

Unity

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.

Rev. Forrest Church famously said “Religion is the human response to being alive and knowing you have to die.” As we enter the beginning of the church year — with school just starting and the election looming on the horizon — being human in the midst of it all can feel overwhelming. Our nation has yet to realize its full potential because so many systems of oppression are in place. At times the act of living can take all of our energy. For me, many times when I tuned into the news this summer, it felt as if the unity of the interdependent web of life was a hard to reach concept. If religion is a human response to living then the goal of unity is often cited as a place on a hill, a place that has yet to be reached but that we are all striving towards. Unity in theology is something that we have struggled to articulate and name for centuries.

Historically the term of unity within Unitarian Universalism is directly linked to one of the beginnings of the interfaith movement. Jenkin Lloyd Jones, William Channing Gannett, and the Iowa Sisterhood all made the conscious decision to move Unitarianism beyond Christianity. To recognize that experiencing the holy is central to religious experience and that the traditional ways of doing this no longer felt relevant and that a diversity of voices was needed.

With a diversity of voices comes an inherent tension within the concept of unity because it is often embraced at the loss of particularity. We are all Unitarian Universalists but within that we are different in our identities and in our ways of approaching the world. When we try to group people and things into categories we lose the beauty of diversity. It is human to categorize; it helps to promote feelings of being in control and that there is an

order to things. Often when that which is different from us is framed in terms of categorization then vulnerability and openness is lost. In Zen Buddhism there is a phrase “not one, not two.” This asks us to refrain from the urge to categorize and to embrace looking at the world by being open and continuously challenging the categories that our brains are hard wired towards.

We come to this church and focus on the bigger picture of what is really important and working towards a beloved community. We stay in the work with our eyes on the horizon towards something bigger than ourselves embracing that which we cannot foresee. With our unified values and experiences the church holds people in the midst of a broken and hurting world. When Philando Castile was killed, people from this church went to the vigil not because anyone told them to but because of the uniting belief that grief and bearing witness in times of loss and tragedy is a common thread in each of us.

When times of tragedy and grief occur we are driven towards one another to cling, hug, and hold each other. When being in the same space is not possible for many social media helps to promote a sense of connection and unification. At the time that Philando Castile was killed I was in Salt Lake City, Utah and I could see my friends and colleagues reaching out in mourning across social media. Reaching out to each other, crying out in pain. This helped me to feel not alone, and that I am a part of something bigger. Something in which our shared values of justice and equity unite us across miles.

Unity can be a both/and as we strive towards the Beloved Community. Religion within this community is a human response to the world that holds

us in our living and dying and breaks our hearts over and over again. In these uncertain times, there are some things we can be sure of. We can be certain that the world needs us to show up; that systems of oppression will continue and we have to stay focused on struggle for equity and justice. As we sit in our pews, united by our common beliefs and values, we sing as our hearts soar, moving together with hands clasped and voices raised in song. When beautiful music rings through this church, in that moment, it can feel like we are all as one in our experience of beauty. We experience the holy, the divine mystery that connects us as we worship each Sunday. This experience we take into and share with the world. This is the holy work, the work that brings the holy from this place out into the world.

*Hallman Ministerial Intern Jessica Clay
with this month's theme team:
Nic Cable, Janne Eller-Isaacs, Rob Eller-Isaacs, Karen Hering, and KP Hong*

Unity Theme Resources

FOR FAMILIES

One by Kathryn Otoshi (book)
ANTZ (1998, movie)
Zootopia (2016, movie)

VIDEO

The Danger of the Single Story by Chimamanda Adichie (TedTalk):
<http://bit.ly/916unity>
The Interrupters (documentary):
<http://bit.ly/916interrupters>

BOOKS

A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward An Undivided Life by Parker Palmer
The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement by The Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II, and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove

Just Words



It's been a tough summer. The tone of civic discourse has been harsh and juvenile. Systemic racism, our original wound, and the violence that attends it, loomed large again. We heard from friends and colleagues in despair saying they saw no way forward. But the words attributed to Quaker George Fox said to have been written from his prison cell ring true to me. "My life goes on in endless song above earth's lamentations."

Yes, it has been a tough summer and, as always, the beauty has carried us through. Poet Denise Levertov writes in "Beginners":

*. . . We have only begun to imagine the fullness of life
How could we tire of hope? — so much is in bud.
How can desire fail? — we have only begun to imagine justice and mercy . . .
Not yet, not yet — there is too much broken that must be mended,
too much hurt we have done to each other that cannot yet be forgiven.
We have only begun to know the power that is in us if we would
join our solitudes in the communion of struggle.
So much is unfolding that must complete its gesture,
so much is in bud.*

And it has been a glorious summer. Here at Unity Church the children have been tending the garden, growing food and flowers to brighten the lives of our neighbors. Sunday services have been nourishing, vibrant, and inspiring. Our partners in the Black Lives Matter movement, the Circles of Peace, Mano a Mano and so many others are marching and dancing and shouting and singing their way, our way, past trauma and through tears toward the place Toni Morrison calls, "the grace we can imagine." In the wake of the death of Philando Castile thousands of us gathered at J.J. Hill School where he had been a treasured member of the staff, to mourn together and re-consecrate our covenant of solidarity. He would have been so proud.

"For all that is our life we sing our thanks and praise." As I write, the songs we sing together are ringing in my ears. The life we share sounds inside me like a bell that calls me back to church, to work and worship, to grieve and yes, to celebrate.

Gratefully yours,
Rob Eller-Isaacs



The Circle of Peace Movement celebrated its 300th Monday night circle on July 25! Congratulations to co-founders, Russel and Sarah Balenger, and all the volunteers and participants who make this circle possible! Photo by Erika Sanders

The Wheel of Life

In Memoriam

Mary Ann Huelster

April 14, 1925 – August 12, 2016

2016-17

Worship Themes

September: Unity
October: Forgiveness
November: Gratitude
December: Repair
January: Resistance
February: Prayer
March: Sin
April: Redemption
May: Blessing
June: Sabbath

Flowers for Worship

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

commUNITY is the newsletter of Unity Church–Unitarian. It is published monthly, except the month of July. Deadlines are the 15th 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 WORSHIP CALENDAR / OFFERING RECIPIENTS

Sunday Worship

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: *Mr. Phil and the Folly of Naïve Cynicism*

The killing of Philando Castile, the beloved “Mr. Phil” who fed the children at J.J. Hill Montessori School, traumatized our community beyond compare. It created the deepest despair and cynicism, but also a soaring resolve and renewed commitment for racial equity and more immediate action. In these dark days that try our souls, we must consider the timeless spiritual wisdom about despair being a “sin.” Moreover, cynicism and ennui is both symptomatic of white privilege and foolishly oblivious to the larger factual context around the arc of history. Dane Smith, worship leader; Rochelle Lockridge, worship associate. **10:00 a.m. service only!**

September 11: *Merging of Waters Family Sunday*

Come celebrate the start of a new church year by merging the waters of the world in a time of reunion. There will be a story for all ages, music from special guest Peter Mayer, and an opportunity to consider how best to make amends and to begin again in love. Please bring the water you have collected over the summer for this merging ritual. On Family Sundays, families worship together in the Sanctuary for the entire service.

September 18: *The Thread We Follow*

“There are a thousand ways to kneel and kiss the ground,” wrote Rumi. Yes, and there is one ground. Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs and worship associate Brian Newhouse will offer a service on why our church is called “Unity” and tell the story of how Unitarian Universalism became a world-embracing faith.

