

August Sunday Worship Calendar

Throughout the summer there is one lay-led worship service at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday. Religious Education Summer Sundays in the Garden will be offered during the 10:00 a.m. service. Sermon podcasts and archives are available online at www.unityunitarian.org.

August 4: *Everyday Faith* — Rev. Lisa Friedman

We often think that faith is about settling life's ultimate questions once and for all. Yet faith is also a response to everyday living. Sometimes the foundations of our deepest held beliefs can be so hidden in the ordinary that we forget they are there. Could it be that we are more faithful than we know? Musician: Sunita Stanislow, harp.

August 11: *The Nature of Nature* — Terri Burnor

Nature offers a wealth of resources and benefits for humans. And each day, the earth loses hundreds of species to extinction. What does it mean for humanity to share our home? Join Terri Burnor and worship associate Helen Pohlig as we grieve for what has been lost and reimagine a different relationship with nature. Musicians: Caswell/Moonen Family (piano, harp, cello, voice, violin).

August 18: *Travel-induced Insights and Revelations* — Mary-Margaret Zindren

Summer is a time when many of us dream of vacations to faraway places. When we finally take the leap and go on a getaway, it's often not quite (or not at all) what we expected. The perspectives gained from travel — from meeting new people and exploring new places — can help us better understand the people and places of our home, and better understand ourselves. Journeys of self-discovery don't have to include hours in planes, trains, and automobiles, but sometimes it helps. Mary-Margaret Zindren and worship associate Sherry Essen will lead a reflection on revelatory travel and the power of perspective. Musician: Alexa Raine-Wright, recorder.

August 25: *On Any Given Day* — Richard Foushée

If we stop for a moment and look carefully at our lives, we see that we are walking in the circle of habits that are formed by our desire for control, happiness and security. But life is also filled with uncertainty, flux and impermanence. How can we reconcile these seeming conflicting modes of being in this world? Join worship leader Richard Foushée and worship associate Jen Welsh in exploring a profound question that could give you a life-changing perspective. Musician: Steve Blake, jazz piano, and Priscilla Morton, piano.

September 1: *Our Workforce Equity Imperative* — Dane Smith

Economic prospects are brightening in Minnesota. And this time on the upward growth slope we absolutely must do a better job of ensuring greater workforce equity for communities of color and families that have been left furthest behind through booms and busts and labor force trends of the last 30 years. Our faith compels each of us to elevate this priority through person-to-person effort and in all the ways we influence public policies. Musicians: Rochelle Lockridge and Amber Lockridge, voice and guitar.

August Offering Recipients

Each Sunday, thirty percent of the offering goes to support the Community Outreach Ministry at Unity Church and seventy percent is given to the chosen community non-profit recipient. Please make checks payable to Unity Church.

August 4: Volunteer Transport Inc.
Volunteer Transport provides financial assistance to individuals who wish to volunteer for charitable or humanitarian projects but are otherwise unable to afford the expense of travel. Volunteer Transport promotes a culture of volunteerism by ensuring the cost of a plane ticket does not get in the way of a day's work helping others.

August 11: UTS Scholarship Fund
Theological diversity is essential to United Theological Seminary (UTS) where Unitarian Universalist students receive and contribute to a rich learning environment. UTS strives to prepare students for effective ordained and lay leadership in church and society and to pursue theological inquiry and shape theological understanding.

August 18: Scholars of Minnesota
Scholars of Minnesota's mission is to assist underrepresented students in the community to obtain educational opportunities, financial support, and other resources they need to reach their highest academic, professional, and personal goals.

August 25: Nepal Social Services Fund
The Nepal Social Service Fund provides programs in literacy, human and animal health, and economic development in several areas and villages of Nepal. Since 1985 the volunteers and staff have helped thousands of women, men, children, and animals with everything from education to health care and agricultural training.

Merging of Waters

Be sure to collect water from your journeys (or backyard!) this summer. The Merging of Waters service will be held on Sunday, September 8.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES / ARLT

Board of Trustees

From Tim Thoreen, Trustee



In the fall of 2010, I received an unexpected call where I was asked about my interest in being a member of the Board of Trustees at Unity Church. Once I got over the surprise of it all, I said I was very interested. After an interview and some time for decision-making, I was honored with becoming one of three new members of the Board. Now three years later, as my term comes to an end, I am amazed at all that has happened since that first phone call. Some of the changes and events have been very visible and obvious, but many others have been more subtle and important as well (for instance “Policy J” — one of our commitments to anti-racism and racial healing).

What I didn’t appreciate at the time I became a Board member was the importance of our Ends Statements in making such changes a reality. *Note to reader: yes, this is yet another Trustee column on the process of renewing our Ends Statements!* Earlier this year we asked you the powerful question of, “How can members of Unity Church become more vulnerable and more courageous people?” I had the pleasure of sitting in a Children’s Chapel service dedicated to the topic. The first question Kerri Meyer asked the kids was, “Where will you be in five years?” It shouldn’t have been a shock, but when they said, “high school,” I was taken aback. These did not look like kids about to become high-schoolers! The feedback the Board received from church members of all ages and from our moral owners beyond the church during this process has affirmed to us the importance of Unity Church and has challenged us to consider our path forward for the next five years.

