

Vocation

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.

As the days shorten and the nights turn cooler, September's theme of vocation invites us, in the words of Rev. Martha Postlewaite, to "create a clearing in the dense forest of your life and wait there patiently, until the song that is your life falls into your own cupped hands and you recognize and greet it." Have you found the song that is your life? Are you listening, patiently? Are you filling these last days of summer with every bit of Minnesota goodness you can soak up, too busy to listen to anything but radio in your car and the chimes of your calendar reminders, as we rush to savor these fleeting summer days? This month, as we consider the theme of vocation, we invite you to find time to create that clearing in your life, to listen for the song of vocation and to reflect on that place where "your deep gladness meets the world's great need."

From its roots in the Latin word *vocare*, meaning "to call," vocation speaks to us through images of purpose, work, and a sense of being called. In our often work-obsessed American culture, vocation can get caught up in notions of paid employment and career, but in the less-quoted part of Frederick Buechner's meditation on gladness and need, we're reminded that vocation — that point of intersection between our deep gladness and the world's great need is a place that we're called to by God. Or, as Thomas Merton writes, "Vocation. . . comes from a voice in here calling me to be the person I was born to be, to fulfill the original selfhood given me at birth by God." In other words, vocation

is not just about what we do, but about who we are. Vocation calls us into relationship with our deeper purpose.

This notion of purpose is echoed in the Bhagavad Gita where vocation is less about God's call, and more about our dharma, which refers not just to universal truth or eternal teachings, but also to each individual's unique purpose in life. In the Bhagavad Gita, as we hear Krishna instructing the warrior Arjuna of his essential nature as a warrior, what we learn is that our lives are lived best and most fully when we're aligned with the deeper purpose that is ours from the moment of our creation. Living our purpose is so important in these teachings that it's more preferable to live one's dharma's imperfectly, than to live another's dharma to perfection. The invitation is to fully be who we are, not someone else.

Parker Palmer echoes this refrain in *Let your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation* when he writes, "Before I can tell my life what I want to do with it, I must listen to my life telling me who I am." So as we gather in church this month, we invite you to notice where and how you experience your deeper purpose coming through. Perhaps you see it in your employment, when you sit with a loved one's pain, or when you care for the Earth. Maybe you feel it when you answer the call of Black Lives Matter or meet with firm and uncompromising compassion the ignorance and hatred of racism and xenophobia. Or perhaps you touch vocation in moments of prayer, art,

or song. Where ever you're noticing vocation, we invite you to deepen into your sense of call as we journey into vocation, together.

*Hallman Ministerial Intern
Arif Mamdani with this month's theme
team: Drew Danielson,
Janne Eller-Isaacs, Rob Eller-Isaacs,
Lisa Friedman, Kerri Meyer,
Andrea Johnson, Kinga Reka Szekely*

Vocation Theme Resources

FOR FAMILIES

March (graphic novel trilogy) by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, illustrated by Nate Powell.

VIDEO

Moana (2016)

In Ancient Polynesia, when a terrible curse incurred by the Demigod Maui reaches Moana's island, she answers the Ocean's call to seek out the Demigod to set things right. (IMDB)

Jiro Dreams of Sushi (2011)

A documentary on 85-year-old sushi master Jiro Ono, his renowned Tokyo restaurant, and his relationship with his son and eventual heir, Yoshikazu. (IMDB)

BOOKS

Let your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation by Parker Palmer

Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life by Richard Rohr

POETRY

"Clearing" by Martha Postlewaite
"To be of use" by Marge Piercy

JUST WORDS / AUCTION FUNDRAISER

Just Words



We had heard vague rumors that an older African American woman was a long time member of the church but lived in a nursing home now. Because she didn't have any family in the church, we never learned more about her. She died in June. Her great nieces and nephews were able to find her will, and lo and behold, she left instructions

that her memorial service was to be held at Unity Church of St. Paul. These instructions were written in 1975. Dorothy lived to be 109, the last years of her life, at St. Anthony Home.

Dorothy grew up in the Rondo neighborhood and lived there most of her life. Her parents were prominent community leaders and her father was a major player in civil rights around town and at the capital. Her entire extended family were prominent members of Pilgrim Baptist, a major religious institution in St. Paul. Her mother was the music director and organist for many years. In the late 1940s however, Dorothy decided to check out the local Unitarian Church. She had met Arthur Foote, the minister serving Unity at the time, at community meetings. She had been impressed and wanted to know more. Dorothy was an independent thinker and often struck out on her own. Though deeply connected to her family, she joined the church in 1949. What courage and tenacity she possessed! Though she was one of only a few people of color, she maintained her membership for over fifty years.

One of the greatest privileges of ministry is conducting memorials. Though we are often grieving right along with the family, we are given the honor of holding one precious life. Through stories and reflections from those that knew the deceased best, we are given the opportunity to try to speak to the content of their character. It is a gift beyond measure to sit with someone's life story and to attempt to speak to their trials and triumphs. I loved hearing about Dorothy from her family. What a remarkable woman who knew her own mind and refused to compromise her values. I only wish I had known her.

Many of us are familiar with the journalist Angela Davis who produces *Life Story*, a segment for WCCO television. I was contacted by her so that they could do a story on Dorothy. We had a wonderful conversation about her many accomplishments. But what we were both left with was the courage it took for Dorothy to live the life she did.

Though our faith is small when compared with many others, our values reach so many more. May we continue to be a place that welcomes courageous seekers who create their own path of integrity, service, and joy.

Janne Eller-Isaacs

The Wheel of Life

In Celebration

Eli Schlatter and Reed Polakowski

married August 4, 2017

2017 Auction at Unity Church

SHARE THE BOUNTY!

On the evening of November 4, Unity Church members and friends will **Share the Bounty!** at our Silent and Live Auction that is sure to be a success in creating community and raising funds!

This is a family friendly event that will feature gatherings, services, and goods generously donated by members and local businesses, with a backdrop of delicious light refreshments, drinks, and music.

The doors will open at 6:00 p.m. when guests can peruse and bid on silent auction items and raffle prizes. At 7:30 p.m., we will move into the Sanctuary for the live auction, and top off the evening with desserts and music! Childcare will be available for the little ones.

We need donations! Think creatively!

- Host a dinner party or a gathering with a theme — make new friends!
- Offer a get-away to your cabin or time-share, a hot air balloon ride or boat cruise
- Create a basket of goodies and opportunities
- Donate a piece of art, jewelry or a musical instrument that someone would love to call their own
- Host a concert in your home!
- Share your love of food — by cooking for or by teaching your culinary skills to others
- Offer your services — babysitting, dog-walking, tutoring, whistling, poem-writing, a photo shoot...
- Donate theater, concert or sports event tickets
- Offer a membership to one of your favorite organizations
- Donate something totally unique, like memorabilia signed by a celebrity

Tickets will be \$20 and will include refreshments, drinks, and all of the festivities! If you are unable to attend, please consider supporting the auction anyway by purchasing a ticket and making a donation. To make a donation or to volunteer your help, email Barbara Hubbard at barbara@unityunitarian.org. We will begin accepting donated items on October 1.

