

# This Week at Unity Church

September 5, 2021

## Listening Sessions with the Ministerial Search Team

The Ministerial Search Team is holding a series of Listening Sessions to gather responses to important questions regarding the search for our next settled minister. Each session will be one and a half hours long, with participants dividing into small groups in order that everyone's voice is heard. This is a chance to have a conversation with others in our community about our future. Register for a Listening Session: [www.unityunitarian.org/listening-sessions.html](http://www.unityunitarian.org/listening-sessions.html). Contact the Ministerial Search Team at [mst@unityunitarian.org](mailto:mst@unityunitarian.org).



Listening Sessions via Zoom (online)

- Tuesday, September 21 • 1:00-2:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 22 • 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- Sunday, September 26 • 1:00-2:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 29 • 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Listening Session in the Sanctuary (in person)

- Wednesday October 6 • 7:00-8:30 p.m.

## New! Youth Choir at Unity Church

**Rehearsals: Sundays, 10:15-10:55 a.m., lower level Music Room**  
**First Rehearsal: Sunday, September 19**

Unity's Youth Choir for grades 6-9 launches this fall building on the Children's Choir and responding to the interest and musical skills of Unity's youth and families. Youth Choir is a primarily-vocal group also welcoming instrumentalists to join in the ensemble. If you're too old for Children's Choir and miss it, if you've noticed how connected music is to your spirituality, and/or if it just feels good to sing, Youth Choir is for you! No prior musical experience necessary. For more information, contact Laura Potratz, Unity Youth Choir Coordinator, at [lauramusic@unityunitarian.org](mailto:lauramusic@unityunitarian.org).

## Meal Train: Can you help with home-delivered meals?

We've all been there: new baby, sick family member, job exhaustion! Several members of our community need support with meals made and delivered with love. Can you help:

- prepare and deliver a meal?
- prepare a meal for delivery by others?
- deliver meals made by others?
- coordinate a Meal Train for one household?

If so, please email Patt Kelly at [pkelly@umn.edu](mailto:pkelly@umn.edu). An intuitive online program makes it easy, and guidance to get you started will be provided.

## Faith in Action Fair

**Sunday, September 26 • Parish Hall following services**

Wondering how you can follow the call of your Unitarian Universalist spirit into the world beyond our church walls? Unity's Community Outreach Ministry teams invite you to come find out — discover what each of the teams have been up to, learn more about their plans for this year, and explore ways you can get involved!

## Dine with Nine Returns: Register by September 21!

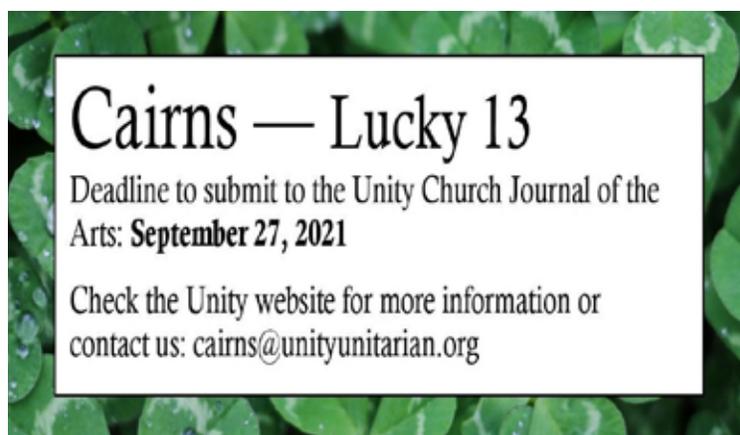
Have you really missed meaningful conversation in small groups and safe gathering spaces? Do you enjoy meeting new faces and/or renewing prior acquaintance with like-hearted people? Do you enjoy good food and lively conversation? If so, read on ...

Beginning in October, small groups of Unity Church members and friends will gather once a month for food and fellowship. Each group is self-directed and will choose the dates, times, and locations for their gatherings. Often, these are pot-luck meals in group members' homes, but groups may also choose to mix in visits to restaurants, a picnic, or a catered/delivered meal.

Visit the Dine with Nine table in the Parish Hall on September 12 and 19 to learn more and sign up, or sign up online. Please register no later than September 21 and complete the form in its entirety. Questions? Please contact Laura Park at [laura@unityunitarian.org](mailto:laura@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x110.

## The Unity Church Bookstall: BIG Book Sale

Welcome Back Special Event: 50% off all titles on display!  
Sunday, September 12 & 19, following services!



## This Week in Religious Education

Summer in the Garden welcomes children and families into the church garden for our summer religious education program. Typically for children ages 4-13, the garden program offers virtual and actual opportunities to work and care for our garden from seed to harvest. Step into the garden each week with videos posted here: [www.unityunitarian.org/summer-sundays-in-the-garden.html](http://www.unityunitarian.org/summer-sundays-in-the-garden.html). For further information, please contact Anna Newton at [asnewton3@gmail.com](mailto:asnewton3@gmail.com) or Michelle Mecey at [michelle@unityunitarian.org](mailto:michelle@unityunitarian.org).

