

This Week at Unity Church

October 3, 2021

Welcome Visitors

After the service please stop by the Welcome Table in the 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, join other Unity Church congregants for informal conversation at an online coffee hour. Contact Laura Park (laura@unityunitarian.org) for the link to join each Sunday when the live-streamed service ends.

Finding Yourself at Unity

Today's topic: Membership 101

Finding Yourself at Unity meets on Sundays, from 10:15-11:15 a.m., in the Gannett Room. Designed for visitors, new members, and inquirers, this eight-week series is offered continuously during the year. Childcare is available in the nursery.

Last Chance! Chalice Circle registration closes October 6!

Register here: <https://bit.ly/ChaliceCircle>

Chalice Circles are specially designed to nurture spiritual growth and meaningful conversation. Each month, participants receive a packet on that month's theme with readings, podcasts, short videos and other resources related to the theme. Each person chooses one spiritual exercise and a deep question from the packet to spend time with over several weeks. Near the end of the month, the group gathers to share their experiences with a practice, a question, and the theme. Participants can choose to join an online circle meeting by Zoom or one that will meet in person at the church.

Ministerial Search Team: Help Shape Our Collective Future

Unity's Ministerial Search Team (MST) is asking the congregation to participate in these opportunities to help shape our collective future as we search for our next settled minister. Questions? Please email the Ministerial Search Team at mst@unityunitarian.org.

Listening Sessions: Many opportunities to participate both on Zoom and in-person: www.unityunitarian.org/ministerial-transition.html

- October 6, 7:00-8:30 p.m., at Unity Church
- October 12, 1:00-2:30 p.m., online
- October 13, 7:00-8:30 p.m., at Unity Church
- October 17, 1:00-2:30 p.m., online
- October 20, 7:00-8:30 p.m., at Unity Church
- October 25, 7:00-8:30 p.m., BIPOC group at Unity Church
- October 27, 7:00-8:30 p.m., at Unity Church

Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop: October 15 and 16

Online register: <https://bit.ly/ucumstbct>

The Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop, led by a skilled trainer from the Unitarian Universalist Association, is designed to promote inclusive thinking and prevent unfair discrimination during a congregation's search for a settled minister. Unity's participation will send the message to prospective candidates that we are eager to mitigate a narrow mindset that might otherwise affect the search process and limit our options to the detriment of our community. This is the work of building a community free from systemic oppression.



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. You may also contact Karen Hering, Associate Minister, by email to karen@unityunitarian.org.

This Week in Religious Education

Monthly R.E. Orientation for new families and anyone interested in learning more about Religious Education at Unity Church is Wednesday, October 6, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Families needing to enroll children should contact Michelle Mecey at michelle@unityunitarian.org.

Spirit Play (ages 3-6): Children in Spirit Play today hear the story of Listening for God. How do we listen with our whole selves? With our bodies, minds, hearts, and imagination? And how does the Spirit help us know how to love, what to do, and who to be? Please wonder together with your children.

Rotations (grades 1-6): Children first begin in worship, upstairs in the Ames Chapel with their friends and teachers. Then in classrooms downstairs, they continue their journey as a community of faith, exploring "God is Great Mystery." Take a moment to say hello and get to know your child's teachers.

Junior High (grades 6-8): Youth continue with three classes offered this semester: Introduction to Earth-Centered Religions, Power of Myth, and UU Identity & History. Youth conclude each class with worship in Ames Chapel.

Our Whole Lives is a sexuality and spirituality program typically for 8th graders. Class meets Wednesday, October 6, 7:00-8:15 p.m., with focus on "Examining Values."

Our Whole Lives Intensives are for 9th graders only, with workshops meeting today, 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Coming of Age starts with an overnite retreat at Camp St. Croix, October 8-10. COA is our signature spiritual growth and enrichment program typically for 9th graders. Questions? Email drew@unityunitarian.org.

Tower Club: Senior high youth are encouraged to attend worship with families on first Sundays each month (no regular meeting). Tower Club is a gathering place for 10th-12th graders to enjoy community and share life at the intersection between the world and faith. Lots of fun and food, too.