Our goal is \$20,000 (or more!) Proceeds support the 2017 operating budget.

SUNDAY WORSHIP / 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. Religious Education for children and youth is offered during all services.

September 3: *Expect Delays* • 10:00 a.m. only

There's a lesson in those two words on the big orange-and-black road signs that went up this spring. For all of us in this optimistic faith, committed to racial justice, to a healthier earth, and to a better deal for all our most vulnerable fellow humans, these are the worst of times, perhaps in our memory. Reversals of progress we thought we made and new obstructions are going up everywhere. We may have underestimated the scale and ferocity of the backlash mounted by those who always fight, often misunderstanding their own long-term interest, against surrendering immediate privilege or advantage. We all love the phrase about the arc of history bending toward justice, but we often forget the first part, about that arc being long, meaning slow. We need to contemplate how we can blend patience and equanimity with our courageous efforts to resist this Reign of Error, and to change the things we can. Dane Smith, worship leader; Alex Askew, worship associate.

September 10: *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 Peter Mayer, the introduction of our wonderful new interns, and a joyful time to come together after far-flung summer adventures. Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs will return to the pulpit to begin a series of services on vocation. *On Family Sundays, children experience the entire worship together with their families in the Sanctuary. A children's message and activity books related to the stories and sermon help children to engage in the experience of worship. The nursery is open for children under three years of age. Soup suppers return after the 4:30 service!*

September 17: *Called and Compelled*

In the old strong story, Abraham is called and compelled by the Holy to leave Ur and to walk away from everything and everyone he's known. For most of us the sense of call to what is often named "vocation" is somewhat less demanding. But true vocation implies an obligation to live in the place between the everyday and the surrounding mystery and help to heal the world. Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs and worship associate Angela Wilcox will bring us a service on living into our gifts.

September 24: *Listen Louder*

Sometimes it is difficult to discern the call of vocation. Other times the call comes, and we refuse to heed it. How do we learn to listen louder in a world with so many demands, with its busyness and constant communication? Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs and worship associate Suzanne Quinn-McDonald will explore how we might listen louder to our heart's longing.

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. Please make checks payable to Unity Church.

September 3: Small Sums

The sole purpose of Small Sums is to help homeless individuals who have found jobs acquire the items they need to start work. Such items include work clothes, trade tools, union dues, transportation passes, etc. This practical and timely assistance helps remove the frequent barriers that keep clients from stepping into work. Small Sums also offers business planning resources for those considering self-employment. Small Sums is all about practical solutions that foster self-sufficiency and open pathways to stable income. Unity Church member KrisAnne Weiss is a dedicated supporter of Small Sums.

September 10: Obama Elementary School

Obama Elementary School is the pre-K through fifth grade school immediately across the street from Unity Church. Its mission is "to give every child, every chance, every day". Currently 25 Unity Church members serve as volunteers at Obama. This collection goes to the Principal's Sunshine Fund which is used to underwrite student field trips, bring visiting art/music staff to Obama, and support teacher recognition. This offering is an expression of Unity's commitment to be a credible partner in community well-being through standing with Obama School as it addresses disparities in educational opportunities. Marty Rossmann, Nancy Heege, and a chorus of Unity members are proud cheerleads for Obama School.

September 17: Center for Victims of Torture

CVT exists to heal the wounds of government-sponsored torture of individuals, their families, and communities. They are based in the Twin Cities and have healing centers in St. Paul, Minneapolis, and in refugee camps around the world. Unity Church has supported CVT's efforts to ban our government's use of torture and has also provided coats, art supplies, meeting space, individual work with clients, massage therapy materials, money, and volunteer time gardening and painting at the St. Paul Healing Center.

September 24: Shantideva Homeopathic Research Initiative (SHRI)

Shantideva Homeopathic Research Initiative (SHRI) is a volunteer organization providing free homeopathic medicine and health education to rural Indians and Tibetan refugees in the Indian Himalayas. SHRI's vision is to provide a healing space and an educational forum where the international homeopathic community can share its life-giving insights in the light of exacting clinical work. Coming together with open hearts through acts of selfless service, SHRI provides both healing and education to its clients and volunteers. Unity Church member Desiree Brazelton is the U.S. volunteer representative for SHRI.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES / PLEDGE DRIVE

Vocation as a Congregation

From Nancy Evert, Trustee



Vocation — this is September’s worship theme. It is a recurrent theme for me — and, I’m sure, for many of us. What am I called to do or be? Do I have a mission and purpose? How can I be more deeply intentional, in my work and in my broader life?

Over the years, my understanding of my own vocation has evolved and changed. And, I often find that I am more open to revisiting questions of meaning and intention as a new season begins. So, I look forward to the start of the church year this September and the inspiration it may provide. Rehearsals for Unity Choir start again on Thursdays. Singing together nourishes my spirit. Wellspring Wednesdays begin again. We gather for a delicious meal with people familiar and new. And there is an array of after dinner activities that may comfort or provoke, depending on my desires that day. Religious Education kicks off this month —with a curriculum that makes me envious of our congregation’s children. But, there are many opportunities for adults, too! Rob and Janne return to the pulpit. Will I encounter a new idea or the potential for personal connection this fall?

Your Unity Board of Trustees also is focused on the recurrent theme of vocation — for our congregation. Kicking off in January 2018, we will renew our congregation’s Mission, Values, and Ends statements. If “Ends” are new to you, this is the expression of the impact we want our church to have, and is based on promises we make to each other about what we will work to build together.

You will be invited to join in a structured small group conversation, to explore and then express our intentions, longings, and aspirations as a congregation for the coming years. Our liberal faith is the constant and guiding “thread.” But, in this renewal process, we consider that thread in our current context — as spiritual individuals, as a congregation, and in our broader community (social, environmental, economic, racial, political). What is Unity Church called to do and be “in our time”?

I hope that through your connection to Unity you are hearing repeated invitations to wrestle with questions of vocation — both personal and congregational. And, that you are finding support, challenge, and fellowship here, as you seek to answer these questions. Be ready to join in our renewal of Mission, Values, and Ends statements early in the New Year — this is essential work that requires our intentional engagement.

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.

2018 Pledge Drive Kicks-off in October

From Barbara Hubbard, Executive Director



October marks the time each year when we are invited to reflect upon the impact of Unity Church in our lives, and to consider our pledges of financial support for the upcoming calendar years.

Your generous operating pledges for 2017 provide a solid financial foundation for worship, programs, and outreach. Your pledges have allowed us to increase staff hours in Religious Education and financial management, increase our commitment to racial equity and justice work, provide a 3% cost of living increase for all staff, and a \$15/hour minimum wage. Thank you.

