

# This Week at Unity Church

December 15-21, 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.

## 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!

## Sing with a Choir on Christmas Eve

### Adult Pageant Choir Rehearsal

Sunday December 15 • 10:15-11:00 a.m. • Choir Room

Sing during pageant services on Christmas Eve.

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 19 • 8:30 p.m. • Parish Hall

Sing at the 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve candlelight service.

Contact Ahmed Anzaldúa at [ahmed@unityunitarian.org](mailto:ahmed@unityunitarian.org) to sign up.

### Children's Pageant Choir Rehearsal (grades 3-6)

Sunday, December 22 • 10:15-11:00 a.m. • Foote Room

Sing during pageant services on Christmas Eve.

## Finding Yourself at Unity

### Topic: Pastoral Care with Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs

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.

## 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 15. Groups will head out via carpool to deliver holiday caroling joy!

## Young Adult Group (ages 18-35)

Unity's Young Adult Group meets Sunday, December 15, from 1:00-3:00 p.m., in the Choir Room. All are welcome! Check out our YA blog at <https://stayingabeatlonger.com/>. To be added to the Young Adult email list, please email [kp@unityunitarian.org](mailto:kp@unityunitarian.org).

## Pageant Centennial

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. Watch for information about ordering pageant centennial t-shirts, too — they're a fun way to celebrate this occasion. Don't miss the photos on display in the hallway between the kitchen and Center Room! Our earliest known photos are from the 1920s, 30s, and 40s — do you recognize anyone? If so, email [kellyloughrey@comcast.net](mailto:kellyloughrey@comcast.net) to help with identifying past participants. Share your own memories by completing the online form at [www.unityunitarian.org/christmas-pageant.html](http://www.unityunitarian.org/christmas-pageant.html).

## Tower Club Wreath and Cookie Sale

### 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!

## 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 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.

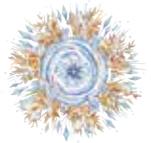
## Tai Ji

The Tai Ji practice circle continues, meeting on Thursday, December 19, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Offering balance, flexibility and peace of mind, the circle is open to those new to Tai Ji as well as experienced participants. Email [lisaschlingerman@gmail.com](mailto:lisaschlingerman@gmail.com) if you plan to participate. A free will offering will be taken.

## 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](mailto:janne@unityunitarian.org).



## 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](mailto:barbarah@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x116. Thank you for your generosity!

## This Week in Religious Education

**Spirit Play (ages 3-6):** Children hear the story of the *Seven Spools of Thread: A Kwanzaa Story*. Why do people argue and fight with one another? How might our differences serve to create something more beautiful? 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** resumes Wednesday, January 8, after winter break. OWL is a sexuality and spirituality program for grades 8-9.

**Coming of Age** resumes Sunday, January 5, after winter break. COA is our signature spiritual growth program for 9th graders.

**Tower Club** youth meet this evening for regular gathering, bringing focus to this sacred time of the year. 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.

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## This Week at Unity Church

### Sunday, December 15

Anderson and Whitman Libraries Open to the Congregation	
Cairns Release Party	10:00 a.m., Center Room
Pageant Costume Fitting	10:15 a.m., Whitman Lobby, lower level
Pageant Adult Choir Rehearsal	10:15 a.m., Choir Room
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., Foote Room
Finding Yourself at Unity	10:20 a.m., Ames Chapel
Sustainable Living Team Meeting	1:00 p.m., Center Room
Young Adults Group	1:00 p.m., Choir Room
Above Every Name	1:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Pageant Costume Fitting	5:40 p.m., Whitman Lobby, lower level
Soup Supper	5:45 p.m., Parish Hall
Tower Club	6:00 p.m., Ames Chapel
NAMI Young Adult Meeting	6:30 p.m., OWL/COA Room

### Monday, December 16

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

### Tuesday, December 17

Zen Meditation Group	5:00 p.m., Ames Chapel
Debtors Anonymous	6:30 p.m., Drama Room
Living with Grief Group	7:00 p.m., Gannett Room
Unity Singers Rehearsal	7:30 p.m., Parish Hall