September 25: *The Unity of Whiteness*

The author and story teller Chinamanda Ngozi Adichie has written and spoken extensively about the dangers inherent in the single story of anyone's identity. Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs and worship associate Angela Wilcox will tackle the thorny issue of the single story of white skinned identity and its potential fragility.

Sunday Soup Suppers

Soup suppers are served each Sunday after the 4:30 p.m. service. Donations to off-set the cost of ingredients are gratefully accepted!

September 11: Chili

September 18: Umami Squash Soup or Corn Chowder

September 25: Oktoberfest Celebration!

- Slurp kielbasa and saurkraut soup or mushroom stew!
- Nosh on traditional German apple cake and pretzel rolls from Aki's Bread Haus!
- Strut around to polka music!
- Enjoy German themed games and crafts for families!

Offering Recipients

Each Sunday, thirty percent of the offering goes to support the Community Outreach Ministry at Unity Church and seventy percent is given to a chosen community non-profit recipient.

September 4: St. Paul Central High School Foundation Philando Castile Scholarship Fund

The Central High School Foundation has established a scholarship fund to honor the life and work of Philando Castile, a 2001 Central graduate, who was fatally shot by a St. Anthony police officer in July. The scholarship will be available for students who intend to study education, child development, or culinary arts. During the month of August, over \$25,000 was raised for the fund, making it possible for the scholarship to be offered annually. Castile worked as a cafeteria supervisor at J.J. Hill Montessori Magnet School and was beloved by many Unity Church families.

September 11: MNIPL

Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (MIPL) believes that passionate care of creation is an integral part of spiritual life and social justice. MIPL works in partnership with faith communities to build transformative POWER and to bring the LIGHT of collective insights and gifts to addressing climate change. MIPL strives to create a deeply rooted community voice for the rapidly growing climate justice movement. The collection today will pay for Unity's membership as a MIPL sustaining congregation, thus opening MIPL's abundant resources for Unity Church to draw upon. Dale Howey, Jessica Zimmerley, and Anna Newton stand tall as MIPL cheerleaders.

September 18: The Emily Program Foundation

The mission of the Emily Program Foundation is to save lives, change minds, and work to eliminate eating disorders. The Foundation provides education, advocacy, and support services in schools and communities. The Emily Foundation works tirelessly to combat appearance-based bullying through grassroots efforts to promote broadly-based conversations around food and bodies, between parents, caregivers, children and youth. Unity's Darcy Berus is the development officer for the Emily Program Foundation.

September 25: Frank Theatre

Frank Theatre is a professional theatre company committed to producing unique work that stretches the skills of the artists while simultaneously challenging the everyday perceptions of the audience through the exploration of ideas and issues of social, political, and cultural concern. Unity Church member Rebecca Flood is a supporter of Frank Theatre.

Please make Sunday offering checks payable to Unity Church.

If you would like to nominate a non-profit organization to receive a Sunday offering, please turn to page 12 to learn about the work of Unity's Generosity Ministry Team and the criteria they use for selecting organizations.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Unity in Hospitality

From Justin Cummins, Trustee



When people talk about hospitality, they often refer to bestowing gifts on others in the form of lodging or food. I think that hospitality means much more and that it is essential for all of us to embrace a broader understanding of the concept.

In truth, hospitality can be a transformative and even a salvific force in the world. Lofty words, I know, but let me explain why I believe hospitality means more than some may suppose. First, and perhaps most obviously, hospitality goes beyond simply offering a place to stay or something to eat; hospitality is about opening one's world — literally and figuratively — to others.

Second, hospitality means opening oneself up to the world of others. In other words, accepting gifts from others — especially from “the other” — paves the way for greater interpersonal connection and, therefore, more mutual understanding that enable all of us to live lives of integrity, service, and joy, more fully.

That hospitality is a two-way street means it is a powerful way to build solidarity across lines of faith, race, class, cultural experience, gender identity, sexual orientation, and other perceived or actual difference. Consequently, hospitality can help to create a profound sense of community that is as beautiful as it is necessary at a time when technology-induced isolation, hyper individualism, and political demagoguery seem to be increasing. In this context, hospitality provides a path to the Beloved Community.

In the spirit of fostering the Beloved Community, Unity's Board of Trustees recently broke bread with Above Every Name's pastors and deacon to deepen the covenant between the leadership of Unity and Above Every Name. During the dinner in the Parish Hall, we shared the food each of us contributed and — more importantly — personal stories and even jokes. Like the communal dinner, the emerging relationship between Unity and Above Every Name seeks to cultivate mutual understanding and mutual support as we continue to share our gifts and talents with each other. In short, the developing collaboration between Unity and Above Every Name aspires to embrace hospitality in the most meaningful sense of the word.

Importantly, this notion of hospitality is a necessary antidote for the poison being peddled in many parts of the nation today. At a time when significant rhetoric demonizes immigrants in this land of immigrants, incites physical attacks on peaceful protestors of color and their white allies, categorically demeans women, and boasts about banning all Muslims, it is vital for all of us to move beyond our comfort zone, connect with others in the spirit of true hospitality, and ultimately help to build the Beloved Community. To that end, the Board has been reviewing and revising its governance policies since the start of 2016. The Board looks forward to engaging the congregation in that regard as we move forward together.

2016 Unity Church Board of Trustees

Stuart Alger, Secretary: stuart.alger@stinsonleonard.com

Ginny Allen: library42@msn.com

Estelle Brouwer: ebrouwer@comcast.net

Justin Cummins: justin@cummins-law.com

Mark Foster, Chair: markhfoster@msn.com

Hal Freshley: halfresh@q.com

Peggy Lin: peggy.peggylin@gmail.com

Angela Newhouse: angelawnewhouse@gmail.com

Bailey Webster: webst176@umn.edu

Serve on Unity's Board of Trustees

Would you like to engage more fully in the life and mission of Unity Church? Consider serving on the Board of Trustees. Nominations are now open for three trustees, each serving a three year term which will begin following Unity's annual meeting in November 2016.

Board service is an excellent way to learn about church operations, build relationships with church leaders and other church members, learn policy governance, and gain appreciation for Unity's role in the wider community. No experience is necessary, but a willingness to learn and participate actively is essential.

To qualify for Board service, you must be a voting member of the congregation. Nominations will be considered by a committee consisting of representatives from the Board and the Anti-Racism Leadership Team. The nominating period is open through September 15.

Candidates will be interviewed in September with selections made and presented to the Board in October. Three candidates will then be presented for a congregational vote at the Annual Meeting in November.

Serving on Unity's Board is an effective way to live out your values while ensuring a strong foundation that can sustain and grow this vibrant community. Please contact one of the committee members below to express your interest or to nominate someone else as a candidate. You can also review a full job description posted job online at <http://bit.ly/ucbot2016>.

Mark Foster

markhfoster@msn.com

Justin Cummins

justin@cummins-law.com

Bailey Webster

webst176@umn.edu

Mary-Margaret Zindren (ARLT)

zindren@aia-mn.org

2017 PLEDGE DRIVE / ARLT

2017 Unity Church Pledge Drive

From Brian Newhouse, Pledge Team

Do you remember...

- that moment of silence in Sunday's service when you fully exhaled for the first time in a week;
- the reading or sermon that spoke exactly to or for you;
- a piece of music that touched some closed part of your soul;
- your pride in the courageous steps that Unity Church took in racial justice;
- the gratitude you felt as you dropped your kid(s) off for religious education;
- that delicious meal you enjoyed at Wellspring Wednesday?