Your generous capital pledges for 2017 have allowed us to renew the wood on the exterior of our beautiful main entry, purchase new furniture for the Robbins Parlor, and make debt service payments on our long term *Unity Tomorrow* note. Thank you.

Unity Church is a place where we turn for comfort, strength, beauty, inspiration, and community in a time of heightened uncertainty in the world. Our church is a place where we strive to honor and celebrate our differences, a place where we find nourishment. Whether you are a new or longtime Unity Church member, we encourage you to participate in this important sacrament of giving through your generous operating and capital pledges.

Make a Pledge for 2017

If you have not yet made a pledge for 2017 and would like to do so, contact Barbara Hubbard at barbara@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x116. Pledge payments and donations can be made online at <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=1aadb6>.

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 9, in the Summit University Planning Council (SUPC) Board of Directors election. Cast your vote at the SUPC table at the Selby Avenue Jazz Fest or online at www.summit-university.org. You must live within the SUPC boundaries (Summit to University, Lexington to Marion). Your vote counts!

Unity Church Social Media

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/unityunitarian/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UnityUnitarian>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/unityunitarian/>

2017-18 MINISTERIAL INTERNS

Hallman Ministerial Intern: Arif Mamdani



Greetings Unity Church! I can't tell you how thrilled I am to be serving as your Hallman Ministerial Intern this year. As I began my journey toward ministry, I sought advice on where I should seek to intern, and over and over again, my colleagues answered with one voice: Unity Church. They spoke of your commitment to racial justice, your deep spiritual grounding, your hospitality, vibrant programming, and all the other things that make Unity Church a vital force for liberal religion. More than anything though, they said that Unity knows how to nurture and train ministers and as I begin my internship with you, I am excited to dig in and find out what we will create together in the upcoming year.

I come to ministry after 17 years working in the nonprofit sector where I worked for several different organizations in support of grassroots community organizing groups around the country. I'm originally from Oak Park, IL, and spent several years on the East Coast, attending college at Drew University, followed by a few years living and working in New York City. When my wife Channing and I started to talk about having children, we relocated to the Twin Cities, Channing's place of birth, to be closer to family, and because frankly, we both missed the Midwest.

I come to Unitarian Universalism from a multi-religious family where my dad grew up Muslim, my mom grew up Hindu, and neither practiced their religions of origin, following instead the call of atheism and a commitment to scientific truth and knowledge. My own spiritual path has been influenced by yoga and meditation, connecting with the sacred through the natural world, and a deep belief in the power and need for religious community. In Unitarian Universalism, I found a faith that mirrors my commitments to freedom, reason, and a diversity of perspectives, understanding that no single story captures all of the truth.

As we begin our time together, I'm excited by what we will create together, yet I'm also very aware that our time together takes place in the context of what many of us are experiencing as a difficult and troubling time in our country. As I write these words, the violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, and the troubling response of our president hang over us as yet another reminder of the deep divisions in our country. I'm reminded of the words of poet and activist adrienne maree brown. Writing in the days after the election, she said that despite how we might feel, "things are not getting worse, they are getting uncovered. We must hold each other tight and continue to pull back the veil." I can think of nothing that better describes our call in these times — holding each other close, supporting each other, building our spiritual resilience, while continuing to seek truth and justice, that we might one day make real in the world the beloved community that exists in our hearts. It is a privilege to be with you this year and I look forward to our time together.

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

Ministerial Intern: Andrea Johnson



From the vantage point of my home congregation, First Universalist Church in Minneapolis, Unity is known as our "sister church across the river" and I feel a special connection to it because you have nurtured and loved three of First Universalist Church's current ministers into being: Justin Schroeder, Jen Crow, and Ruth Mackenzie. Janne Eller-Isaacs also ably shepherded our Senior Minister Search Committee, of which I was a part, through the discernment process nine years ago! Serving on this committee sparked my own journey to seminary as I relished the opportunity to learn about theology — my own, my congregation's, and our candidates. Now I have the honor of following in the footsteps of my mentors and learning from your ministers and all of you. I feel grateful to be here. Thank you for inviting me into your beloved church community.

I grew up in Plymouth, MN, with my parents and older sister, studied Business at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and while on a year study abroad program in England, met and subsequently married my English husband, David. We have three children: Alex (17), Ben (15) and Kate (8). After spending 15 years in consulting and project management for large corporations, I left my job, started seminary (in 2012) and renewed my quest to understand ultimate reality (that which is most profound and definitive about the whole of reality) which I have been on since I began confirmation in the liberal UCC church I grew up in.

I have come to understand that God is a human name and symbol for the ground or power of being, which is embodied in the universe and in the experiences of daily living. For me the power of being connects me with gratitude, humility and awe as well as things that are impenetrable to us, the great wisdom and beauty of the universe, Kant's starry sky above and the moral law within. I am reminded that humans are not the center of the universe, but we are instead deeply connected to all its parts.

In addition to God, the Universalist ethic of boundless unconditional love, lies at the root of my faith and calls me to build a world so that everyone of us will be treated as worthy, wanted, and whole. This is what calls me to work for justice in the world because misogyny, racism, homophobia, anti-immigrant, and anti-Muslim rhetoric and deeds diminishes us, not just "them." I'm excited to learn how your theological understandings ground your life and inform your social justice commitments. Working to dismantle white privilege and white supremacy within our faith and beyond is work I hope we can do together this year.

In my spare time, I enjoy running, hiking, travel, cooking, and reading the profound theology of Paul Tillich. Ministry is a blessing and I look forward to getting to know many of you over this next year and working alongside my good friend, treasured colleague and fellow intern, Arif Mamdani.

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

WELCOME WORDS

Welcome Words

Rev. Lisa Friedman, Minister of Congregational and Community Engagement



The Rev. Clarke Dewey Wells once wrote at the beginning of a new year: "Welcome back to your church! I hope you use it well — for worship, education, service and fellowship. Here may you tap into the best resources of our religious heritage and a freeing liberal tradition: take part in mind quickening thought, heart opening concerns, soul stretching liturgy. Here may you tie in with your history and humanity's struggling and dearest hopes; enjoy the companionship of a larger family in a

larger house than any can separately have; give your voice resonance by joining it to others in singing and prayer and purpose beyond the single self."

Whether you have been attending all summer, or are returning from summer adventures, I echo his warm welcome and invitation. As we return to three services on Sundays, new religious education classes, Wellspring Wednesday meals and programs, and so much more, I encourage you to dive in as deeply as you can. Explore something new. Commit to a new practice. Share your heartbreak and hope for our world and join with others in the work of compassionate justice. Sing a new song and make new friends along the way. I am happy to help you use your church well — be in touch!

See you in church!

Pathway to Membership Classes

Unity Church offers classes and connection for visitors who are exploring Unity Church as a spiritual home. Learn more at the Welcome Table on Sundays or contact Rev. Lisa Friedman, Minister of Congregational and Community Engagement (lisa@unityunitarian.org / 651-228-1456 x107). She is also happy to meet with you personally to answer questions and to welcome you into the congregation. Childcare provided.

