather challenges which need appropriate support. The Classroom Buddy will form a trusting relationship with one child and his or her family, providing help with moving from space to space, changing activities, recognizing personal space, participating in discussion, meeting new people, integrating new or unusual experiences of sound/touch/smell/taste, and following directions.

Children with special needs are enrolled in Religious Education programs at all three services, 9:00, 11:00 and 4:30. Requirements include availability on Sundays, absolute reliability and punctuality, experience working with preschool and school-aged children, and a patient, calm demeanor.

For a complete job description and application information, visit the church website or contact Kerri Meyer by email at kerri@unityunitarian.org.

Save the date!
Wednesday, October 5

*Inside the Music
of Peter Meyer*

Organized by the
Unity Men's Group

Immediate Needs for Religious Education Volunteers!

Our shared ministry needs you! Please consider one of the roles below as an enriching opportunity for spiritual growth. Contact the Kerri Meyer at kerri@unityunitarian.org for more information about these volunteer opportunities.

11:00 Junior High Teachers "High Feasts and Holy Days"

Join a team that will explore world religious holidays and celebrate with rituals and cultural traditions, giving our junior high youth an understanding of our neighbors' faiths. Cast a circle to mark the pagan sabbats or share apples and honey to welcome a sweet new year! Assemble a class offrenda for Dia de los Muertos or read the story of the lights of Hannukah! Teach 6-8 Sundays of your choosing from September 18 through January 15. All lesson plans and materials provided.

4:30 Journey Guide for First and Second Grade

Have you ever just wanted to attend Sunday School at Unity because it sounds so fun? Journey Guides have no curricular responsibilities, but instead form caring relationships with a group of children, helping them to attend and participate in Religious Education at Unity each Sunday for half the program year. Guides become the loving face and caring hands of Unity Church while the Workshop Leaders do all the teaching. Take attendance, attend worship, lead check-in, and manage behavior every Sunday that R.E. classes are held from September 18 through January 22. Substitute coverage available in case of travel or illness.

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 pm. 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.

Boston Pilgrimage

October 26-30, 2011

You are invited to join our ministers for a pilgrimage to the Unitarian Universalist holy sites! We'll visit Plimouth Plantation, Harvard Divinity School, the Oracles of Concord, Walden Pond and the historic churches of Boston. There will be time for sightseeing as well as conversation and reflection.

The approximate cost will be \$1200 exclusive of airfare. If you are interested in participating in this pilgrimage, please contact Song Thao by email at song@unityunitarian.org to have your name added to the list.

September Parish Hall Artist

Claire Anne Thoen

New Narratives from Nordic Folk Art



Much of my work is like my long-time membership (since 1969) at Unity Church: exploring, investigating, becoming inspired. My work is inspired by the Nordic folk artists who told stories of love, and morality in images on cupboards, wall panels and bowls. My work explores these stories — both naïve and wise — and carries them forward into new narratives.

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.

Sunday, September 11, 1:00–3:00 p.m. NOTE DIFFERENT TIME!

Reflection Topic: Hospitality

Unity Church-Unitarian

Free; RSVP karen@unityunitarian.org

Hospitality, *Henri Nouwen* said, creates emptiness that is friendly, "a free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy." In times often defined by territorial behavior and a landscape fenced off by unbending opinions, how can the practice of hospitality create free and open space where we might meet one another and become friends? Registration not required, but an e-mail to karen@unityunitarian.org is requested to help in planning space and handouts.

Thursday, September 29, at sunset • 6:57–9:00 p.m.

Reflection Topic: Day and Night, Shadow and Light

Wisdom Ways, Carondelet Center • 1890 Randolph Avenue, St. Paul

Registration and fee information at: www.wisdomwayscenter.org

In times governed by mechanics and technology, what does it mean to tune our lives to nature's ancient rhythms of season and light and invite new understandings of balance? A few days after the Autumnal Equinox, we pause to consider nature's dynamic balance between darkness and light. "What does light talk about?" Thomas Aquinas once reported asking a plant, to which the plant replied, "I am not sure, but it makes me grow."