This is the time of year when the elegant "machine" of Unity Church, with all its gears and the loving hand of our Executive Team on the wheel, needs to check its gas gauge. As we prepare to refill our tank for 2017, we're asking every Unity member to take a moment to think back on those experiences that have touched you in some way this year, and then respond *out of gratitude*, by offering to help fill the tank.

Unity Church is needed now more than ever in our troubled neighborhoods, nation, and world. Our church has become that rare place where everyday spirit and everyday justice meet, where differences are honored and celebrated, where nourishment, worship, music, education, and inspiration make a real difference in the lives of so many. We see this too in our community partnerships with groups such as Black Lives Matter, Circles of Peace, and Mano a Mano.

But the values underneath these initiatives call us to build on them. Here are a few key initiatives we propose to develop next year, each needing new funding:

- increasing staff hours in Religious Education so more families can be served;
- increasing our commitment to racial equity and justice work;
- providing a 3% cost of living increase for all staff;
- guaranteeing a \$15/hour minimum wage for all staff;
- increasing staff hours in financial management.

Have you already pledged for 2017? A huge thanks! Can you consider an increase so our church can build these initiatives?

If you're one of the 300+ active Unity Church households who have yet to pledge, your Pledge Team, your fellow-Unity members, all of us are asking you to step up. Express your gratitude, signal your commitment, tell the rest of Unity Church (and the world), that you're in. Plant a financial flag of whatever size on this beach.

As for what's on the horizon: please watch for pledge materials that will land in your home mailbox in the next few weeks. We're also going to be meeting in group settings (choirs, religious education orientation, community outreach teams, welcome/cooking teams) this fall to spread the word. And to cap it off, we're going to have a special day of events, October 15, with a sing-along, lunch, opportunities for service projects, and more.

Whether you're a new or longtime Unity Church member, we hope you find this very special place exactly what we proclaim it to be from the chancel each Sunday: a place in which your integrity, service, and joy can be fully expressed. With gratitude for this place, please join us in filling up the tank to go even further next year.

Help Build an Actively Anti-Racist Church

Unity's Anti-Racism Leadership Team Seeks New Members

The Anti-Racism Leadership Team (ARLT) works with the Board of Trustees and the Executive Team to further Unity's goal of becoming an actively anti-racist institution. The Board of Trustees will be appointing several members this year to fill vacancies on the team. The work of the ARLT is focused internally, on all aspects of church life — from the education and training programs offered to the congregation, to making Unity Church a welcoming and inclusive church community, to policies and procedures that reflect our commitment to anti-racism.

In the near term, the ARLT will be working with Unity's staff, community outreach teams, and external partners to plan and implement new programs and to record the church's progress toward becoming an anti-racist institution.

To learn more about the team or the appointment process, contact Drew Danielson (staff liaison to the ARLT) at drew@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x112, Mark Foster (Board chair), or any of the ARLT members: Gabrielle Mead, Peter Heege, Russ Peterson, Vicki Stewart and Mary-Margaret Zindren. A full description of the responsibilities and expectations of the position is available online at www.unityunitarian.org/antiracism-leadership-team.html.

Make a Pledge for 2016

If you have not yet made a pledge for 2016 and would like to do so, please contact Barbara Hubbard at barbara@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x116. Pledge payments and donations can be made online at <https://secure.aceptiva.com/?cst=1aadb6>.

MINISTERIAL INTERNS

2016-17 Hallman Ministerial Intern

Jessica Clay



Unity Church has been on my radar since I began seminary in 2013. I asked many ministers where I should go for my internship and the answer most often given was Unity Church—Unitarian. Having spoken with many previous Hallman Interns who spoke so highly of the ways you taught and supported them in their ministerial growth, I feel honored to be here.

I am originally from California but moved away at age 16 to Salt Lake City, Utah, which is where many family members still reside. I have lived in Portland, Oregon; New York City, New York; and Baltimore, Maryland. Recently I was back in California for seven years, and graduated from Starr King School for the Ministry this past May.

The religion of my childhood was born again Christianity and in my early adult years I did not attend church nor considered myself to be religious. I didn't think there was a church that could accept me wholly and completely. In 2009 I took the belief.net quiz "What religion are you?" and it said I was 99% Unitarian Universalist, a religion which I had never heard of. The following Sunday I went to the UU church in my city, and felt as if I had come home.

I come to ministry as a second career, my first being occupational therapy. I have worked with children with special needs in schools, many different hospital settings, and skilled nursing facilities. I was an occupational therapist for many years but increasingly felt like I wasn't doing the work I was called to do. At the same time I was very active in my home congregation, the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica.

As a child I was always drawn towards helping, I can remember reading stories of Mother Teresa and feeling drawn to that kind of work. This is what my call to ministry came out of, and the more I spent time with my UU community, the more clear it became that this was my faith, the faith where I wanted to root my career.

Since entering seminary I was very involved in student body leadership, being student body vice-president my first year and student body president my second year. I was also very active in prison volunteering; participating in restorative justice and teaching a curriculum called "Houses of Healing" at San Quentin and the Dublin, CA, prison for women.

In my free time I love to go for hikes with my two dogs, bake cookies, watch theater and opera, and take improv comedy classes. I am so looking forward to being a part of your community and journeying with you on your paths. Ministry is such a blessing, I feel privileged to be here and look forward to getting to know many of you over this next year.

Please feel free to contact me at jessica@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x109.

2016-17 Ministerial Intern

Nic Cable



A Journey Back to Unity

Unity Church feels like a homecoming, of sorts. I am not exactly sure why. It is not because I once called this church home. Perhaps it is because Unity is a spiritual community where mission and welcome are painted on the walls with such intention and aspiration that something feels familiar

and even restorative upon arriving here. Like coming home.

Then again, I am born of the Midwest, born of this same intention and aspiration. I am a child of Wisconsin, of flat lands, and cold winters, and a never ending perseverance to build a better world. Growing up in Milwaukee, I was born *into* Unitarian Universalism, into a living tradition that is shared with our spiritual foremothers and forefathers who sought new beginning in the West.

My journey to Unity came after attending DePaul University in Chicago, where I met my best friend, my wife, Hattie. It was there that I also recognized the transforming power of interfaith partnerships in justice work, even amidst the complexities of difference. It was through these complexities of difference and the commitment to nevertheless strive toward greater justice that I glimpsed at Beloved Community for the first time. My call to ministry gained new clarity and focus. I felt called to return to Unity, to return not in spite of difference, but through difference, with difference as a faithful companion along the journey. It was a call to bring along with me, with us, the diverse experiences of life that draw ever widening circles of possibility for creating a more just and compassionate world.

I studied for the ministry at Chicago Theological Seminary and valued the continued blessing of learning to serve through difference. This led me to serve our Unitarian Universalist Association in the Stewardship and Development staff group, while Hattie pursued her law degree in Michigan. I traveled across the country to connect with UUs who believe, as I do, in the prophetic power and promise that emerge from our coming together in faith. During this time, I also worked part-time for the UU Church of Greater Lansing, which offered a breathtaking vantage point of our shared, and our distinct, and ultimately our interdependent longings for a better world.

And so it is with gratitude that I enter a year of continued discernment, learning, and co-creating with all of you, here, at Unity. It is a feeling of return and yet of new beginning. It is a feeling of connection and yet also reconnection to something larger that is emerging. But coming back to Unity is perhaps, above all, the gift of possibility. I look forward to the possibilities to get to know you all, to imagine our shared ministry together, and then to go out and make it so. It is good to be home.

Please feel free to contact me at nic@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x129.