Finding Yourself at Unity: A Deeper Inquiry

Finding Yourself at Unity is offered on a regular basis on Sundays from 10:15-11:15 a.m. in the Ames Chapel. The class will also be offered once a month after the 4:30 p.m. service, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. These sessions can be attended in the order that works for you and will offer participants the opportunity to share part of their 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 topics include:

- September 3: No Class on Labor Day Weekend
- September 10: Membership 101 & Congregational Life
- September 17: Pastoral Care
- September 24: Building Tour (also offered after 4:30 service)

Committing to Unity: Joining Unity Church Wednesday, September 20 • 7:15-9:00 p.m.

Have you been considering membership at Unity? This class explores the deeper meanings and expectations of membership and shared ministry. It offers time to reflect on the meaning of generosity and how you can discover the places in your life where the world's needs meets the gifts and joy you have to offer. The class will conclude with a celebration ceremony as participants sign the membership book and officially join the church!

Beyond Inquirers

*Who are Unitarian Universalists?
How do we do church?*

**Sundays, September 17-October 15
12:30-1:30 p.m.**

This five session class addresses commonly asked questions about Unitarian Universalism and how UU congregations approach religious life:

- What do UUs believe?
- Is this a new religion?
- How do we do church?
- How do we live our values?
- Does it matter if I join?

This class is a great opportunity for anyone who has completed the Finding Yourself at Unity series and anyone who would like to better understand our faith, the rights and responsibilities of membership, and how we do church. Childcare is available upon advanced request. Sign up online at <http://www.unityunitarian.org/adult-learning--spiritual-practice.html> or email Rev. Lisa Friedman (lisa@unityunitarian.org) with questions you may have.

Mentoring at Unity

A Path to Deeper Connection

Unity has a mentor program, which is available to all visitors and new members. A mentor is available as a guide and a resource in the congregation. They pledge to meet at least once a month face to face, and be available for ongoing questions and advice for at least 6 months. Each mentor/mentee team can decide what is most helpful — to have a buddy with whom to attend services and events, or a partner with whom to discuss Unitarian Universalism and each other's spiritual journeys, and more. If you have questions, or would like to request a mentor, please stop by the Welcome Table in the Parish Hall or email Rev. Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME New Members



left to right: Alex,
Nila, Diane, Peter

Alex Askew is a lifelong UU who is making his way back into the community, settling down after college and multiple terms of AmeriCorps service. Alex works in nonprofit development at local organization Genesys Works. In his free time, he can be found outside (biking, running, or gardening) as well as reading, cooking, and watching movies.

Nila Jewel Jacox Gouldin was born and raised in Minnesota and is a divorced mother of one bi-racial, bi-sexual, bi-polar BEAUTIFUL daughter. She started attending Unity Church in 2014 after her Psychic told her it was imperative that she “foster her deity.” She has been in attendance ever since. Her desire to sign the membership book came after attending the Black Lives Unitarian Universalist (BLUU) Convening in March 2017. This event helped her to experience the breadth, depth and expanse of who Unitarian Universalists are and can be, as well as the beloved community that we envision.

Unity Church feels like the expansive and liberal spiritual home that **Diane Grasse** has been seeking. She is excited about becoming more connected to this community. Diane is a recently retired special education teacher and currently enjoys volunteering at Obama Elementary. She and her husband, Peter, have two adult children.

The warm welcome and thought provoking services **Peter Grasse** has experienced at Unity Church have made him feel ready to commit to full membership. Peter retired from 3M last year and is now able to fully embrace his passion for bicycling and advocating for bicycle friendly infrastructure in our communities.



left to right: Jess,
Katrina, Maria

Jess Landgraf followed her partner, Katrina Nichols, to church a couple years ago and quickly found a church home that enriched her life with new opportunities and a fuller community. Jess works as a bicycle mechanic and splits free time between games with friends, biking (especially with a dog!), gardening, and reading.

When a 4th and 5th grade teaching job brought her to St. Paul, **Katrina Nichols** knew she wanted a UU community. When she stepped into her first Unity service, she knew she was home. At church, you can find Katrina singing in Unity Choir, or laughing and trying to be helpful in the kitchen.

Maria Verven is a recovered Catholic from the East Coast. She graduated from Vassar with a music degree (harpichord) and moved to Minneapolis in 1977. She is a former VP at Piper Jaffay and Fleishman Hillard, and is now self-employed in P.R. She is also a singer-songwriter with a new CD (Songnificant.com) and has two daughters and a new baby granddaughter. Maria lives in Eden Prairie, but the drive to Unity is worth it!

Dine with Nine



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. Visit the Dine with Nine table in the Parish Hall this September to learn more. 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. We look forward to another great year!

Volunteer Corner

- September Volunteer Spotlight
- Board of Trustees
- ARLT
- Welcome Team
- Food Ministry Teams
- Obama Elementary Tutors
- Covenant Groups
- Library and Bookstall Team

We'll be highlighting different ways to get involved every month. If you'd like to know more please visit www.unityunitarian.org/volunteer-corner.html or the Parish Hall Table on Sundays during coffee hour. Questions? Contact Madeline Summers, Volunteer Coordinator, at madeline@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x126.

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 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 with Wellspring Wednesday meals.

Suggest a Program

Is there a program or class you would like to see offered — or that YOU would like to offer — at Wellspring Wednesday during the 2017-18 church year? Submit a proposal! Proposal forms are online at <http://www.unityunitarian.org/wellspring-wednesday.html> or by contacting Rev. Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org.

SEPTEMBER 13

Dinner: Taco night!

Stepping Stone Theatre Acting Workshop

Join SteppingStone Theatre (SST) to celebrate the return of Wellspring Wednesday! Collaborate on an original performance using your own ideas for story, character, dialogue, and setting. Supported by a SST Teaching Artist, each group learns skills in theatre elements like acting through voice and movement, improvisation, and exploring different expressive styles. Work together to share your creative process with the other groups at the end of the evening! This workshop is designed for K-8th graders and will divide into age-appropriate creative groups.

Open Page Writing Session: Who We Are Called to Be

Free; RSVP requested to karen@unityunitarian.org

We've often heard Frederick Buechner's definition of vocation as that place "where your deep gladness meets the world's deep need." This writing session explores that meeting point and looks for the thread of vocation woven through the fabric of each of our lives. Led by Consulting Literary Minister Karen Hering, Open Page writing session participants use stories, poetry, images, religious teachings, and science to reflect on the monthly theme in their own words. No writing experience is necessary.

Understanding Your Gifts with the Enneagram

We all have gifts that are part of our character. Have you been wondering how your innate strengths can meet the world in a more sustainable way? Join Holistic Life Coach and Unity member Katy Taylor to explore how the wisdom of the Enneagram can help you be of greater service by understanding your personality's gifts and weaknesses. You can find out more about Katy and her work with the Enneagram at www.katytyaylor.com.