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.

Lectio Divina

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. *Lectio divina* sessions at Unity Church will resume this fall, beginning in October.

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

In Minnesota, we have our own, often parodied, kind of hospitality with odd conventions like "the triple refusal" (it is only polite to say "no" three times before saying "yes"). At Unity Church, hospitality does not follow a script or the latest rules from The Emily Post Institute. Instead, hospitality is a spiritual practice, a way of being that welcomes friends and strangers alike into relationship, as equals, with respect and joy. Fr. Homan in *Radical Hospitality: A Benedictine's Way of Love* says this:

*Here is the core of hospitality:
May I know you better? Will
you come closer please?*

In addition to those two questions, the heart of the Library and Bookstall Team is: *How may I help you?*

Please join us for the Library and Bookstall

Open House

Sunday September 25, 2011

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Food, book drawing and fellowship. Find out what's new in the Children's Library! *Will you come?*

In the Bookstall

***Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers (2010)**

Syrian-American Abdulrahman Zeitoun stayed in New Orleans after Katrina. He distributed water, fed abandoned animals, and rescued people using his canoe, until he was suspected of being al Qaeda, arrested, and held for 23 days without so much as a phone call.

In the Library

***Seven Fathers* by Ashley Ramsden (2011)** retells a charming Scandinavian folktale with a magical ending about a traveler looking for refuge in a storm (Caldecott Medal winner).

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Autumn Equinox Reflection

The Autumn Equinox occurs midway between the longest day of the year, at Summer Solstice, and the longest night of the year, at Winter Solstice. It is called an Equinox from the Latin “equal” and “night” because (as on the Spring Equinox) the night and day are the same length. In 2011, the Autumn Equinox happens at 9:04 a.m. on September 23.

Autumn Equinox reminds us not only to be grateful for the long Summer days of bright light and warmth that nourished our bodies, souls, and earth, but also to orient consciously to the changing season and the growing darkness. We’re headed into a darker, quieter, more internal time as we move toward the Winter Solstice. We can take a lesson from the leaves on the trees that will soon blaze with their last, vivid colors and then start to let go and fall to the ground. They know how to surrender to the changing of the seasons—and they do so with such splendor and beauty!

As this new season begins and we head into the changing colors and falling leaves, into a time of growing darkness, **what changes do you need to surrender into?** The summer of expansion, abundance, and blossoming is coming to an end. What quieter, calmer, more inward rhythm is calling to you? Can you hear it and heed its call? Can you allow yourself to change colors and fall like the leaves, if necessary, all the way to the ground? What wisdom is there for you? You may want to write in a journal, or try a short ritual alone or with friends. A ritual could include:

- Lighting a candle of yellow, gold, or autumn colors;
- Sitting in silence and reflecting on your harvest from the summer and what you are being called to surrender as we move into the growing dark;
- Nourishing yourself with bread, apple cider or other seasonal juice, and any local, freshly harvested food;
- Naming or making a list of all the things you are grateful for (your harvest);
- Sitting quietly and breathing into the support, nourishment, and care you have received that will help you make this next transition with ease and grace;
- Saying thank you and blowing out the candle.



After the Autumn Equinox, the days slowly become shorter and shorter, until at Winter Solstice, we’ll be back to the longest night. May you welcome and find grace in this changing of the seasons.

Autumn Blessings,

Katy Taylor. Seasonal Coordinator Worship Associate, katy@thewingedheart.net

Spiritual Practice for Teachers

Saturday, September 24 • 9:00–Noon • Parish Hall

“A teacher who is attempting to teach without inspiring the pupil with a desire to learn is hammering on a cold iron.” — Horace Mann

Inspiring students to learn requires managing complex curricula, multifaceted relationships, and finite resources. It’s hard not to take the pressures—and work—home at night. So how do teachers find inspiration, time for reflection, and a deeper connection to this important work? Spiritual practice can be genuinely helpful. Rob Eller-Isaacs is offering a three hour workshop designed especially for professional educators. **Registration is required.** Please contact Martha Tilton by email at martha@unityunitarian.org or by phone at 651-228-1456 x105 to register.