### Wednesday, December 18

Al Anon Group	5:00 p.m., Science Room
Recovery from White Conditioning	6:00 p.m., Gannett Room
Blue Holidays Service	7:00 p.m., Ames Chapel

### Thursday, December 19

Pastoral Care Team	9:00 a.m., Robbins Parlor
Caregivers Support Group	Noon, Anderson Library
Racial and Restorative Justice Team	6:00 p.m., Robbins Parlor
Unity Choir Rehearsal	7:30 p.m., Parish Hall
Fresh Air AA	8:00 p.m., Anderson Library
Christmas Eve Candlelight Choir Rehearsal	8:30 p.m., Parish Hall

### Saturday, December 21

Kung Fu	11:00 a.m., Body Room
Winter Solstice Service	7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

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## 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.

## Winter Warm-up Drive

Unity's Racial and Restorative Justice Team is collecting the following items to share with clients of its community partner, Amicus. These items will be shared with people upon their release from correctional facilities:

- New a hygiene items such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste/brushes, lotion, deodorant, and shaving cream
- New gloves, hats, scarves, and socks suitable for the job site
- Hand and foot warmers
- Bus passes or the cash to buy bus passes

Bring donations to the Racial and Restorative Justice table in the Parish Hall on Sundays and to Lisa Friedman's office during the week.

## Sunday, December 22 • *When the Guns Fell Silent*

Come worship with the whole church family! After the carols have been shouted (11:00) or requested (9:00/4:30) and sung, Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs, Rev. KP Hong, Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs, and worship associate Erika Sanders will pause to reflect on the spiritual courage of the soldiers who defied their orders, lay down their guns, and exchanged carols, cigarettes, and photographs from home with their enemies on the battlefields of World War I. Musicians: Unity Singers and Unity Choir.

## 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 8, \$3,374.25 was collected in the Sunday offering. Amicus Winter Warm-up Drive will receive \$2,361.98. Information about today's offering recipient, Sierra Leon Foundation for a New Democracy, is available in your order of service. The offering recipient on December 22 is Minneapolis Crisis Nursery.

## Christmas Eve Services

### Find A Stillness • 10:00 a.m. • Sanctuary

In the full rush of Christmas Eve morning, come gather in the quiet of the Sanctuary. There will be extended periods of silence to provide time for relief and contemplation. The service will include an invitation to join in communion.

### Centennial Christmas Pageant • 4:00 and 5:30 p.m. • Sanctuary

Rob and Janne Eller-Isaacs narrate the story of the nativity as Unity's children and youth act out the story in the Sanctuary. Families with children age three and under are encouraged to attend the 4:00 p.m. service.

### Candlelight Family Lessons and Carols • 7:00 p.m. • Sanctuary

This service is a collaboration between Above Every Name Ministries and Unity Church. This is a service for the entire family, with carols and stories that children and adults will enjoy. Nursery care available for infants and toddlers.

### Candlelight Lessons and Carols • 10:00 p.m. • Sanctuary

Join worship leaders KP Hong and Janne and Rob Eller-Isaacs as they retell the Christmas story and celebrate the promise of peace within. To sing in the Candlelight Choir during this service, see reverse side for rehearsal information.

## 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](http://www.unityunitarian.org/membership-directory.html).

## Look Who's Sharing Art

Light, shadow, and color are part of Meg Arnosti's mother's painting of snow, rocks, and trees around a favorite Colorado cabin.

## Congregational Meeting and Services with Rev. Jen Crow

### Save the date: Sunday, January 12 • 12:30 p.m. • Sanctuary

The Rev. Jen Crow, a trained UUA transition coach, former Unity intern minister, and senior co-minister at First Universalist Church of Minneapolis will preach at Sunday services and also lead a congregational meeting to help build our understanding of how the search for our next called ministers will be conducted.

## 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.