Embodied Spiritual Practice: Yoga and the 7 UU Principles and Purposes

Wellspring Wednesday yoga will explore the Seven UU Principles and Purposes from a yoga philosophy standpoint. Each week's class will include breathing techniques, physical movement, and meditation to support the weekly theme and help us explore each of the seven principles and purposes from a different perspective. Come just as you are, no previous yoga experience needed. Please bring a yoga mat if you have one. We will have a few available for loan.

September 13: The inherent worth and dignity of every person

September 20: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations

September 27: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations

October 4: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

October 11: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large

October 18: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all

October 25: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

Go: A Chinese Game

Go is a board game which originated in China more than 2,000 years ago. It was recently in the news, being the last of the great games to have a computer program beat a top-ranked human player. It's played on a board marked with a 19x19 grid, with black and white stones competing for territory. The rules are simple, the strategy tough but interesting. Please stop by and check it out — we think you'll want to take it up!

Religious Education New Teacher Training

See page 15 for details.

WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 20

Dinner: TBA

When the World Calls

Exploring the Intersection of Social Justice and Vocation

How do we answer the needs of the world and respond to its injustices? How does our longing to create a better world connect with our choice of career and vocation? How do we bring our deepest values into our daily work? Explore these questions with a panel of Unity Church members whose professional work lives at the exploration of justice and vocation. The conversation will be facilitated by Hallman Ministerial Intern Arif Mamdani.

Committing to Unity

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

UU History Book Club

Join the monthly UU History Book Club for an exploration of theology and heritage. September's discussion will be on *Emerson's Self Reliance and Other Essays*. Questions? Contact: Krista Hanson at klfhanson@yahoo.com.

Great College Search with Craig Allen

*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 20: Getting ready and conducting a search

September 27: Creating a list of schools and applying

October 4: Financial aid basics

October 11: Competitive Colleges: What, Why, and How

Sessions will consist of presentations followed by question and answer sessions 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 (HECA) and the Minnesota Association for College Admission Counseling (MACAC).*

Embodied Spiritual Practice

Yoga and the 7 UU Principles and Purposes

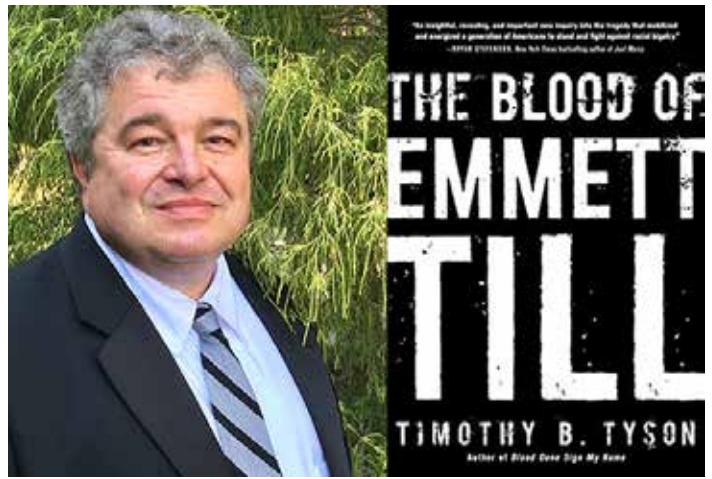
Go: A Chinese Game

Tween Group

SEPTEMBER 27

Dinner: TBA

Timothy Tyson author of *The Blood of Emmett Till*



Part detective story, part political history, *The Blood of Emmett Till* is an explosive reconstruction of the lynching, the trial, and their crucial impact on our history. Award winning author Timothy Tyson uses a range of sources — including the only interview ever given by Carolyn Bryant, along with her unpublished memoir — to tell the definitive story, in which black power and a mother's courage confronted America's enduring racial caste system. Tyson writes profoundly and cinematically to revise and redefine a history that still confounds us today in the age of Black Lives Matter.

Take advantage of a rare opportunity to hear from *New York Times* bestselling author Timothy Tyson. Among his many accomplishments, Tyson is a senior research scholar and professor at Duke University, adjunct faculty at UNC Chapel Hill, and serves on the executive board of the North Carolina NAACP (Rev. Dr. William Barber, President). *The Blood of Emmett Till* is available in the Bookstall and in the Anderson Library.

Great College Search: Session Two

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

Embodied Spiritual Practice: Yoga

Yoga and the 7 UU Principles and Purposes

Go: A Chinese Game

Tween Group

Love is the spirit of this church, and service its law.
This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace,
To seek the truth in love,
And to help one another.

— James Vila Blake

SPIRIT MAP / CHALICE CIRCLES

Spirit Map Class

Did you choose to purchase a Spirit Map report after the congregational survey last spring?



Wondering what to do with those results? Join Spiritual Director Sarah Cledwyn for two upcoming opportunities to dig deeper into your strengths and opportunities.

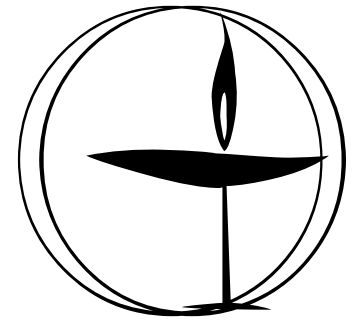
The wonderful thing about your Spirit Map results is that they are the perfect starting point to tailor a spiritual practice that works for you, help you gain insight about where to focus your growth efforts for the greatest traction, and move you to the next level of spiritual maturity... if you use them. Come to a one-time, free introductory session on Wednesday, October 4, about your Spirit Map results and what to do with them now. This session will give you a re-orientation into your results, what they mean, and how to use them. The introductory session will be followed by a six week class running on Thursdays from October 12-November 16. In this course we will delve even deeper into your results and how to translate them into individual spiritual practices in a supportive environment.

What if you haven't taken the inventory and are curious? You can find out more about Spirit Map at www.spiritmap.org/individuals.html. Or visit <http://bit.ly/spiritmap17> to purchase a Spirit Map report at the specially discounted rates for class participants. There are two reports available; either will work for the class. Once you purchase a report, you'll receive a link to access the Spirit Map inventory. Inventories will have to be completed by September 26 in order to be ready for the introduction session on October 4. Questions? Contact Sarah Cledwyn at 651-699-9948 or Laura Park laura@unityconsulting.org.

How will you grow your soul at church this fall? Introducing Chalice Circles!

Around us swirls a shallow, frantic and materialistic culture that leaves us cut off from our deepest selves, life's gifts, and needs greater than our own. Many of us come to church hungry to mend these sacred connections that get frayed and torn. Come join a Chalice Circle to be supported in this journey of reconnection to life, others, and ourselves.

