

This Week at Unity Church

December 8-14, 2019

Welcome visitors! After the service today, please stop by the Welcome Table in the Parish Hall to introduce yourself and learn more about Unity Church.

Finding Yourself at Unity

Topic: Membership 101 and Congregational Life

Finding Yourself at Unity meets on Sundays, from 10:20-11:15 a.m., in the Ames Chapel. Designed for visitors, new members, and inquirers, this eight-week series is offered continuously during the year. Childcare is available in the nursery.

Pageant Centennial Table in the Parish Hall

To honor our beloved pageant tradition, commemorative star ornaments will be available for purchase after services in the Parish Hall. This keepsake ornament is only \$10 and a perfect way to mark the 100th anniversary. You will also have the opportunity to order centennial t-shirts — these are especially fun for pageant cast members (order today and wear it to rehearsal!). A small display of pageant history told through sweet stories and photos will also be at the table. Stop by to learn about the special meaning this tradition holds for many people, share your own memories, and help identify photos of cast members from 1930 through 1970.

Holiday Boutique • Evergreen Quilters & Mano a Mano

Sunday, December 8 • Parish Hall • After morning services

Hand made table runners, wall-hangings, zippered bags, ornaments, and other items made by Evergreen Quilters. Unity's Mano a Mano team will be selling sweaters, totes, scarves, hats, tablecloths, and more made by Bolivian artists. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the sale will benefit the communities that these two organizations support.

Tower Club Wreath and Cookie Sale

Sunday, December 8 and 15 • After services • Parish Hall

Help support the ministry of our senior high youth and stop by to take home a holiday wreath designed by our Tower Club youth!

2020 Children's Musical Parent Information Meeting

Every year the Unity Church community comes together to write, compose, direct, choreograph, and perform a unique show for Unity Church. If you have a 6th, 7th, or 8th grader, consider whether this fun, team building experience might be right for them. To learn more, come to the parent information session on Sunday, December 8, from 10:15-11:00 a.m., in the Junior High NE Room. Questions? Contact Dave Smith at david.smith52@yahoo.com.

Caroling

Every year, singers from Unity Church go caroling to members who can no longer get to church. If you would like to join the caroling contingent, meet at the Holly Avenue reception desk after the 11:00 a.m. service on December 8 and 15. Groups will head out via carpool to deliver holiday caroling joy!

Open Page Writing Session • Topic: Reverence

Sunday December 8 • 2:00-4:00 p.m. • Anderson Library

Led by Consulting Literary Minister Karen Hering, Open Page writing session participants use stories, poetry, images and objects as well as wisdom from religious teachings, science and history, and provided prompts, to reflect on the monthly theme. No writing experience necessary. Bring something to write with and on. RSVP requested to karen@unityunitarian.org.

Look Who's Sharing Art

Meg Arnosti's mom's painting of Colorado landscape scenes brings back memories of Meg's childhood hiking in the mountains.

Evergreen Quilters

The quilt "Snowy, Snowy Night" that hangs in the Sanctuary was made to honor the family participating in today's Celebration of New Lives. Many Evergreen Quilters made the blocks. Kathie Simon Frank assembled the blocks and the back, and quilted and bound the quilt. Making quilts is part of Evergreen Quilters' social justice mission. "Snowy, Snowy Night" will be donated to a St. Paul day shelter, to be given to a family with children. The family participating in today's Celebration of New Lives will receive a card with a picture of the quilt. Evergreen Quilters meet on the second Tuesday evening (at Unity Church) and on the fourth Saturday (offsite) of each month. Interested in joining the group? Contact Peggy Wright at 651-698-2760.

Racial Justice Film Series: *Love Them First*

Friday, December 13 • 7:00 p.m. • Robbins Parlor

This KARE11 documentary follows North Minneapolis principal Mauri Melander Friestleben at Lucy Lane Elementary for an entire year. It is a story of inspiration, heartbreak, perseverance, and love.

Border Crossing Presents Puentes: El Mesías

Friday, December 13 • 7:00 p.m. • Church of the Ascension

Saturday, December 14 • 7:00 p.m. • Our Lady of Guadalupe

El Mesías is a bilingual (Spanish-English) version of Handel's Messiah combined with Navidad Nuestra, a cantata by Argentine composer Ariel Ramírez. Details and tickets are online at <https://bordercrossingmn.org/>.

This Week in Religious Education

Spirit Play (ages 3-6): Children today hear the real historical story *St. Nicholas, Friend of Children* and what it means to enter the holiday season of gratitude and caring for the least among us. Who was St. Nicholas of Myra? Why did he give away his possession to help the poor? Have we helped anyone in secret? Who would St. Nicholas help today? Please wonder together with your children about their sacred play.

Rotations (grades 1-6): Children begin with worship in Ames Chapel (9:00/4:30) or in the Sanctuary (11:00). Then in classrooms downstairs, they continue with their unit "On Being Human and Alive." As wonderfully different as human beings are, we also wonderfully share the same basic needs, desires, and emotions, including the need to connect with the Sacred.

Junior High (grades 6-8): Classes continue today, with two courses offered this semester: Intro to Islam and UU Identity & History. Classes conclude with worship in Ames Chapel.

Our Whole Lives meets Wednesday, December 11, to focus on "Sexuality and Disability." OWL is a sexuality and spirituality program typically for grades 8-9.

Coming of Age meets today with mentors to conclude the section on "Death and Loss." COA is our signature spiritual growth program typically for 9th graders.

Tower Club youth do not meet this evening, given the weekend's work with cookies and wreaths. 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 meets Sunday evenings from 6:00-8:15 p.m.