Cost: Pledging: Free // Non Pledging: \$50.00

Wellspring

A Year of Spiritual Deepening

New group forming — limited to 10 participants.

Do you yearn for deeper connection to your faith and to the people here? Do you wish you had a better grasp of our traditions, history and theology? Do you dream of a day when you have the time to create a daily spiritual practice? Then you might want to know more about Wellspring, a year-long curriculum designed with spiritual deepening as the goal.

Wellspring was created to respond to the need for spiritual grounding in our own tradition and offers a five-spoke model of spiritual deepening. The five spokes of Wellspring include: daily spiritual practice, twice a month meetings with the Wellspring group, engagement with Unitarian Universalist history and theology, meeting monthly with a spiritual director and discerning our unique call in life.



Jen writes, “Engaged together, these five spokes create a powerful synergy that has fostered significant transformation in the lives of many of the participants. Most experience a deeper understanding and connection with Unitarian Universalism and their own spiritual lives.”

Unity's Wellspring group will begin in September and will meet twice a month through June 2012. Each session will have reading assignments that support our exploration and engagement of the topics and themes. For more information or to sign up, contact Janne Eller-Isaacs by email at janne@unityunitarian.org or by phone at 651-228-1456 x106.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Tutors and Mentors Needed!

As school is right around the corner, now is the time to sign up to help a St. Paul student with their reading and math skills. Unity Church is once again participating in the volunteer mentoring/tutoring program for students at the Barack and Michelle Obama Elementary across the street from the church.

The following story, by Unity Church member Dick Wright, describes Shelley and Dick Wright's experiences as mentor/tutors at Obama Elementary last year.

"Sherry, was my first student, and Sara, Shelley's first student. We volunteered to listen, and help these fourth graders enhance their reading skills. Armed with a background of significant reading, some years in college, some spare time and as is usually the case, a large amount of naiveté we ascended two floors, down a large long hallway to our prescribed classroom, or rather to the classroom of our students. Our classroom was the hallway; our chairs were the floor, with some support for our backs on the wall. Sherry and Sara seemed very comfortable sitting on the floor, opened their books, and began reading with an enthusiasm that soon neutralized our discomfort index. It was obvious that they wanted to be better readers. We wanted to help, thus began our mutual learning process. Thirty minutes later, the students were back in their classroom, we helped each other up, and proceeded down the hall, to be intermittently stopped, greeted, and thanked for coming to Obama School. On our next visit, a teacher offered chairs from her classroom, and the following visit fourth grade students waited for our arrival, and brought the chairs into the hall for us, and returned them at the end of our student reading time. Sherry and Sara's enthusiasm was enhanced by selecting books of personal interest. Our grandson Alec, on school break, was invited to attend an art class, while we were in a reading session. Six months later, Alec is referencing books that the art instructor brought to his attention. We knew we didn't have those kind of teaching skills, but we do know that our mentees did not miss a reading session, and with the skills of their teacher, and some help from Shelley and I, at year's end, Sherry and Sara read and understood what they were reading, well enough, to make us proud."

Volunteers are asked to commit to working with a student in reading and/or math once a week for the year. To sign up or for more information, please contact Pat Haff by email at pat@unityunitarian.org or by phone at 651-228-1456 x126.

LOVE + COMMITMENT = MARRIAGE

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

On June 11, thirty seven people attended a Unity Church gathering sponsored by the Interweave Ministry Team to indicate their interest in working to defeat the proposed Minnesota Constitutional Marriage Amendment in 2012.

People were interested in connecting with other Minnesota organizations that are working to oppose the amendment such as Minnesotans United For All Families, MUUSJA (Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance), Standing on the Side of Love (Unitarian Universalist Association), and Outfront Minnesota, with a particular focus on joining interfaith efforts.