Chalice Circles are a way of engaging our monthly worship themes through deep listening and open-hearted sharing. Chalice Circles are groups of 8-10 committed participants who come together once a month, from October–May, with a trained leader to nurture spiritual growth in community. We do this by listening in three distinct ways:



- **First, we listen to each other.** Listening is a gift not often offered in our culture. Most of the time, we are “talked at” rather than listened to. Being listened to by trusted companions helps us hear our own voice again. And more than that: It gives our story back.
- **Second, we listen to our lives.** This is not easy to do. Directly or indirectly, we are taught to see life as a challenge not a companion. The goal is to conquer it, not listen to it. Chalice Circles invite us to take another look and dance with life in a new way. Through spiritual practices and questions focused on our daily living, we engage the word not as an obstacle course to get through, but as a host of holy voices calling us to greater loving and living.
- **Finally, we listen to our deepest selves.** Introspective questions guide us in this work, but ironically, it's the people and space around us that helps us go inward. We hear that still, “small voice inside” best when voices of friends speak in a disciplined way. Quaker teacher Parker Palmer explains: So what do we do in a circle of trust? We speak our own truth; we listen receptively to the truth of others; we ask each other honest, open questions instead of giving counsel; and we offer each other the healing and empowering gifts of silence and laughter... Our purpose is not to teach anyone anything but to give the inner teacher a chance to teach us.”

Together, these sacred practices of listening — to each other, the world, and our deepest selves — adds up to a more intentional and authentic life. It's a journey back to connection, and ultimately a journey back home.

Nuts and Bolts

At the beginning of each month, participants will receive a packet of materials based upon the month's worship theme (such as "Sacrifice," for October). From these materials, each participant chooses one spiritual exercise and a deep question to sit with for the course of the month. At the end of the month, participants will gather with their small group to share their experiences of the spiritual exercise, of contemplating their question, and to reflect on the theme.

Groups will be starting in October. Contact ministerial intern Andrea Johnson at andrea@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 and visit the Chalice Circle Table in the Parish Hall to learn more! Registration will occur during the month of September both online and in person in the Parish Hall.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE AND DIRECTION

Spiritual Practice for Young Adults

Saturday, September 23 • 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. • Parish Hall

How do you find and keep your balance? The Church is a great place to help you to establish consistent spiritual practice in your life. Rob Eller-Isaacs and K.P. Hong are offering a four-hour workshop designed especially for young adults (ages 18-35). There will be small group conversations, meditation training, embodied practice, and an invitation to find a practice partner or build a small group to support your effort. Registration is required. To register, please contact Martha Tilton at martha@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x105 to register. No cost for those who have made a 2017 pledge to the church, others are invited to make a free will contribution. Free childcare is available by advance request at least one week in advance. Please indicate that you need childcare when you register with Martha Tilton.

Fall Open Page Writing Sessions



Led by Consulting Literary Minister Karen Hering, Open Page writing sessions are opportunities to correspond with the "still, small voice within." Using stories, poetry, images and objects as well as wisdom from religious teachings, science and history, participants reflect on the month's theme in their own words and on their own pages. No writing experience is necessary. Free; RSVP requested to karen@unityunitarian.org.

Who We Are Called to Be

Wednesday, September 13 • 7:00-9:00 p.m. • Unity Church

We've often heard Frederick Buechner's definition of vocation as that place "where your deep gladness meets the world's deep need." This writing session explores that meeting point and looks for the thread of vocation woven through the fabric of each of our lives.

Sacrifice: Learning to Let Go

Wednesday, October 18 • 7:00-9:00 p.m. • Unity Church

"The law of every living thing is growth," writes Susan Griffin, "through love, through willing sacrifice, or both." This writing session asks what sacrifices are asked of us today and how might we respond?

Awakening Gratitude

Sunday, November 13 • 2:00-4:00 p.m. • Unity Church

The power of gratitude to open the heart is perhaps what cause Meister Eckhardt to declare, "If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is 'Thank you,' it will have been enough." We'll explore how to keep gratitude alive and well even in the hardest times.

Group Spiritual Direction

Are you ready to deepen your awareness of yourself and your life? Join Spiritual Director Sarah Cledwyn and a group of inquisitive folks as we notice, name, and nurture our lives in group spiritual direction. In this group we practice listening carefully and reverently to our own experience and that of others, while exploring and finding insight. This kind of listening and exploring supports the transformation of our minds and hearts as we strive to remain centered and growing. As we gain awareness, we gain the ability to choose to align our behavior with our deepest ideals, allowing us to live and serve with purpose and clarity.

This group will meet on Mondays, from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., September through May, at Unity Church. Details and sign up are online at www.unityunitarian.org/spiritual-direction.html Questions? Contact Sarah at sarahcledwyn@gmail.com or 651-699-9948.

Yoga and the 7 UU Principles and Purposes

Wellspring Wednesday yoga will explore the Seven UU Principles and Purposes from a yoga philosophy standpoint. Classes each week, led by Elen Bahr (www.bravespaceyogawellness.com) that will include breathing techniques, physical movement and meditation to support the weekly theme and help us explore each of the seven principles and purposes from a different perspective. Come just as you are, no previous yoga experience needed. Please bring a yoga mat if you have one, we will have a few available for loan. Class begins at 7:15 p.m.

September 13: The inherent worth and dignity of every person

September 20: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations

September 27: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations

October 4: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

October 11: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large

October 18: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all

October 25: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

Enneagram

Understanding Your Gifts

Wednesday, September 13

7:15 p.m. • UnityChurch

Have you been wondering how your innate strengths can meet the world in a more sustainable way? Join Holistic Life Coach and Unity member Katy Taylor to explore how the wisdom of the Enneagram can help you be of greater service. Learn more about Katy and the Enneagram at www.katytaylor.com.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Fellowship Groups

Groups are open to all members and friends of Unity Church.

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 21) from noon–2:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at janne@unityunitarian.org

Elders Circle: Watch for details!

Evergreen Quilters: Second Tuesday of the month (September 12) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and fourth Saturday of the month (September 23) 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 19) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at janne@unityunitarian.org

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

New Look at the Bible: Second Thursday of the month (September 14) at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528

Textile Arts Group: All ages and levels of experience are welcome! Meets the first and third Thursdays of each month (September 7 and 21), from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Bring your knitting, crocheting, tatting, embroidery, needlepoint, and cross stitch for an evening of fellowship and service. Contact: Linda Mandeville at lindamandeville41@gmail.com

Unity Book Club: Second Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Contact Jack Hawthorne at jack.hawthorne@comcast.net. Upcoming discussions:
September 12: *Paris in Love* by Eloisa James
October 10: *Big Machine: A Novel* by Victor LaValle
November 14: *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann

Unity Bridge Club: First Friday of the month (September 1) at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Priscilla Swartz at 651-454-3209.

UU History Book Club: Third Wednesday of the month (September 20) at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Krista Hanson at klfhanson@yahoo.com. September's discussion will be on *Emerson's Self Reliance and Other Essays*.