WELCOME WORDS / FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Welcome Words



As we begin an exciting new program year at Unity Church, I want to welcome back those of you who took a summer break from church and offer a continued welcome to those of you who discovered Unity as a spiritual home during these dappled summer days. Whether you are a long-term or

brand new member of our community, I hope that you will consider the rich offerings this fall and connect with what can feed your soul and encourage you on your faith journey. I hope that you will greet the people around you and make some new friends. I hope that together we will remind one another of the many ways in which we are a part of something much larger than ourselves. Welcome and see you in church!

Rev. Lisa Friedman

Minister of Congregational and Community Engagement

Pathway to Membership Classes

Sign up for Pathway to Membership classes at the Welcome Table on Sundays or contact Rev. Lisa Friedman, Minister of Congregational and Community Engagement, at lisa@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x107. She is also happy to meet with you personally to answer questions and to welcome you into the congregation. Childcare is available by request at least one week in advance.

Welcome to Unity: Our Class for Newcomers

Sunday, September 18 • 12:15-1:30 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.

Finding Yourself at Unity: A Deeper Inquiry

Finding Yourself at Unity is now offered on a regular basis on Sundays from 10:15–11:15 a.m. in the Ames Chapel. These sessions can be attended in the order that works for you. In these classes, we will have an opportunity to share part of our religious journey, to take a more in depth look at the history of Unity Church, to discuss the expectations and benefits of membership, and get to know the programs and ministries of the congregation. Childcare is available in the nursery.

September 4: No Class (Labor Day Weekend)

September 11: Building Tour

September 18: Q & A with the minister

September 25: Worship & the Liturgical Year

Committing to Unity: Joining Unity Church

Wednesday, September 28 • 7:15-9:00 p.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 concludes with a celebration ceremony as participants sign the membership book and join the church!

Fellowship Groups

These groups are open to all members and friends of Unity Church. If you are looking to connect with a group, please contact the person listed, visit the church website, or call the church office at 651-228-1456.

A New Look at the Bible: Second Thursday of the month (September 8) at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528

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

Caregivers Group: An informal support group for caregivers. Third Thursday of the month (September 15) from noon–2:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at janne@unityunitarian.org

Evergreen Quilters: Second Tuesday of the month (September 13) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and fourth Saturday of the month (September 24) from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Contact: Peggy Wright at 651-698-2760.

Living With Grief Group: For people living with grief and loss. Third Tuesday of the month (September 20) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at janne@unityunitarian.org

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

Textile Arts Group: Bring your knitting, crocheting, tatting, embroidery, and cross stitch. All ages and levels of experience are welcome! First and third Wednesdays (September 7 and 21), 7:00-8:30 p.m. Contact: Linda Mandeville at lindamandeville@aol.com.

Unitots!: A drop-in playgroup for families with kids through preschool age. Monday and Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-noon. Contact Michelle Hill at michelle@unityunitarian.org

Unity Book Club: Second Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. All are welcome—even if you haven't read the book. Contact Jack Hawthorne at jack.hawthorne@comcast.net. Upcoming discussions:

September 13: *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande

October 11: *Haunted Ground* by Erin Hart

November 8: *Some of My Best Friends Are Black* by Tanner Colby

Unity Bridge Club: The Bridge Club will meet on Friday, September 2, at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Priscilla Swartz at 651-454-3209.

Women In Retirement, The Choice Years: This group meets the second and fourth Thursday (September 8 and 22) of each month from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org

Sangha Zen Meditation: Find renewal and grounding. Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m., in the Ames Chapel. Instruction is offered on the first Tuesday (September 6) beginning at 5:00 p.m. Contact Ken Ford at kenfaure@gmail.com

WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY

Welcome Back Wellspring Wednesday!

Wellspring Wednesday is a multi-generational opportunity to gather midweek at church for food, fellowship, and fun.

Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m., followed by worship in the Ames Chapel at 6:45 p.m., and an evening of rich programming beginning at 7:10 p.m.

All are welcome. Childcare is available and you do not have to sign up in advance.

Dinner: The cost for dinner is: \$7/adult, \$4/child ages 5 to 12, \$2/child ages 2 to 4, and \$20/family. (Children under the age two are free.) All meals will offer vegetarian, vegan and gluten free options. People with specific food allergies may contact madeline@unityunitarian.org to arrange to have a special preparation. Email Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org for financial assistance to help cover the cost of dinner.

Join a Wellspring Wednesday Cooking Team

Help with shopping, cooking, serving, and cleaning is needed on Tuesday and Wednesday evening throughout the church year. No specific skills are needed — we teach you everything you need to know! Contact madeline@unityunitarian.org if you would like to help!

Roasted Salmon with Green Herbs

Did you know that many of the members of the Wellspring Wednesday cooking teams have been cooking and serving meals for over ten years? Wow! To celebrate the ongoing food ministry of this community, we are printing some of Wellspring Wednesdays most requested recipes. This favorite is adapted from Ina Garten and the original recipe can be found here: <http://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/ina-garten/roasted-salmon-with-green-herbs-recipe.html>.

Ingredients

1 (2- to 2 1/2-pound) skinless salmon
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
1/4 cup good olive oil
Zest of one lemon
2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
1/2 cup minced scallions, white and green parts (4 scallions)
1/2 cup minced fresh dill
1/2 cup minced fresh parsley
1/4 cup dry white wine

Directions

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees. Place fish in a roasting dish and season it generously with salt and pepper. Whisk together the olive oil and lemon juice and drizzle over the fish. In a small bowl, stir together the lemon zest, scallions, dill, and parsley. Top fish with herb mixture. Pour the wine around the fish fillet. Roast the salmon for 10 to 12 minutes, until the thickest part is firm to the touch. Serve and enjoy!

September 14

Dinner: Chicken Tinga Tacos! Corn salad and all the fixings!

Stepping Stone Theater Acting Workshop

Welcome the return of Wellspring Wednesday with an acting workshop for elementary-age children. Participants will work closely with a professional teaching artist to develop performance skills. Through theatre games and acting exercises youth will gain confidence while working with others in the spotlight. The workshop will conclude with a short demonstration for family and friends.

Bible Study: Old Strong Stories

Let's take a deep look at how scripture can benefit our lives. Pastor Danny Givens, Jr., of Above Every Name Ministries and Rob Eller-Isaacs will lead Bible study on six consecutive Wellspring Wednesday evenings starting on September 14. This series is brought to you by Unity & Above!

Mother/Daughter Film Club

September film: *He Named Me Malala*

Please join Unity Church moms and daughters (grades 6 and up) on the second Wellspring Wednesday of each month for a female focused film. The following month, we'll discuss (nothing too formal) the previous month's film during dinner at designated tables. Feel free to join us for all films or just one. Questions? Contact Elizabeth Wrobel at wrobelsmith@hotmail.com.

Embodied Spiritual Practice

Yoga Movement and Mindfulness: Non-violence

This fall's Wellspring Wednesday yoga classes with Elen Bahr combine movement with a study of yoga philosophy. This week's theme is Ahimsa, the yogic practice of non-violence. The word ahimsa literally means not to injure or show cruelty to any creature or any person in any way whatsoever. Ahimsa is, however, more than just lack of violence as adapted in yoga. It means kindness, friendliness, and thoughtful consideration of other people and things. Ahimsa implies that in every situation we should adopt a considerate attitude and do no harm. As we move through kind, gentle poses, we will take time to reflect on this concept of non-violence toward ourselves and others. No previous yoga experience is required. Bring a mat if you have one. We will have a few available for loan.