Since then, Unity Church member Grant Wacker has attended an organizing meeting of Minnesotans United For all Families to learn more about what collective plans are developing with these groups and he will share these at the gathering on October 2, at 12:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend this meeting to discuss ways for Unity Church to collaborate in these campaigns with the powerful emerging message of "Love + Commitment = Marriage."



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 September 18: canned fruit.



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, September 14. Orders will be delivered to Unity Church on Wednesday, September 21.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

6th Annual Unity Church Pilgrimage to New Orleans



The sixth Unity Church New Orleans Pilgrimage will take place from November 6–12, 2011. The pilgrimage includes a hands-on building project and programming that focuses on the historical, cultural and political aspects of this unique and amazing city. There will be opportunities to hear from residents who are playing important roles in the reemergence of the city after the devastating flood following Katrina. Each of these journeys includes regular times set aside for reflection on the pilgrimage experience. For more information, contact Pat Haff by email at pat@unityunitarian.org or by phone at 651-228-1456 x126.

Keeping Up with UUSC

Somalia — In light of the worsening humanitarian crisis in Somalia and other countries in East Africa, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) has launched a multifaceted program to provide immediate relief to Somalis suffering from the famine as well as to support communities hosting Somali refugees in other countries affected by the mounting devastation.

To learn more about the underlying causes of the world's worst food-security crisis in 20 years, visit www.uusc.org and read "Understanding the Mechanisms that Created the Horn of Africa Famine" and "Measuring Hunger, Building Resilience."

To donate to the UUSC Somalia and East Africa Relief Fund, send checks to UUSC, PO Box 808, Newark, NJ 07101-0808 or go to www.uusc.org and click on "Relief Fund for East Africa Famine." Identify Unity Church in St. Paul as your congregation.

Pakistan — After the massive monsoon flooding that inundated Pakistan last year the UUSC began working with the Doaba Foundation to support the recovery of 30 flood-affected semi nomadic families. Doaba is assisting these families to acquire land and permanent housing.

Haiti — Bill Schulz, President and CEO of the UUSC, recently visited APROSIFA, a groundbreaking UUSC partner serving earthquake victims in Haiti. APROSIFA provides family planning information not widely available elsewhere; remediates malnutrition and trains parents how to avoid it in the future; and, most remarkably, uses art therapy to steer misdirected adolescents into constructive paths.

Locally — The UUSC has generated ways for individuals and congregations to put UUSC values into action. Examples are: creating person-to-person relationships among people of different faiths to overcome religious prejudice, supporting refugees and victims of torture, and conducting the Guest at Your Table annual UUSC philanthropy project. If you are looking for ways to "make a difference" join the newly forming UUSC team. Contact Marty Rossmann, rossm001@umn.edu for more information and to sign up!



SHARE

the

**P
L
A
T
E**

SEPTEMBER 25

**Following the
9:00 and 11:00
a.m. services**

An opportunity
to meet
representatives
from community
non-profit
organizations
that have received
an offering
from
Unity Church.

Sunday

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Last Chance!

Register for Religious Education Before Sunday School Starts!

New and returning families! Would you like your child to participate in Religious Education, which begins on September 18? Please join us for our Orientation and Registration session on Wednesday, September 7, at 7:00 p.m. Childcare is provided. One parent should attend for each family.

Many classes are filled to capacity but all families can be accommodated at one of the three services. Please come with a flexible spirit and a sense of which volunteer role would best fit your talents and interest. If you can't attend the September 7 session, please join us for the October 5 registration; your child will be enrolled in time to start Sunday School on October 9.

Helpful Reminders: How to do Sundays with Kids

Here are some tips about where and when your children or youth should be during Religious Education:

Nursery

- Infants and toddlers ages 6 months (and sitting up) through 3 years can be signed in to the nursery starting 15 minutes before each service.
- No registration required.
- Label all diaper bags and personal belongings.
- Please take a pager or leave your cell phone number.
- Collect your little ones immediately after worship.