Women In Retirement, The Choice Years: This group meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month, September 14 and 28, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org

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 5, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Contact Ken Ford at kenfaure@gmail.com

Awakening Wise Courage

Meg Wheatley and Barbara McAfee

Tuesday, October 10, at Unity Church

Unity Church will again collaborate with Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality to present an inspiring evening of conversation, music, and poetry in the Unity Church sanctuary on Tuesday, October 10, at 6:30 p.m. Nationally acclaimed author and speaker Margaret Wheatley will be joined by singer/songwriter Barbara McAfee, asking what it means to be courageously engaged today. How can we best be present, awake, and engaged in this time? Even as our hearts break and our anger and frustration rise, what is courageous action? How do insight and compassion inform our courage? Advance registration is encouraged and will be handled through Wisdom Ways online at <http://bit.ly/wheatleyww> or by phone at 651-696-2788. Financial assistance is available; contact Janne Eller-Isaacs at janne@unityunitarian.org.

Make a Difference

Volunteer with Obama School

Did you know that over forty men and women from Unity Church spend time each year making a difference for the children at Obama Elementary, the school across the street from the church? The Evergreen Quilters and the Art Team support the school with donations for particular projects. There are also a number of Unity Church people who spend time at the school working at one-time social events, volunteering regularly as classroom assistants, shelving books in the library, and as tutors in reading or math. As we get closer to the start of the school year we invite you to consider how you might help in strengthening excellence at the school, perhaps in one of the areas mentioned above. If you'd like to know more, contact Marty Rossmann at rossm001@umn.edu or Nancy Heege at nancyheege@cs.com.

25 lbs Makes a Difference

Hallie Q. Brown, the food shelf supported by Evergreen Quilters and Unity Church members, distributes 25 pounds of food per month, per qualified family member. Last year they distributed 568,183 pounds, 25 pounds at a time. This year they have served over 19,000 people in the Rondo neighborhood.



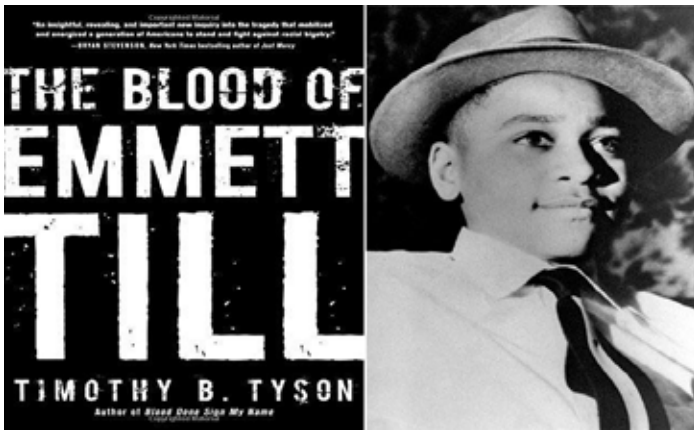
Since April 1, Evergreen Quilters has been collecting food shelf donations in the wicker trunks located at the Holly and Portland Avenue entrances. Our total donations from Unity Church have barely totaled 125 pounds. We can do better. All it takes is a habit of bringing a food shelf donation each time you come to the church. 200 Sunday service attendees each bringing a one pound can... well you do the math. It adds up quickly.

Please bring non-perishable food, cooking supplies, toiletries, and pet food to fill the wicker trunks.



From Shelley Butler, Library and Bookstall Team

History — Are We Learning From It or Repeating It?
Meet Timothy Tyson, Author of *The Blood of Emmett Till*
Wednesday September 27 • 7:10 p.m. • Unity Church



Emmett Till was lynched a long time ago, over 60 years. Times have changed, right? So, why is Timothy Tyson's new book, *The Blood of Emmett Till* eerily timely? August 1955 Mississippi doesn't seem so far off from Charlottesville in August 2017.

Fourteen year-old Emmett Till was brutally beaten, mutilated and shot in August of 1955. Wanting the world to know, his other held an open-casket funeral; even allowing Jet magazine to publish photos of the maimed face of her son. When Rosa Parks described her bus protest, she said, "I thought about Emmett Till, and I could not go back." Emmett became a spark or maybe a torch that helped ignite the civil rights movement.

It's no surprise that the all-white, all-male jury in Mississippi, which led the country in lynching, found the murderers not guilty, in part due to the sensational testimony of Emmett's "victim," 21 year-old Carolyn Bryant. In the only interview granted to an author, some 50 years later and at age 72, Carolyn confessed to Timothy Tyson that she lied. Tyson wrote, "...she looked me in the eyes, trying to distinguish between fact and remembrance, and told me a story I didn't know."

Take advantage of a rare opportunity to hear New York Times bestselling author Timothy Tyson tell that story on Wednesday, September 27, at 7:10 p.m. at Unity Church. Tyson is a senior research scholar and professor at Duke University, adjunct faculty at UNC Chapel Hill, and serves on the executive board of the North Carolina NAACP. *The Blood of Emmett Till* is available in the Bookstall and in the Anderson Library.

September Parish Hall Artist

Susan Solomon

My paintings are impressions of the environment and beauty around me. I love to paint Saint Paul landscapes, including the Highland Park Golf course and the Como swimming pool. My paintings are created using gouache (opaque watercolor) and India ink. Gouache produces brilliant colors and used in combination with deep black ink, can mimic stained glass. My art heroes are Georges Rouault, a painter who worked as a stained glass apprentice early in his career and whose work is filled with love for humanity; and Edouard Manet, with his clean colors and revolutionary use of black.

I grew up in Las Vegas, where neon sunsets and neon lights helped form my color sense. I later moved to Philadelphia and was formally educated at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. And now, when I paint landscapes I present small sections of the natural world that are too beautiful to turn away from. My hope is that viewers will see my work and find it evocative in some way. I believe that people know intuitively the landscapes they love and where they belong. I never fail to be impressed by how smart people are when "reading" art and how vitally human the process is. Art is a form of communication, and if people say they want to enter my paintings, I feel I have succeeded.

Art Share

The Unity Art Team invites you to spotlight your art!

- Choose your favorite piece of art — anything from your personal creation, your child's creation, or fine art on a wall in your home.
- Your piece, along with a statement of why it's a favorite, and a photo of you, will be displayed for two Sundays in the Art Share space in the Parish Hall.
- Art Share's goal is to encourage members of the congregation to know each other better and to enrich the focus on art at Unity Church.

Details and a sign up form are online at www.unityunitarian.org/art-share.html. Questions? Write to rossm001@umn.edu.