Go: A Chinese Game

Join Unity Church member Bob Ruud for an evening of learning and playing the Chinese board game, Go. Anyone above the age of 10 is welcome to play. Bring your own board and set if you have one. www.usgo.org/what-go

Religious Education Teacher Training and Orientation

Details are on page 15 and online registration is available here: <http://www.unityunitarian.org/teacher-trainings.html>.

WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY

September 21

Dinner: Roasted chicken with ratatouille, rice, and greens

Emily Baxter: We Are All Criminals

One in four people in the United States has a criminal record. "We Are All Criminals" looks at the other 75%: those of us who have the luxury of living without an official reminder of a past mistake. We Are All Criminals is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that seeks to ignite social change through personal stories of crime, privilege, justice, and injustice. The participants in Emily Baxter's oral history project are doctors and lawyers, social workers and students, retailers, and retirees who consider how very different their lives could have been...had they been caught.

Emily Baxter is the Director of We Are All Criminals; a Bush Leadership Fellow and former director of advocacy and public policy at the Council on Crime and Justice.

Great College Search

This class will run from 7:15-8:45 p.m.

Can't tell the SAT from the ACT? Got your Wheatons mixed up? Experiencing FAFSA freak-out? For high school families, finding a college can be a stressful for the whole family. Learn how to optimize the process and become a critical consumer of colleges. The four weeks will cover these topics:

- **September 21, Session One:** Getting ready for the college quest and conducting a search
- **September 28, Session Two:** Creating a list of schools and applying to the schools you select
- **October 5, Session Three:** Financial aid basics
- **October 12, Session Four:** Competitive Colleges: What, Why (or Why Not), and How

Sessions will consist of presentations followed by time for questions and are for high school students and/or parents who are currently in or interested in starting a college search and application process. We'll also try to raise-up topics that might be of special interest to Unitarian Universalist searchers.

Craig Allen is a member of Unity Church and a certified college admissions counselor. He is also a member of the Higher Education Consultants Association and the Minnesota Association for College Admission Counseling.

Embodied Spiritual Practice

Yoga Movement and Mindfulness: Truthfulness

This week's theme, Satya, means "to speak the truth," and yoga teaches us we need to do this without causing harm. This precept is based on the understanding that honest communication and action form the bedrock of any healthy relationship, community, or government, and that deliberate deception, exaggerations, and mistruths harm others. As we move through poses that lead us to the truth, we will take time to reflect on the idea of Satya.

Textile Arts Group

Bring your knitting, crocheting, tating, embroidery, needlepoint, and cross stitch for an evening of fellowship and service. This group will meet regularly on the first and third Wednesday evenings. All ages and levels of experience are welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Linda Mandeville at lindamandeville@aol.com.

Bible Study: Old Strong Stories, Session 2

Go: The Chinese Board Game

Tween Group (grades 5-8) begins!

September 28

Dinner: Wild rice stuffed acorn squash with roasted corn and a white bean salad

Open Page Writing Session

Led by Consulting Literary Minister Karen Hering, Open Page participants use stories, poetry, images and objects as well as wisdom from religious teachings, science and history, to reflect on the month's theme in their own words. No writing experience is necessary.

A Hidden Wholeness:

Finding Unity in Diversity

RSVP to karen@unityunitarian.org

"The divided life is a wounded life, and the soul keeps calling us to heal the wound," writes Parker Palmer. This writing session explores the theme of "Unity" within and among us. How do we honor the necessity of differences while heeding the soul's call to heal the wounds that divide us?

Committing to Unity

Led by Rev. Lisa Friedman, 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 concludes with a celebration ceremony as participants sign the membership book and officially join the church!

Embodied Spiritual Practice

Yoga Movement and Mindfulness: Non-stealing

This week's theme, Asteya, addresses the idea of not taking anything that has not been freely given. This includes fostering a consciousness of how we ask for others' time, demand another's attention, or using something for a different purpose to that intended, or beyond the time permitted by its owner. As we move through our series of poses, we will take time to reflect on this concept of non-stealing.

Bible Study: Old Strong Stories, Session 3

Great College Search: Session Two

Tween Group (grades 5-8)

Go: The Chinese Board Game

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

RETURNING THIS MONTH: Beloved Conversations at Unity Church!



A Laboratory for Innovation in Faith Formation: Teaching Hearts and Minds to Open for Multicultural Change

Developed by Dr. Mark Hicks of The Fahs Collaborative at Meadville Lombard Theological School, Beloved Conversations is a teaching and learning curriculum that holds both the tensions and joys of an intentional multicultural community. The curriculum assumes that every conversation with another human being is a cross-cultural conversation, even if your conversation partner is from the same cultural group. Nested inside communities of faith, Beloved Conversations creates the first step — a learning laboratory — for how to live healthily in a multiracial, multicultural, and often theologically diverse community.

Facilitators from the Fahs Collaborative will lead the opening learning laboratory “retreat” (1.5 days) on September 23 and 24, 2016. The retreat explicitly models the pedagogy and spirit of the curriculum. Once the learning community is formed, eight, two-hour seminars are designed as follow-up sessions to help participants locate their individual and group assumptions about race and ethnicity in their lives. The curriculum is experiential and uses music, visual arts, digital media, theater, film, and the best practices of small group ministry to make its point.

Save the dates!

Opening Retreat: Friday (evening) and Saturday (all day), September 23-24

Session 1: Tuesday, September 27, 7:00 p.m.

Session 2: Tuesday, October 4, 7:00 p.m.

Session 3: Tuesday, October 11, 7:00 p.m.

Session 4: Tuesday, October 25, 7:00 p.m.

Session 5: Tuesday, November 1, 7:00 p.m.

Sessions 6 & 7: Saturday, November 12, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Session 8: Tuesday, November 15, 7:00 p.m.

If interested, please let us know! You can express your interest by completing the online form at www.unityunitarian.org/beloved-conversations.html. You may also contact Martha Tilton at martha@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x105.

Come; let's build the Beloved Community together, one Conversation at a time.

Dine with Nine Begins in October!

Are you interested in getting to know more people at Unity Church? Do you enjoy great food and lively conversation? Would you like to extend the hospitality of our community to both new and long term members alike? Beginning in October, small groups of Unity Church members and friends will gather in each other homes once a month for food and fellowship. Stop by the Dine with Nine table in the Parish Hall this September to find out more. You can sign up to participate online at www.unityunitarian.org/dine-with-nine.html, or by email to Teresa Wernecke at teresa475@gmail.com. Please include your contact information and let us know if you would like to sign up for a family or adult only group or whether you have particular location or transportation needs.



Group Spiritual Direction

We see clearly this summer so much in our world that needs transformation. Maybe we have tested out our own activism in a way we haven't before. Maybe we haven't figured out what to do or how to be with the political rhetoric, the blatant racism and the other overwhelming issues that face us. The kind of change we seek requires our action, but equally requires the difficult work of transforming our own hearts, disarming our own shadows, and becoming that change that we want projected and reflected in the world.

Join Spiritual Director Sarah Cledwyn for small group spiritual direction, a place where we gather to be explorers of our inner lives in order to raise our awareness and direct our choices toward more love and life. Our activism needs both outer and inner support to move us, and by extension all of us, into greater lives of integrity, service, and joy. Dates, cost, and registration can be found online at <http://www.unityunitarian.org/spiritual-direction.html>. Questions? Contact Sarah at sarahcledwyn@gmail.com or 651-699-9948.

Young Adult Potluck

Tuesday, September 27 • 6:30 p.m. • Center Room

Are you looking to meet other young adults (ages 18-35) at Unity Church? Bring your favorite dish to a relaxed evening of good company and conversation. Questions? Contact Rev. Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org.