Spirit Play

- Registered children ages 3-K can be signed in to their Spirit Play preschool class beginning 10 minutes before the service.
- Check to make sure two TEACHERS are in the room; if not, stay with your child until they arrive.
- Nametags are in the pocket charts on the door. Leave nametags in the pockets when you leave.
- Collect your preschooler immediately after worship.

Workshop Rotation

- 9:00 a.m., 4:30 p.m. – Registered children in Grades 1-6 should be escorted to the Ames Chapel starting 10 minutes before worship.
- Check to make sure at least two JOURNEY GUIDES are in the Chapel; if not, stay with your child until they arrive.
- Nametags will be distributed on the first Sunday of R.E. After that, parents are responsible for using the pocket charts near each exit to store and retrieve nametags each Sunday. For safety and community-building reasons, please assure that your child wears a nametag while in the church building.
- Collect your child from their Workshop (varies each week, check signage) 15 minutes after the end of worship (10:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 5:45 p.m.).

Junior High (Grades 6, 7 and 8)

- Junior High youth are permitted to escort themselves to and from classes.
- Youth should wear a nametag while in the church building for reasons of safety and community-building.
- Parents should check with their youth or teachers to see if any important communication was sent home with students.

R.E. Teacher Training

Have you committed to a teaching role in our shared ministry with children and youth? Please join us for informative and friendly sessions that will orient you to your role and to the art of faith development, in general. Trainings will be held all day Saturday, September 10, as well as in the evening on Wednesday, September 14 (see schedule below).

Decide which trainings you'll need to attend and then visit the church's website (<http://www.unityunitarian.org/teacher-trainings.html>) to sign up online to participate. Contact Kerri Meyer by email at kerri@unityunitarian.org in the Religious Education office for more information.

Schedule of Training Sessions

Saturday, September 10

9:00 a.m.: Workshop Rotation Training
9:00 a.m.: Welcome Family Training
10:00 a.m.: Special Needs Orientation
11:00 a.m.: Journey Guide Training
11:00 a.m.: Faith Development in Children
1:00 p.m.: Workshop Rotation Training
1:00 p.m.: Behavior Management in the R.E. Classroom
2:00 p.m.: Spirit Play Training
2:00 p.m.: Welcoming Kids with Special Needs
3:00 p.m.: Junior High Teacher Training
4:00 p.m.: Journey Guide Training
4:00 p.m.: Junior High Teams
5:00 p.m.: Spirit Play Training

Wednesday, September 14

7:00 p.m.: Spirit Play Training
7:00 p.m.: Behavior Management for the R.E. Classroom
8:00 p.m.: Journey Guide Training
8:00 p.m.: Junior High Teams

MUSIC MINISTRY

Music Notes

from Ruth Palmer,
Director of Music Ministry



"A bird doesn't sing
because it has an answer,
it sings
because it has a song."

— Maya Angelou

Mid-August brings to me the stirring of excitement for the new season here at Unity Church. I begin to literally feel the presence of all the musicians I work with and to feel the sounds that will be created and shared. This season, I especially hear the sound of the many voices of Unity Church singing: familiar voices; new voices; voices challenging, confirming, questioning, affirming, needing, caring, peaceful, questing, wise, with variation of every kind... loving voices.

My hope this year is to create opportunities for endless singing together as we continue to grow and stretch into all that we can be along with supporting all that we already are.

If you are hesitant to sing, remember the famous quote of Marilyn Penland, "Sing out loud in the car even, or especially, if it embarrasses your children." Have courage in the pews as we sing hymns together, as you join with small groups, short-term commitment ensembles, our wonderful choirs and even the important role of support to those that are singing actively.

Sing for those who cannot sing
"You can cage the singer but not
the song." — Harry Belafonte

Sing from within
"The singer has everything within
him. The notes come out from his
very life. They are not materials
gathered from outside."
— Rabindranath Tagore

At the very least.....sing!
"If I cannot fly, let me sing."
— Stephen Sondheim

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.

Please feel free to contact Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministries, with any of your questions at ruth@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x118. Details about dates and rehearsals will be available on the website and in upcoming issues of *commUNITY*.