Artists of All Kinds, Writers of All Kinds: We need your gifts & talents! Join the nine-year literary & art tradition: submit to Cairns.	
Cairns Vol. 9, 2017 The Unity Church Journal of the Arts	Deadline Sept. 25, 2017
For more information & to submit, go to the Unity website: Unityunitarian.org — Service & Learning — Cairns Arts Journal	

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Pitter-pattering Questions

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

From KP Hong, Director of Religious Education



Vocation, our truest calling, may well be found in that place “where our deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” (Frederick Buechner) But what demands our greater attention is that we are most vulnerable precisely at such moments of discovery. This was certainly the case with a nine-year-old boy named Dickey, interviewed in Robert Coles’ book *Privileged Ones*. Amid mass protests and violent resistance during Boston’s busing crisis of the mid-1970s, the fight for school desegregation had emotions running high in Dickey’s suburban town, with opinions entrenched and battle lines firmly drawn. And as a nine-year-old child of liberal parents, Dickey remained firm in his allegiance to their liberalism, standing up to classmates like Richard who told him that if his parents were so keen on busing, maybe they should pay for it themselves. But Coles makes clear that Dickey was not merely parroting his parents. He expressed an emotional intensity, studied understanding, and genuine compassion for those who suffered, even cautioning black children from Boston that they may not want to attend his school given the malice and taunting from his classmates. Then something happens:

*Over time, the interviews reveal the cost of this protracted conflict on Dickey. Richard’s unrelenting challenges took their toll. His taunts stung, like the point of the nail hammered home by the whole town. But it was something else that turned the tide against Dickey’s attempts to hold his own and to speak from his heart. He discovered that his parents were not quite as serious about things as he was. Turning to them in a moment of disillusionment, he asked if it was possible to move into the city; “I’m not learning how to get along with anyone but kids like Richard.” When his father told him that they were staying right where they were and that they were doing it for his own good, something gave. It was not long before Dickey informed his parents that he was going to keep a low profile for a while... By the age of thirteen, Dickey’s opinions on busing, race, and social change had become more “realistic,” more scientific. Blacks, it turned out, really were “different” and not quite ready to receive what they demanded, at least not now... “I used to think we should try to change a lot of things right away. But you shouldn’t be too quick... If you know what Darwin said, you’ll be in favor of very gradual change.” (adapted from Brian Mahan, *Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose*)*

As an astute and provocative social observer, Coles is careful not to offer simplistic conclusions. Rather, he asks about “moral compliance,” about the subtle dynamics of social compromise that would teach our children not to be so easily moved or so easily recruited by the pain of another. That this is not the kind of world that allows a child to care too much, to feel too much, to dare too much as to hazard following a call into such vulnerability. Better to adapt to false consciousness or alienation from our innermost calling, keep a low profile for just a little while, than to risk failure and despair. Better safe than sorry when it concerns our children, right?

Except that our children by nature are inimitably acquainted with life in the vocative, their mother tongue, born waiting for that exclamation from the deep structure and grammar of life to call them into being. They are creatures addressed everywhere by the world, summoned to a creative purpose beyond society’s exhausted scripts, and in that place where gladness and hunger fiercely embrace, discover their true names. How could it be otherwise? And when they turn to us in heartbreaking moments of disillusionment, what will we say?

Another year begins, and gratitude fills my heart for this community where our children call out to us, asking us to bless them and speak their true names.

Sharing questions that pitter-patter across our sacred journeys...

Sundays with Kids

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, out of diapers)

- Registered children can be signed in to class beginning 10 minutes before the service
- If teachers are not present, please stay with your child until they arrive
- Name tags are in the pocket charts on the door, return name tags when leaving
- Classes run 75 minutes: if worship ends earlier, enjoy coffee and fellowship before classroom pickup.

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 AND 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 2017-18**, please join us on Wednesday, September 6, from 6:30-7:30 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. 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.
- See you on Sunday, September 10, for "Merging of Waters" Family Sunday, and Sunday, September 17, for the start of Sunday School!

Religious Education Teachers

For ALL Teachers/Volunteers

As part of Unity's expanding commitment to racial justice, all teachers and volunteers for this coming year are asked to participate in this important, day long Intercultural Competence Training on Saturday, September 9, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Childcare and lunch provided. We are asking each participant to pay a registration fee of \$35.00. This will help cover the cost of an online inventory we hope each of you will take before the workshop, as well as lunch. If you have already taken the inventory, the cost for registration is \$15.00.

- RSVP at: <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=5bd53e>
- For anyone needing scholarship, please RSVP at: <http://www.unityunitarian.org/icwreg.html>

For NEW Teachers/Volunteers

Religious Education teachers new to their program area, or anyone needing basic orientation to their volunteer roles, please choose one of the two dates below, then sign up online: <http://www.unityunitarian.org/teacher-trainings.html>.

- **Wednesday, September 6 • All sessions 7:30-9:00 p.m.**
Spirit Play teacher, Rotations teacher, Journey Guide, Junior High teacher (*All other roles will receive orientation as needs/events arise*)
- **Wednesday, September 13 • All sessions 7:15-8:45 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*)

Teachers whose responsibilities fall only in the second semester are welcome to attend this orientation, but also may choose to attend the orientation scheduled for January 13 or 17.

Sing in a Unity Choir!

From Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministries

The most regretful people on earth are those who felt the call to creative work, who felt their own creative power restive and uprising, and gave to it neither power nor time.

— Mary Oliver

Here at Unity Church we have a vital choral program and invite you to consider singing with us this year!

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!

Questions? Please contact Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministries, 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 10, 10:15–11:00 a.m., Robbins Parlor (Kathleen Radspinner, director, kathleenr395@gmail.com)
- **Unity Choir** (high school, adult)
Thursday, September 7, 7:30– 9:15 p.m., Parish Hall (Ruth Palmer, director)
- **Unity Singers** (auditioned membership) Tuesday, September 5, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Parish Hall (Ruth Palmer, director)
- **Women's Ensemble**
Sunday, September 10, 10:15-10:45 a.m., Foote Room (Ruth Palmer, director)

Gospel Music Workshop

Saturday, September 30 • 12:30-3:30 p.m.

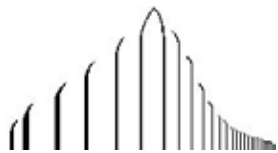
Valley Community Presbyterian Church

3100 Lilac Drive, Golden Valley

If you love to sing and wish to learn more about the African American gospel tradition, join Valley Community Church for their fall workshop on Saturday, September 30. This fun and informative session will be led by Gary Hines, Music



Director and Producer of the award-winning Sounds of Blackness. Fee: \$15. Register at the door or in advance at <https://www.tccgospel.org/>. The day will conclude with an informal concert for friends and family at 4:00 p.m.



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

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MATERIAL**

Peter Mayer at Merging of Waters



Unity Church is thrilled to welcome Peter Mayer to the Merging of Waters service on Sunday, September 10, 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.

BOOK READING TIMOTHY TYSON AUTHOR OF THE BLOOD OF EMMETT TILL



September 27, 2017 at 7:10 p.m.

"An insightful, revealing and important new inquiry into the tragedy that mobilized and energized a generation of Americans to stand and fight against racial bigotry."

— Bryan Stevenson, New York Times bestselling author of *Just Mercy*



**Unity Church-Unitarian
733 Portland Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104**

SHARE THE BOUNTY!

2017 Auction at Unity Church • See page 2 for details