

This Week at Unity Church



January 7, 2024

Welcome Visitors

After the service please stop by the Welcome Table in Parish Hall to introduce yourself. We would love to get to know you, answer your questions, and help you learn about Unity Church. If you are attending the service online, contact Laura Park at laura@unityunitarian.org for the link to join our online coffee hour.

Finding Yourself at Unity

Topic: Community Outreach and Social Justice

Finding Yourself at Unity meets Sundays, 10:15-11:15 a.m., in the Gannett Room and online at bit.ly/fyonline. For visitors, new members, and inquirers, this eight-week series is offered continuously during the year. Child care is available in the nursery.

Youth Musical Auditions: Today!

Unity's Youth Musical is a unique production created each year for youth in grades 6, 7 and 8. Everyone who auditions will get a part! Auditions will be held on Sunday, January 7, at 1:30 p.m., the Foote Room. A required parent/guardian meeting will be held in the Art Room during auditions. Rehearsal and performance details and dates are online at unityunitarian.org/youth-musical.html.

Queer Theology

Second Tuesday (January 9) | 6:30-8:30 p.m. | Center Room

Queer Theology is a practice that attempts to erase boundaries that exist in religious traditions, to include rather than exclude more voices. This discussion group will use readings from Marcella Althaus-Reid, Judith Butler, Patrick Cheng, and others to help connect personal experiences with the world beyond the self. Open to adults of all genders and sexual orientations. Interested? Contact Mike Huber at mikehuberece@gmail.com.

Antiracism Literacy Partners

Tuesday, January 9 | 7:00 p.m. | Zoom: bit.ly/ALPjan924

This program highlights books, podcasts, and videos in our ongoing practice of learning about systemic racism and the work of dismantling it. This session: "Why We Cannot Turn Away: An Israel-Palestine Primer." Learn and think more deeply about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and to live into compassion for all. The primer is a compendium of articles and information with links to films, articles, and podcasts as a starting place for a more nuanced understanding of this complex time and place.

Unity Book Club

Tuesday, January 9 | 7:00-8:30 p.m. | Online via Zoom

January discussion: *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion* by Jonathan Haidt. Email Dave Kaminski to join the discussion: kaminskibd@gmail.com.

Mano a Mano Holiday Regifting Sale

Sunday, January 14 | Parish Hall following services

Did Santa bring something that's not your size, your style, or your idea of fun? Bring your unused new (or indistinguishable from new) items to the "regifting tables" on Sunday, January 14, before either service. Items will be sold at a discount at the Regifting Sale. Unsold items will be donated. Proceeds benefit the work of Unity's Mano a Mano Community Outreach Ministry Team.

Donate to the Food Shelf

Place items in the baskets located at the Holly and Portland entrances. This month the food shelf needs house cleaning and personal hygiene products.

A Journey to Learn with Mano a Mano

Information sessions: Sunday, January 14

10:15 a.m., Science Room | 12:30 p.m., DeCramer Room

The Mano a Mano Community Outreach Ministry Team invites you to join a May 6-13, 2024, trip to Bolivia. Through this unique travel experience, you will meet high Andean subsistence farm families and become immersed in their daily lives. To learn more about the trip visit unityunitarian.org/mano-a-mano.html and attend one of the information sessions on January 14.

Summer Pilgrimage to Transylvania

Information sessions: Sunday, January 28

10:15 a.m., Center Room | 12:30 p.m., Anderson Library/online

Join Unity Church members on a summer pilgrimage, led by Rev. Lara Cowtan, to the Unitarian homeland of Transylvania, July 31-August 13, 2024. Come learn about the opportunities for spiritual growth on pilgrimage. See unityunitarian.org/partner-church.html for more details and the Zoom link.

This Week in Religious Education

Orientation for second semester teachers who did not attend fall orientation is Saturday, January 13, 1:00-2:30 p.m., and Wednesday, January 17, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Email Nelson if you plan to attend: nelson@unityunitarian.org.

Sunday, January 14, is Story Sunday with school-age Rotations children and middle school youth in the Sanctuary for worship. Rotations children will be blessed out after the Story for All Ages, while middle school youth remain for the full service as part of their growing practice of worship. Spirit Play children should go directly to their classrooms.

Spirit Play (ages 3-6) children hear *The Miraculously Ordinary Story of a Baby*. How is the birth story of the infant Jesus as ordinary as any other birth story? How is it extraordinary or different from other stories? What stories do our children know about their own birth?

Rotations (grades 1-6) children begin in Ames Chapel worship, then in classrooms downstairs explore the theme "The Sacred Within." When we recognize that the Sacred within us also resides in every other being, compassion calls us into a deeper sharing and caring for others in the world.

Middle School (grades 6-8) youth conclude their first semester class on Introduction to Islam, with the traditional round of Religious Jeopardy game. Second semester classes begin January 21. Youth conclude each class with worship in Ames Chapel.

Our Whole Lives meets coming Wednesday, January 10, with focus on Healthy Relationships. OWL is a sexuality and spirituality program typically for grades 8-9.

Coming of Age youth meet today to continue exploring: What is our role in striving for the Beloved Community? COA is a signature spiritual growth and enrichment program typically for 9th graders.

Tower Club high school youth meet for their regular meeting today. Tower Club is a gathering place for 10th-12th graders to enjoy community and share life at the intersection between the world and faith, typically Sundays from 12:45-2:45 p.m.

This Week at Unity Church

Find the church calendar, along with links to participate in online offerings, at unityunitarian.org/calendar.html.