First rehearsals for this church year are as follows:

Children's Choir (grades 1–5): Sunday, September 18, from 10:00–11:00 a.m. in the Foote Room. Kathleen Radspinner, director

Unity Choir (high school and adult): Thursday, September 8, from 7:30–9:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Come at 7:00 p.m. for a chance to visit and share some snacks before this opening rehearsal begins. Ruth Palmer, director

Unity Singers (auditioned membership): Tuesday, September 13, from 7:30–9:30 p.m. This choir works to create a particular ensemble balance of 16 singers. **IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN AUDITIONING TO SING WITH THE UNITY SINGERS FOR SOME PROJECTS THIS YEAR, please contact Ruth Palmer as soon as possible!** Ruth Palmer, director

Carmina Singers (high school and adult): A "one-time" experience that meets for a few rehearsals and then performs once in our services. **Please let Ruth know of your interest in the Carmina Singers.**

"Walk-in" Choir (high school and adult) - An opportunity for those who would love to sing but just cannot make choir rehearsals. Come and meet together for a 45 minute rehearsal, then sing in our 4:30 service or combined project with other choirs! It could be a folk song with guitar, a round, an African call and response, etc. **Please let Ruth know of your interest in the "Walk-in" Choir.**

Women's Ensemble: This originates with the group of women who worked with Ruth at the last Women's Retreat in January 2011. Let's build on this experience! **Please let Ruth know of your interest in the Women's Ensemble.** We will rehearse at specific, short-term announced dates for particular times to sing.

Calling All Singers!

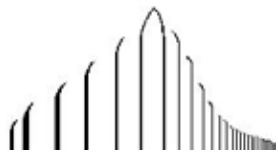
Interested in Carmina Singers, "Walk-in" Choir and Women's Ensemble? We would love to have you sing with Unity Choir, Unity Singers, Children's Choir and Youth Ensemble on Sunday, September 25 at the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services. Rehearsals will be Sunday, September 18, from 10:15–10:45 a.m. in Robbins Parlor. Warm-up rehearsal with all choirs on Sunday, September 25, from 8:00–8:40 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

One Voice Mixed Chorus

OneVoiceMixedChorus, Minnesota's GLBTA Chorus, **will hold auditions for fall 2011 on Tuesday, September 6, at Unity Church.**

The fall concert, *Brave Souls and Dreamers*, was arranged especially for One Voice by composer Robert Seeley and celebrates the lives of visionary leaders who have challenged prejudice and violence.

For audition or concert information visit www.ovmc.org or call 651-298-1954.



UNITY CHURCH—UNITARIAN

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LEON DUNKLEY, DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

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**TIME SENSITIVE
MATERIAL**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Merging of Waters

All congregation worship and picnic!

September 11 • 10:00 a.m.

Come merge the waters of the world in a time of reunion as the entire church family gathers to turn with the turning of the year. Together we will consider the dangers and opportunities implied by the 10th anniversary of 9/11. Musical guest: Irie Sol.

- **Bring the water you have collected during the summer for this annual water ritual.**
- **Location:** The service and picnic will be held in the park directly north of Barack and Michelle Obama Service Learning Elementary (which is located directly north of Unity Church).
- **Parking:** Park in the church lots, on the street, or in the Obama Elementary parking lots. Golf cart rides will be available from the Unity Church parking lots to the service site for those needing assistance. **Biking, walking, and carpooling are strongly encouraged!**
- **Lunch:** Bring your own picnic lunch as well as a favorite dish to share with others sitting near you. Beverages will be provided.
- **Nursery care:** For children ages three and under will be provided during the worship service.
- **Musical guests:** Irie Sol is comprised of eight musicians who play guitar, bass, sax, trumpet, flute, drumset, djembe, and conga. This allows the band to bring in a variety of styles and influences, including the diverse vocal renderings of three singers. There is everything here from island music to soaring Spanish trumpet and guitar solos, and everything in between. Irie Sol writes original music and has released a new CD, *Solstice*. www.ariesol.com



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