This Week at Unity Church

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

Sunday, October 3

Afterthoughts 10:00 a.m., Crothers Room and online
Finding Yourself at Unity 10:15 a.m., Gannett Room
Women's Ensemble Rehearsal 10:15 a.m., Foote Room
Children's Choir Rehearsal 10:15 a.m., Choir Room
Youth Choir Rehearsal 10:15 a.m., Music Room
Threshold Choir Rehearsal 1:00 p.m., Greenspace/Choir Room

Monday, October 4

The Circle of Peace 5:00 p.m., online
Men's Conversation Group 7:00 p.m., online

Tuesday, October 5

Zen Meditation 4:30 p.m., Ames Chapel
Unity Singers Rehearsal 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Wednesday, October 6

Men's Coffee Group 9:00 a.m., Bread and Chocolate
Recovery from White Conditioning 6:00 p.m., online
MST Listening Session 7:00 p.m., online
Textile Arts Group 7:00 p.m., DeCramer Room
Our Whole Lives 7:00 p.m., Foote Room

Thursday, October 7

Obama School Ministry Team 1:00 p.m., DeCramer Room
Unity Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall
Fresh Air AA 8:00 p.m., Gannett Room

Friday, October 8

Coming of Age Retreat Friday-Sunday, Camp St. Croix

Saturday, October 9

Men's Breakfast 8:30 a.m., Greenspace
Kung Fu 11:00 a.m., online
Celebration of Life for Bryan Janssens 3:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Going to Extremes

Sunday Service, October 10 • 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Livestream at 9:00 a.m. only: <https://youtu.be/6QKfkQZiVcY>

Because transitions, whether the transitions we go through in our lives or the transitions a congregation goes through when ministers are being sought, leave so much unsettled and in disarray, the temptation to nail everything down and keep everything the same can be strong. Yet transitions invite us to sacrifice what is familiar — and often without knowing what will replace it. Kathy Hurt, Ahmed Anzaldúa, and worship associate Merrill Aldrich explore the difficult sacrifice of giving up what has been familiar, comfortable, and dear, and how we navigate the uncertainty that results. The offering recipient is 7th Street Community Food Shelf.

Nominate an Offering Recipient

Each Sunday, seventy percent of the offering is shared with a community non-profit and thirty percent supports the Community Outreach Ministry at Unity Church. If you would like to nominate an organization to receive the Sunday offering, or see totals from last month's giving, please visit www.unityunitarian.org/sunday-offering.html.

One Voice Is Hiring

One Voice Mixed Chorus, Minnesota's LGBTQ and allies chorus, is hiring two full-time positions: Operations Coordinator and a new position as Community Engagement Coordinator. Complete job postings at www.OneVoiceMN.org/hire.

Wellspring Wednesday

Join us for in-person multi-generational Wellspring Wednesday chapel, from 6:00-6:30 p.m., each week in the Ames Chapel.

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.

Listening Session with the Ministerial Search Team

October 6 • 7:00-8:30 p.m. • In-person, Parish Hall

Register: www.unityunitarian.org/listening-sessions.html

Listening Sessions are an opportunity to respond to four questions from the MST, with your answers helping to guide the search for Unity's next settled minister. This is a chance to have a conversation with others about our collective future.

A Spiritual Practice to Feed Your Soul: Lectio Divina

October 13 • 7:00-8:30 p.m. • Online

Register: <https://bit.ly/Lectio21-22>

Following a centuries-old Benedictine spiritual practice of contemplative reading, meet online to share in Lectio Divina. For those who love or are curious about poetry, this practice, led by Shelley Butler, is a rich way to receive its gifts in a small group setting. Drop-in attendance is welcome. Register once to attend one or all future sessions on the second Wednesday of each month.

What is Rent Stabilization?

October 13 • 7:00-8:30 p.m. • Online

Register: <https://bit.ly/525-600-mins>

This initiative will be on the November 2nd ballot in Saint Paul and Minneapolis. In Saint Paul, it will allow landlords to raise rent up to 3% in a 12-month period — and to apply for a waiver for large expenses such as a new roof, property tax increases, etc., to ensure landlords receive "a fair return on investment." Minneapolis voters will decide whether or not to give their City Council the authority to enact a rent stabilization ordinance. Join our panel of lawyers, economists, and landlords for background and a lively discussion between supporters, non-supporters and undecideds. This event is presented by Unity's Affordable Housing Team.

Unity Book Club

The Unity Book Club meets the second Tuesday of the month, online from 7:00-8:30 p.m. On October 12 they will discuss *The Disappearing Spoon* by Sam Kean. Questions? Contact Jack Hawthorne, jack.hawthorne@centurylink.net.

Musicians Wanted for Wednesday Chapel Services

We are looking for people in our congregation to contribute two to six minutes of music for our Wellspring Wednesday services. These services, held in the chapel, are short, familial, and are not recorded. Potentially, we would also like to invite you to contribute your musical talents to other events down the road. Interested? Complete the online form: forms.gle/XzbVDqfnMjtgXywf6.

Would you like to be a front desk volunteer at Unity Church?

Front desk volunteers greet visitors, answer phones and provide support to staff members each weekday at the Holly Avenue reception desk. We need a few volunteers to commit to a half day per week, or to serve as substitutes. Contact Barbara Hubbard at barbara@unityunitarian.org if you're interested!