Sunday, January 7

Sunday Services 9:00 (livestream) and 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary
Religious Education Classes 9:00 and 11:15 a.m., Lower level
Afterthoughts 10:15 a.m., Lower level - Room 024/online
Retirement Celebration for Teresa Connor 10:00 a.m., Center Room
Finding Yourself at Unity 10:15 a.m., Gannett Room/online
Indigenous Justice Team 10:15 a.m., COMT Office
Youth Choir Rehearsal 10:15 a.m., Ames Chapel
Children's Choir Rehearsal 10:20 a.m., Choir Room
Women's Ensemble Rehearsal 10:30 a.m., Foote Room
Threshold Choir Rehearsal 12:30 p.m., Ames Chapel
Tower Club 12:30 p.m., Center Room
Youth Musical Auditions/Parent Meeting 1:30 p.m., Foote Room

Monday, January 8

Men's Retirement Group 1:00 p.m., Robbins Parlor
Circle of Peace 5:15 p.m., Center Room
Art Team 7:00 p.m., Foote Room

Tuesday, January 9

Affordable Housing Team 4:30 p.m., online
Unity Sangha 4:30 p.m., Ames Chapel
Committing to Unity 6:30 p.m., Robbins Parlor
Queer Theology 6:30 p.m., Gannett Room
Antiracism Literacy Partners 7:00 p.m., online
Evergreen Quilters 7:00 p.m., Anderson Library
Unity Book Club 7:00 p.m., online
Unity Singers Rehearsal 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Wednesday, January 10

Men's Coffee Group 10:00 a.m., DeCramer Room
Summit Hill Alanon 5:00 p.m., Science Room
Wellspring Wednesday Dinner 5:45 p.m., Parish Hall
Recovery from White Conditioning 6:00 p.m., online
Wellspring Wednesday Chapel Service 6:40 p.m., Ames Chapel
Mano a Mano Team 7:10 p.m., Science Room
Taste of Coming of Age 7:10 p.m., Robbins Parlor
End of Life Options 7:10 p.m., Parish Hall/online
Beginner Violin 7:10 p.m., Choir Room
Lectio Divina 7:10 p.m., online
Young Adults Group 7:10 p.m., Center Room

Thursday, January 11

Women in Retirement 1:00 p.m., Center Room
Gun Sense Team 3:30 p.m., Gannett Room
A New Look at the Bible 7:00 p.m., online
Fresh Air AA 7:00 p.m., Gannett Room
Unity Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Saturday, January 13

Pancake Breakfast 9:00 a.m., Parish Hall
Kung Fu 9:00 a.m., Body Room
Debtors Anonymous 9:00 a.m., Science Room
Religious Education Teacher Orientation 1:00 p.m., Foote Room

January Parish Hall Artist

What in the world is Encaustic Mixed Media? Artist Naomi Hart embeds etchings, detailed drawings, and a huge array of other materials within many layers of hot beeswax to create a surrealist distortion of sharply rendered imagery. The translucency of the wax adds history and depth to each of her pieces. She is our January Parish Hall artist.

Wellspring Wednesday

Wellspring Wednesday gathers a multigenerational church community to nourish right and holy relationship among us and deepen our life of faith grounded in spiritual practice and antiracist multicultural work.

JANUARY 10

Dinner: 5:45 p.m.: *Pasta fagioli, salad, oatmeal cookies*
Chapel service: 6:45 p.m.
Programs with child care provided: 7:10 p.m.

Session 1: Taking Action for End-of-Life-Options:

Understanding your values about dying, autonomy and choice

Parish Hall and online via Zoom: bit.ly/eol1017

Reverend David Breeden, Senior Minister at First Unitarian Society, Minneapolis

This session will review the concerns of those who oppose end of life options legislation, such as the belief that adults should not have the right to end their own lives. By wrestling with the arguments against medical aid in dying, we will clarify our own values about human life, death fears, and autonomy.

A Taste of Coming of Age: What is our role (as individuals and the church) in striving for Beloved Community?

In-person, Robbins Parlor

In this session, facilitated by Coming of Age mentor and teacher of teachers Nate Schultz, we will turn the floor over to you, inviting your responses, and listening in as others grapple with their thoughts. All are welcome to come reflect on this Coming of Age question!

Beginner Violin with Mayra Mendoza

In-person, Choir Room

Beginning violin lessons appropriate for all ages. Send Mayra an email at mayraquitzia@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

Lectio Divina

Online via Zoom: bit.ly/Lectio2023-24

Participate in a centuries-old monastic practice of listening, contemplating, and responding to sacred texts, modified with poetry for UU small group spiritual practice. On Wednesdays, join the Zoom from the Gannett Room at church.

JANUARY 17

Session 2: Taking Action for End-of-Life-Options: Acting on your values about dying, autonomy and choice

Parish Hall and online via Zoom: bit.ly/eol1017

Dr. Rebecca Thoman, Program Director for Doctors for Dignity, Compassion and Choices and Rev. Harlan Limpert Learn the history of End of Life Options (EOL) in Minnesota, and review the legislative process and best-case predictions for 2024. We will prepare to support EOL by learning how and when to contact our legislators, how to tell persuasive stories as constituents, and how to attend committee hearings.

Theologies of Racial Justice

Part 1: Constructing Unitarian Universalist Theologies

In-person, Robbins Parlor

This three-part series with Rev. Dr. Andrea Johnson will explore Unitarian Universalist theologies of racial justice and the liberal theological tradition in which they are rooted.

What theological resources equip UUs to live out the anti-racist, anti-oppression values of our faith? Session details online at unityunitarian.org/antiracist-multiculturalism.html