This Week at Unity Church

Sunday, December 8

Anderson and Whitman Libraries Open to the Congregation
Evergreen Quilters and Mano a Mano Sale Parish Hall
Celebration of New Lives Reception 10:15 a.m., Center Room
Children's Musical Parent Meeting 10:15 a.m., Junior High NE
Afterthoughts 10:15 a.m., Gannett Room
Children's Choir Rehearsal 10:15 a.m., Robbins Parlor
Women's Ensemble Rehearsal 10:15 a.m., Choir Room
Finding Yourself at Unity 10:20 a.m., Ames Chapel
Above Every Name 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Open Page Writing Session 2:00 p.m., Anderson Library
Soup Supper 5:45 p.m., Parish Hall

Monday, December 9

Circle of Peace 5:15 p.m., Center Room
Men's Conversation Group 7:00 p.m., Gannett Room

Tuesday, December 10

Zen Meditation Group 5:00 p.m., Ames Chapel
Debtors Anonymous 6:30 p.m., Drama Room
Evergreen Quilters 7:00 p.m., Anderson Library
Unity Book Club 7:00 p.m., Robbins Parlor

Wednesday, December 11

Al Anon Group 5:00 p.m., Science Room
Recovery from White Conditioning 6:00 p.m., Gannett Room
Santa Pause 5:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Thursday, December 12

Women in Retirement: The Choice Years Noon, Center Room
Betty LeVasseur Memorial Service 2:00 p.m., Ames Chapel
A New Look at the Bible: 7:00 p.m., Center Room
Paul Gade will facilitate discussion of Ecclesiastes 3: 1-15
Fresh Air AA 8:00 p.m., Anderson Library

Friday, December 13

Parish Hall Artist Reception 5:30 p.m., Parish Hall
Racial Justice Film Series 7:00 p.m., Robbins Parlor

Saturday, December 14

Youth Choir 10:30 a.m., Foote Room
Kung Fu 11:00 a.m., Body Room

Mano a Mano Parish Hall Exhibit Reception

Friday, December 13 • 5:30-8:00 p.m. • Parish Hall

Meet Mano a Mano co-founders, Segundo and Joan Velasquez; exhibit photographer, Paul Rogne; and many Mano a Mano supporters. Enjoy light refreshments and live Bolivian music.

Children and Youth: Saturday Morning Singing Sessions

Unity's music director, Ahmed Anzaldúa, has been hosting Saturday morning singing sessions for children and youth in grades 1-12! During these sessions, Ahmed teaches songs that the group will sing during services on December 15. Join us for the session on December 14, from 10:30-11:30 a.m., in the Foote Room. Questions? Contact Ahmed at ahmed@unityunitarian.org.

Launch Party • Cairns: The Unity Church Journal of the Arts

Sunday, December 15 • 10:00-11:30 a.m. • Center Room

Meet many contributors and get your issue hot off the press!

Access the New Congregational Database

Members are now able to log in to ShelbyNext, the new online congregational database! Easy log in directions are online at www.unityunitarian.org/membership-directory.html.

Sunday, December 15 • Love the Guest

In the season of waiting, as the cold deepens and old comforts take hold, we do what we can to prepare our homes and our hearts to welcome the one who is on the way. Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs and worship associate Richard Lau will invite us to consider how best to welcome our guests. Service music at 9:00 and 11:00 will be offered by the children and youth of the church. Musician at 4:30 is Gabriela Solis, alto.

Our Ministry of Generosity

Each Sunday, thirty percent of the offering goes to support the operating budget at Unity Church and seventy percent is given to a chosen community non-profit recipient. Please make checks payable to Unity Church. On December 1, \$2,500 was collected in the Sunday offering. Shawnee Mission UU Church will receive the entire collection. Information about today's offering recipient, Amicus Winter Warm Up Drive, is available in your order of service. The offering recipient on December 15 is Sierra Leon Foundation for a new Democracy.

Mitten (sock, legging, hat) Tree

Our Mitten Tree is standing in the lower level Whitman Lobby, waiting to be decorated with warm hats, gloves, scarves and mittens. This year, because of the need at Obama School, donations of children's underwear, socks, and sweat pants/leggings will also be gratefully accepted. All donated items should be new. Items will be distributed through Obama School and Amicus.

Consider a Year-end Gift

Each year, the congregation is sustained financially through the tradition of year-end giving. If such a gift is possible for you, we invite you to make one during the month of December. Donations are gratefully accepted online at <http://bit.ly/yearendgift2019> or by contacting Barbara Hubbard at barbarah@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x116. Thank you for your generosity!

Kolyada: Winter Songs from the Black Sea

Sunday, December 15 • 7:00 p.m. • The Cedar Cultural Center

Kolyada features the talents of Mila Vocal Ensemble, Orkestar Bez Ime, Nomadi, and Peter O'Gorman, and offers sacred and secular songs and folklore from the countries surrounding the Black Sea — all celebrating the great seasonal passage from darkness into light. Details and tickets are online at <http://bit.ly/kolyada19>.

Blue Holidays Service

Wednesday, December 18 • 7:00 p.m. • Ames Chapel

For many, the holidays only accentuate a lack of connection or bring back the grief we all carry. Join Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs and Ahmed Anzaldúa for an evening chapel service of poetry, music, mediation, and sharing.

Winter Solstice Celebration

Saturday, December 21 • 7:00 p.m. • Parish Hall

Come join us for a contemplative, fun and family friendly, Celtic inspired ritual to mark the turning of the year as darkness gives way to the growing light. This participatory ritual will include chanting, meditation, candle lighting, singing and cauldron jumping. Children and youth are especially welcome and are invited to bring noise makers and animal masks. Questions? Contact Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs at janne@unityunitarian.org.

The Gathering: Saturday, January 25, 2020

Stories of Resilience and Struggle: How We Keep the Faith

Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Meg Riley

A retreat for women; trans-inclusive.