District 8 Elections

Summit-University Planning Council Board of Directors

If you live in the neighborhood, support Unity Church's continued presence on the Summit-University Planning Council by voting on Saturday, September 10, in the Summit University Planning Council (SUPC) Board of Directors election. Cast your vote at the SUPC table at the Selby Avenue Jazz Fest. You must live within the SUPC boundaries (Summit to University, Lexington to Marion). Your vote counts!

Tour of Dakota Sacred Sites in the Twin Cities

The Saint Paul Interfaith Network (SPIN) and its Healing Minnesota Stories initiative are offering a Unity Church group tour of Dakota sacred sites located around the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, including:

- Fort Snelling State Park
- Dakota Internment Camp following the U.S.-Dakota War
- Pilot Knob Hill, a traditional burial ground

Tours are led by Jim Bear Jacobs and offer an opportunity to learn about Minnesota history from a Native perspective through storytelling. Come prepared for the weather and bring your own snacks.

Date: Saturday, October 1, 1:00-5:00 p.m. (rain or shine)

Capacity: 40 people

Cost: Suggested free will offering is \$25 day of tour. Donations support Healing Minnesota Stories programs and events.

Location and Transportation: Meet at Church of St. Peter (we travel to sites from there by individual auto caravan) located at 1405 Sibley Memorial Highway, St. Paul, MN 55120. We can help facilitate car pool arrangements with other attendees if you are unable to drive yourself.

Register online: www.unityunitarian.org/sacred-sites-tour.html

Questions? Contact christinesarkes@gmail.com or lisa@unityunitarian.org.

About Jim Bear Jacobs: Born in St. Paul, he is a member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Nation, an American Indian tribe located in central Wisconsin. He has degrees in Pastoral Studies and Christian Theology and has served various churches as youth minister, adult Christian educator, and director of Men's Ministries. Presently he is parish associate at Church of All Nations Presbyterian Church. He is a cultural facilitator in the Twin Cities and works to raise the public's awareness of American Indian causes and injustices. He is a convener of "Healing Minnesota Stories," a committee dedicated to creating events of dialogue and education particularly within faith communities.

Reading Materials:

Ojibwe in Minnesota by Anton Treuer (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2010)
Sacred Sites of Minnesota by John-Brian and Teresa Peneguy Paprock (Trails Books Guide, 2004)
Beloved Child: A Dakota Way of Life by Diane Wilson

Unity Children's Garden Update

September Harvesting: Join us in the garden between morning services on September 11, 18, and 25, to harvest for the foodshelf. If frost holds off, we may harvest into October. You can also help by saving clean clamshell produce containers for us this month. Contact Jessica Goff and her son Murray for more information at gojessgo@yahoo.com and 651-274-2835.



Driver Needed: We are looking for a driver to transport our food to the foodshelf during the week. If you are available at that time, please contact Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x107.

Garden Work Parties: Sunday, September 25, and October 9, at 12:15 p.m. Help us put the gardens to bed by weeding, spreading compost, and pulling spent plants. Bring gloves and shovels if you have them. Light meal will be provided. Contact Anna Newton at 651-295-1524 for more information.

Volunteer Corner

If you would like to volunteer and share your time and energy with the congregation, please contact Madeline Summers, Volunteer Coordinator, at madeline@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x126.

Obama Elementary Tutors

Volunteers are needed to tutor students at Obama Elementary (located across Holly Avenue from Unity Church) who are struggling with reading and/or math skills. Volunteers will be assigned one or two classroom teachers based on availability and are asked to spend at least one hour per week for three months in this significant service to children in our community. You can sign up in Parish Hall on Sundays or online at <http://www.unityunitarian.org/tutor-application.html>.

Food Ministry

Volunteers are needed to do easy kitchen tasks. Sign up for one opportunity — or many! No need for any special skills, training will be provided. Families can even volunteer together! Join us in the kitchen for fun and fellowship.

- Sundays: September 11 and 18, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- Tuesdays: September 20 and 27, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Wednesdays: September 21 and 28, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Sunday Welcome Teams

Additional Welcome Team members are needed at all services (9:00, 11:00, 4:30). 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, collect and count the offertory, and assist with serving coffee after the service. Welcome Team members are asked to serve at one service once per month.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Generosity Ministry

Nominate and offering recipient!

Imagine you have \$1,500 to give away each week of the year. You can give it to a terrific non-profit organization, anywhere in the world. Several people have suggested great ones, and it's your job to choose which organization should get the money, and when. Unbelievable?

Believe it or not, there are Unity Church members who do have this job. We're called the Generosity Team, because we get to decide how to be generous...with your money! Every week, 70% of the money that you put in the collection plate goes out the door to community organizations that have been nominated by church members.

Most weeks, 70% of the collection amounts to about \$1,400. Some weeks, there's more. And some weeks, we give away the entire collection. Since October 2006, when Unity Church began this system of sharing our wealth, we've given away \$800,000... nearly a million dollars! Even more remarkable, our average collection amount actually increased when we instituted this system of "giving away the plate."

The Generosity Ministry Team oversees the distribution of funds. We get together every couple of months to review nominations and choose the order in which selected groups should be funded.

So, how does the Generosity Team decide which nominated organizations to fund? We look at whether the organization's mission is consonant with the core values of Unity Church. We check whether the group has a connection with Unity through shared work or church support. Those are our hard-and-fast rules.

We also prefer it when the offering is significant in relation to the size of the organization's budget. Finally, although all nominations are considered, the Generosity Ministry Team places a special emphasis on smaller non-profits whose annual budget is \$500,000 or less.

Would you like to get in on this process? We welcome your nomination! To suggest a plate recipient, all you have to do is fill out the form available on the church website: <http://www.unityunitarian.org/nominate-the-offering.html>.

Members of the Generosity team include: Dick Buggs, Matt Brown, Patricia Ohmans, Rebecca Flood, Pam Ampferer, Laney Ohmans and Lisa Friedman. Contact any of us if you have questions. And heads up — we're planning an awesome Generosity event for October. Stay tuned!

Prior Crossing

A new housing facility for homeless youth located at 1949 University Avenue in St. Paul.

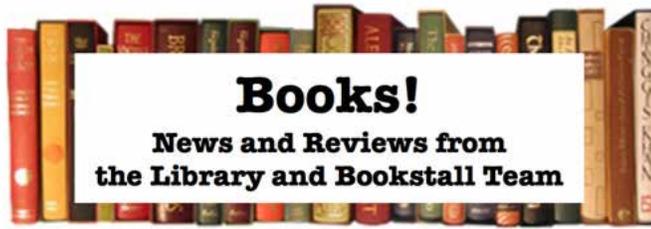
The Affordable Housing Team thanks the many people who have responded to the call to support Prior Crossing! As the opening day approaches, there are still some opportunities to be involved (contact Rev. Lisa Friedman — 651-228-1456 x107 and lisa@unityunitarian.org — with questions):

1. Volunteers are needed on Sunday, September 18, from 12:00–4:00 p.m., to work in groups assembling furniture for the apartments. Sign up online here: <http://signup.com/go/sq7f1f>. This is a one-time commitment.
2. Help fill the supply closet. Donations should be dropped off at the Bookstall on Sundays and in Lisa Friedman's office during the week. Volunteers are also needed to help sort the donations. Here is what is needed:
 - Full-size sheet sets, full and queen size blankets/comforters
 - Full sized mattress pads
 - NEW pillows
 - Towels: bath, hand, and washcloths
 - Shower curtain liners, shower curtain rings, bath mats
 - Microwave-safe dish sets
 - Kitchenware: pots and pans, silverware, cooking and serving utensils, measuring cups, mixing bowls, knives, graters, can openers
 - Trash can (tall kitchen size is ideal)
 - NEW cleaning supplies: sponges, dish soap, cleaning spray, laundry soap, toilet cleaner and brushes, brooms and dustpans
 - NEW hygiene products: Shampoo, deodorant, toilet paper
 - Financial contributions are also gratefully accepted and checks should be made out to "Unity Church" with "Prior Crossing Supply Closet" in the memo
3. Serve as a "Saturday Greeter." These individuals will commit to spending one Saturday each month at Prior Crossing. Shifts are three to four hours and responsibilities include greeting residents and visitors and answering the phone. Sunday Greeters will get to know the residents and interact during planned activities in the lounge area. Unity Church would like to provide four to six volunteers for this service. These volunteers would apply, agree to a background check, and receive training.