## Children's Garden Farmers Market

**Sunday, September 12 • After services, in the garden!**

Come to the children's garden after services on September 12 and purchase some of the vegetables, herbs, and seeds that have been harvested in our garden this summer. All proceeds support the purchase of supplies for next year's garden, and most of our produce grown each summer is shared with the Hallie Q Brown food shelf.

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## This Week at Unity Church

Find the church calendar, along with links to participate in online offerings, at: [www.unityunitarian.org/calendar.html](http://www.unityunitarian.org/calendar.html).

### Sunday, September 5

Summer Sundays in the Garden 10:00 a.m., Children's Garden

### Monday, September 6

Labor Day Church Office Closed

### Wednesday, September 8

Recovery from White Conditioning 6:00 p.m., online

Wellspring Wednesday See box at right

### Thursday, September 9

Women in Retirement Noon, Center Room

Beloved Community Staff Team 4:00 p.m., Gannett Room

A New Look at the Bible 7:00 p.m., online

Art Team Meeting 7:00 p.m., online

### Friday, September 10

Marv Spears Memorial Service 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary

### Saturday, September 11

Men's Breakfast 8:30 a.m., Greenspace

Board of Trustees 9:00 a.m., online

Kung Fu 11:00 a.m., online

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## Down to the River to Pray

### Merging of Waters Sunday, September 12

In-person services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Livestream at 9:00 a.m. only: <https://youtu.be/KK-9ZLa PJA>

Our annual homecoming service with the Merging of the Waters, this Sunday celebrates our return to a reopened building, our return as a community to worship together more fully — and also notes all that has changed since we last gathered. This is a Family Sunday. Be sure to bring water from your summer adventures for our merging of waters ritual. Please watch for more details about the opportunities to bring water for merging, even if you do not attend the service in person.

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.

## September Food Shelf Donations

Please bring donations for the Hallie Q. Brown Food Shelf to church and place them in the baskets located at the Holly and Portland Avenue and entrances.

School Supplies are needed: backpacks, pencils, paper, glue and glue sticks, crayons, tissues, any other basic school supplies. Also needed brown and long-grain rice, tuna, soup, canned chicken, pasta and pasta sauce, toilet paper, paper towels, body wash, shampoo, conditioner.

## Pastoral Care

If you have a joy or sorrow, life-cycle event, or concern you would like to share with the ministers and Pastoral Care Team, or have shared in the embracing meditation during Sunday service, please complete the online form at [www.unityunitarian.org/pastoral-care.html](http://www.unityunitarian.org/pastoral-care.html). You may also contact Karen Hering, Associate Minister, by email to [karen@unityunitarian.org](mailto:karen@unityunitarian.org).

## Wellspring Wednesday

Wellspring Wednesday at Unity Church has long been a multi-generational opportunity to gather midweek at church for food, fellowship, worship, spiritual deepening and learning. Although the church building has reopened for programming and, in mid-September, we will resume in-person worship, we are not able to serve food at this time because masking in the building is required. We hope to return to Wellspring Wednesday meals in the future as Covid-19 protocols allow.

In-person multi-generational Wellspring Wednesday chapel will resume on September 15, from 6:00-6:30 p.m., each week in the Ames Chapel. It will be led by Unity's Religious Education staff and will include more music, especially from members.

Wellspring Wednesday adult programming will continue to be offered online, starting September 8. If you haven't yet participated in an online program using Zoom, church staff can help you get started. Unless otherwise noted, you can use the registration link right up until the program starts to participate.

### A Spiritual Practice to Feed Your Soul: Lectio Divina

September 8 • 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Online, register here: <https://bit.ly/Lectio21-22>

Following a centuries-old Benedictine spiritual practice of contemplative reading, meet online to share in Lectio Divina. In this invitation to receive the wisdom and gifts of poetry, each session engages the group in hearing a particular poem read aloud multiple times, listening for "what is found there." Rather than analyzing the poem, group members lift up what they heard and how the poem spoke to them. Led by Shelley Butler.

### Risking Light: a film viewing and discussion of forgiveness

September 8 • 7:00-9:15 p.m.

Online, register here: <https://bit.ly/ForgiveSept>

Join author and forgiveness teacher Mary Hayes Grieco for this invitation to learn about forgiveness as a tool for our times. The program will begin with an online viewing of *Risking Light*, a powerful film that tells the stories of three people in different countries who discovered that they could forgive the unforgiveable. Presenter Mary Hayes Grieco is the author of *Unconditional Forgiveness*, and the director of The Midwest Institute for Forgiveness Training.

### The Thread You Follow: writing as a spiritual practice, on the theme of vocation, led by Karen Hering

September 15 • 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Online, register here: <https://bit.ly/VocationWriting>

We've often heard Frederick Buechner's definition of vocation as that place "where your deep gladness meets the world's deep need." This guided writing session explores that meeting point and looks for the thread of vocation woven through the fabric of each of our lives and through the community life we share. For writers and nonwriters alike. Participants bring whatever you need to write and Karen will provide the rest.

### A Conversation with Interim Minister Kathy Hurt

September 15 • 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Online, register here: <https://bit.ly/QandAKathy>

All are invited to meet Unity's new interim senior minister, the Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt. Kathy will share her insights into the possibilities and challenges that are often present in an interim year. Bring your curiosity and your questions — and be prepared, as Kathy may have some questions for you.