Nominations for MUUSJA Justice Leadership Awards

Do you know an unsung individual or group who is working for social justice? The Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance is collecting nominations for a youth group, congregation, lay leader and minister. Nominations are due September 8 and the awards will be given at MUUSJA's Celebration and Fundraiser on September 29. Get the details and make your nomination online at <http://www.muusja.org/>.

LIBRARIES & BOOKSTALL / PARISH HALL ARTIST



September Parish Hall Artist

Nancy Birger

Nancy began quilting in the early 1970s when as a substitute teacher in the Edina, MN, school system she took a class of high school seniors to the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Among the exhibits was one featuring Amish quilts. The geometric shapes applied directly to her teaching of math and science.

Nancy says she “was hooked.” Along with looking at examples and research into quilting history and fabric artistry came a virtual leap into making her own card board templates, soon replaced with margarine cover templates, and then free form cutting.

The work Nancy did in the beginning was of the traditional type including Amish, Colonial American, Hawaiian, and Native American designs and color palettes.

One thing always leads to another and as her interest and experience expanded, fiber dyeing soon augmented commercial fabrics. This allowed a greatly expanded sense of what could be accomplished with cotton and thread.

Color changes with location and climate. Sage green versus forest green, fuchsia sunsets versus cardinal red, desert sand and prairie grasses. Nancy says she has been strongly influenced by her color studies to create in various styles using paint, dye, bleach, silk screening, and even traditional fabrics to make wall hangings.

Nancy’s current work often has a bit of traditional quilting hidden in the design and execution. “My color choices have been influenced by living in nine houses and five states over 50 years of residing in various parts of the country.”

Making fiber art is a social way of life for Nancy. “Every time we move, I join a new guild, make friends, and invite them over to play.”

View Nancy's work online at www.littlemotherquilting.com.



Craftsman Poppy by Nancy Birger

Bumper Sticker Logic

Dennis Henigan author of *Guns Don't Kill People, People Kill People*, says that his book title/NRA bumper sticker is without a doubt “one of the greatest advocacy slogans ever conceived.” Henigan, a former vice-president of the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, delves into the logic behind the gun lobby’s successful use of slogans to steer the debate against gun control, while proving that logic deadly wrong. Note the subtitle of his book: *And Other Myths About Guns and Gun Control*.



FYI: Recent info from the Congressional Research Service estimates that there are more than 300 million guns in the U.S., which is roughly one for every man, woman, and child in the country. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety reports that there are 240,096 valid gun permits in the state. If each state had an equal number of guns (they don't), then there would be six million guns in Minnesota — makes me wonder, where are they all?

Look for *Guns Don't Kill People, People Kill People* in the Bookstall and in the Anderson Library (363.3 H).

What Writers of Color Say We Should Read Now: on display in the Anderson Library through September.

Cairns, Vol.

The Unity Church
Journal of:
art, photos, poetry, prose, & so much more!

You submit. We publish.
The congregation is enriched.

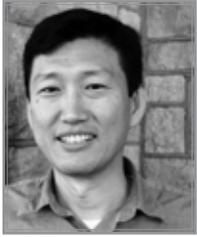
More info on the Cairns page on the Unity website.

Final Deadline: September 26, 2016

Pitter-pattering Questions

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

From KP Hong, Director of Religious Education



Among the *Rio 2016!* promo videos in the bidding process to host the Summer Games, one striking visual narrative introduces the colors and vibrancy of the landscape of Rio de Janeiro, as the world's athletes are welcomed by its passionate people. The voice of a Brazilian girl concludes the narrative: "The world will come together as never before, when passion unites us." Indeed, passion unites us, for notwithstanding the controversies of exploitation, corporatism, and corruption surrounding the games, the worldwide audience came together to watch the Olympic torch set ablaze by fire from the ancient gods — an altar erected to peace, goodwill, and unity among the peoples of the world.

But that was not the only altar — literally, "burning place" — that brought us together this summer; not the only altar during a combustible summer inflamed by racial violence from Baton Rouge to Falcon Heights to Dallas. Altars that burned hot with passion, sacrifice, and the hope for deliverance and at-one-ment across intractable divides. Passion devastates and passion is "to die for." Passion couples desire and will, and recruits us to something greater than ourselves, enough to suffer for it, whether for a worldwide caliphate or for what it will take "to end the racial nightmare, and achieve our country, and change the history of the world." (James Baldwin) Passion can indeed unite us, but passion can certainly divide us, with altars erected in Cleveland and Philadelphia for political conventions that epitomize di-*vision*. Perhaps under these tinder-dry conditions, with our cities ready to combust, it's best to tone it down and learn to be good citizens? Especially our youth who overdo things, who overidentify and invest their misguided passion in life-or-death extremes on matters unworthy of their love. Just tone it down, right?

And so the history of the Religious Education movement in America contains bids for respectability, justifying its purpose on the basis of providing "educational goods" and "civic responsibility" and "psychological value" of peer groups that support adolescent development. Who would grumble at that? Only those few educators — prophets really — who risked speaking of faith at its core *not* as creating "good teenagers" or "wholesome youth programs" under a "salvation by education" model. Rather, faith that entailed an *education in passion* that creates prophets and radicals who reveal the root of our deceptions, with the flaming chalice as a searchlight that unmasks greed, violence, smallness, half-truths, and ideologies of self-fulfillment without self-abandonment to a greater and truer love. Admittedly, such passion can come too easily and be misleading, but only such an education in passion can unite lesser commitments, risk a dangerous hope, and forge an "identity of theological proportions." (James Loder) Passion can unite, but only such an education in passion can kindle a credible unity.

The real question turns out *not* to be about the passion of our youth but the passion of the church herself. How passionately does the church bear witness to a greater love than what is marketed in popular culture? For only a passionate church can engage our passionate young, lest they take their passions elsewhere. Does the church have an identity of theological proportions that is "to die for," where its radical and transcendent faith claims shape an incandescent faith that summons us and unites us as never before?

Another year begins, and gratitude fills my heart for this combustible community where our children can touch sacred fire.

Sundays with Kids

Tips about where and when your children or youth should be during Religious Education:

Nursery

- Infants and toddlers ages six months (and sitting up) through three years can be signed in to the nursery starting 15 minutes before each service
- No registration required
- Label all personal belongings
- Please leave your cell phone number and set phone to vibrate
- Collect your little ones immediately after worship

Spirit Play (age 3-K)

- Children can be signed in to their Spirit Play preschool class 10 minutes before the service
- 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 and should be returned there after class
- Collect your preschooler immediately after worship
- Classes run 75 minutes

Rotation (grades 1-6)

- 9:00 a.m., 4:30 p.m. Children in grades 1-6 should be escorted to the Ames Chapel starting 10 minutes before worship. Make sure at least two Journey Guides are in the Chapel; if not, stay with your child until they arrive.
- 11:00 a.m. Children begin with worship in the sanctuary with their families, then follow their Journey Guides to classes
- Collect your child from their Rotation classroom (varies each week, check signs)
- Classes run 75 minutes

Junior High (Grades 6, 7 and 8)

- Junior High youth can escort themselves to and from classes
- Youth should wear nametags while in the church building
- Parents should communicate regularly with student and teacher
- Classes run 75 minutes

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH / MUSIC MINISTRY

Updates and Reminders

New and Returning Religious Education Families

- **If you have not yet enrolled your child(ren) or youth for Sunday School 2016-17**, please join us on Wednesday, September 7, from 7:15-8:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall. This in-person session will orient families enrolling in Religious Education for the first time, as well as welcome any returning families. Childcare will be provided. (Note: Wellspring Wednesday/dinner does not begin until the following week.) If your family is unable to participate in this final registration, please contact KP Hong at kp@unityunitarian.org.
- **Enrollment has concluded for Coming of Age (program for 9th grade youth) and Our Whole Lives (sexuality education program for 7th-9th grade youth)**. If you were planning to enroll or have questions about enrollment, please contact Drew Danielson at drew@unityunitarian.org.
- **Watch for an email with classroom rosters and information**. See you on Sunday, September 11, for "Merging of Waters" Family Sunday, and Sunday, September 18, for the start of Sunday School!

Religious Education Teacher Training

All volunteer teachers, both new and returning, who have committed to a teaching/mentoring role for 2016-17 are asked to attend Teacher Orientation and Training. Trainings will be held on Saturday, September 10, and Wednesday, September 14 (see schedule below). Please choose one of the two dates, and then visit the church's website to sign up online: <http://www.unityunitarian.org/teacher-trainings.html>.

Schedule of Training Sessions (please choose one):

- **Saturday, September 10, all sessions 10:00 a.m.–noon**
Spirit Play teacher, Rotations teacher, Journey Guide, Junior High teacher (*All other roles will receive orientation as needs/events arise*)
- **Wednesday, September 14, all sessions 6:30–8:30 p.m.**
(come for Wellspring Wednesday taco dinner at 6:00 p.m.) Spirit Play teacher, Rotations teacher, Journey Guide, Junior High teacher (*All other roles will receive orientation as needs/events arise*)

**NOTE: Volunteer teachers whose responsibilities fall only in the second semester are welcome to attend this fall orientation, but also may choose to attend the orientation scheduled for January 2017.

Free Child Care

Free child care is available, with one-week advance notice, for all church-sponsored activities. Please contact Michelle Hill by email at michelle@unityunitarian.org.

UNITY SINGERS holding auditions for SOPRANO and TENOR

Unity Singers, our auditioned 20-voice ensemble, is looking for a soprano and a tenor to join us this season!! We salute members Amber Lockridge, soprano, and Steve Nelson, tenor, who were two of our founding members and sang with us for ten seasons. Our thanks to all they brought to us and best wishes for their life plans that take them into new ventures.

Unity Singers is based on the ensemble idea of how voices work together, each effecting the sound of the other and the ensemble as a whole. Voices work together in unique and often surprising ways. This means you do not have to have what you might call a "solo voice." It is all a matter of how your voice combines with the other voices in the ensemble. Auditions consist of meeting separately with Ruth Palmer and then with your voice section and entire choir.

If interested, please be in touch with Ruth Palmer as soon as possible to set up a time to meet together. Final auditions are Tuesday evening, September 6. Feel free to be in touch with any questions and interest in auditioning! Contact Ruth Palmer at ruth@unityunitarian.org. We invite you to explore the possibility of singing with this wonderful community of voices and people.

Sing in a Unity Church Choir

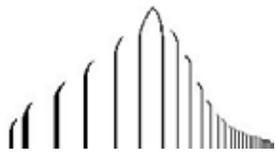
Here at Unity Church we have a vital choral program and invite you to consider singing with us this year. If you've been wanting to do this, how about this fall?

For adults, it is helpful to have some musical experience — music lessons, choir experience, etc. Of course, if that is not in your background, but you have a passionate interest and the courage to jump in to 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 feel free to contact Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministries, with any questions at ruth@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x118.

First rehearsals for this church year are as follows:

- **Children's Choir** (grades 1-5)
Sunday, September 11, 10:15–11:00 a.m., Robbins Parlor
Kathleen Radspinner, director (kathleenr395@gmail.com)
- **Unity Choir** (high school, adult)
Thursday, September 8, 7:30–9:15 p.m., Parish Hall
Ruth Palmer, director
- **Unity Singers** (auditioned membership, see above)
Tuesday, September 6, 7:30–9:30 p.m., Parish Hall
Ruth Palmer, director
- **Women's Ensemble**
Sunday, September 11, 10:15–10:45 a.m., Foote Room
Ruth Palmer, director



UNITY CHURCH-UNITARIAN

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

MARK FOSTER, CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REV. JANNE ELLER-ISAACS, CO-MINISTER
REV. ROB ELLER-ISAACS, CO-MINISTER
BARBARA HUBBARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
REV. LISA FRIEDMAN, MINISTER OF CONGREGATIONAL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

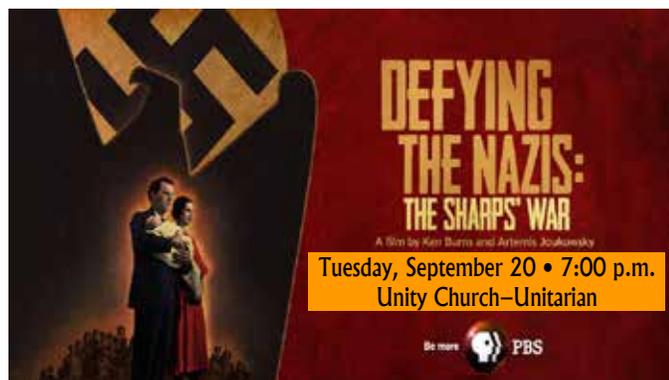
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**TIME SENSITIVE
MATERIAL**

Film Screening at Unity Church *Defying the Nazis: the Sharps' War*

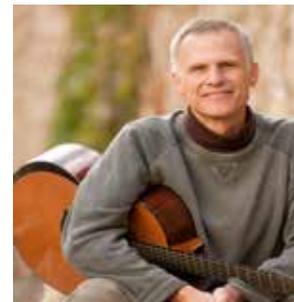
A new film directed by Ken Burns & Artemis Joukowsky
Tuesday, September 20 • 7:00 p.m. • Parish Hall

Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War is an account of a daring rescue mission that occurred on the precipice of World War II. It tells the story of Waitstill and Martha Sharp, a Unitarian minister and his wife from Wellesley, Massachusetts, who left their children behind in the care of their parish and boldly committed to multiple life-threatening missions in Europe. Over two dangerous years they helped to save hundreds of imperiled political dissidents and Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazi occupation across Europe. (90 minutes)



Peter Mayer at Merging of Waters

Unity Church is thrilled to welcome Peter Mayer to the Merging of Waters service on Sunday, September 11, at 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 4:30 p.m. Don't forget to bring the water you have collected this summer for the merging ritual.



Cairns, Vol.

The Unity Church
Journal of the Arts



Final Deadline: September 26, 2016

Marathon Alert

The Twin Cities Marathon will wind its way along Summit Avenue the morning of Sunday, October 9. 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.