Experiences like this have given me a great appreciation for the realm of possibilities available to us at Unity Church. As I write this column, I am saddened by the closure of the Florida trial on the shooting death of Trayvon Martin. While a cheerful ending to that trial was never really a possibility, my emotional response to the outcome is tempered because I am proud to say I belong to a church that is tackling the issue of race relations head on. With the dedication of our Anti-Racism Leadership Team (ARLT) supporting this effort, Unity Church has taken a leadership role in our community. Unity’s work toward racial healing was most recently made visible by our conversation about Michelle Alexander’s book *The New Jim Crow* and the visit by Van Jones to our building rededication. When I joined Unity Church five years ago, this anti-racism facet of our church was completely unknown to me. Today, I have a deeper understanding of who I am and who I want to be because of the conversations this community has inspired.

This is but one example of the ways in which I’ve been transformed by being a member and a trustee at Unity Church. As I look ahead to the next five years, I can state with great confidence that my transformation will continue. I won’t be one of those new high-schoolers, but I know with certainty that Unity Church will offer me tools I need to realize my changes as a middle-aged man. I know this because we are guided by Ends Statements that articulate our vision for change “within, among, and beyond.”

If you are interested in becoming a trustee, I urge you to consider the talents and passions you would bring, what you might gain, and then most importantly: contact us to learn more! Bob Peskin is chairing the nominating team for new board members. Bob can be reached at bpeskin42@comcast.net.

Looking for New ARLT Members to Help Build an Actively Anti-Racist Church

From Mary-Margaret Zindren, ARLT

The Anti-Racism Leadership Team (ARLT) works with the Board of Trustees and the Executive Team to further Unity’s goal of becoming an actively anti-racist institution. The Board of Trustees will be appointing several team members this year, both to grow the size of the ARLT and to fill two upcoming vacancies.

The work of the ARLT is focused internally, on all aspects of church life — from the education and training programs offered to the congregation, to making Unity a welcoming and inclusive church community, to policies and procedures that reflect our commitment to anti-racism.

The New Jim Crow book read and discussion, the “Speak Up” session focused on tips for dealing with everyday bias, and new internal church policies related to minority hiring are just a few examples of the work led by the ARLT over the past year. In the near term, the ARLT will be working with Unity’s staff, community outreach teams, and external partners to plan and implement new programs, and to record the church’s progress toward becoming an anti-racist institution.

To learn more about the team or the appointment process, contact Drew Danielson (staff liaison to the ARLT) at drew@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x112, Marg Walker (Board chair), or any of the ARLT members: Brooke Darst Rice, Pauline Eichten, Rob Fulton, Alana Howey, Avi Viswanathan, and Mary-Margaret Zindren. A full description of the responsibilities and expectations of the position is available online at <http://www.unityunitarian.org/anti-racism-leadership-team.html> or by contacting Drew Danielson.

WELCOME UNITY'S NEWEST MEMBERS / PARISH HALL ARTIST



L-R: Betsy Currie, Patt Kelly Hall, Molly Gust, Kyle Onan, Mariah Levinson, Barbara Rogne, Paul Rogne, Christine Fenske, Nancy Veverka, Sandy Bentley-Williams

Patt Kelly Hall grew up in Marshall, Minnesota, raised two daughters in Minneapolis, and moved to St. Paul six years ago. A trained historian, she works as research coordinator at the University's Minnesota Population Center. She looks forward to an active life at Unity Church, working with members on community projects.

Barb Rogne and her husband Paul have one daughter, Allison. They moved to St. Paul 4½ years ago. Their daughter lives in Washington, D.C., and hopefully, she will move back to St. Paul. Barb's interests include quilting, reading, baking, and gardening. Friends introduced Barb to Unity Church and she loves the acceptance, openness and good feelings she gets from attending here. She loves the positive energy that all the staff and parishioners exhibit.

Paul Rogne is the husband of Barb and father of Allison, a recent law school graduate. He is a retired social studies teacher. Paul's interests include gardening, photography, woodworking, reading, canoeing, music (listening and attending), and musical theatre. He was first attracted to Unity Church because of its work on progressive social causes.

Nancy Veverka lives and works in Saint Paul where she enjoys reading, traveling, yoga, and spending time with her family. She came to Unity Church after her son suggested that the family find a church, and has been coming ever since.

Having lived in St. Louis, Ecuador, Chicago, and New York, **Mariah Levinson** now resides in Minneapolis with her husband Kyle Onan. She was raised Jewish and has mediated for most of her life. She is a mediator and the Program Director at the Conflict Resolution Center. She loves reading and hiking.

Mariah Levinson and **Kyle Onan** are very excited to have found a spiritual home at Unity Church. So far they have found the community to be incredibly welcoming and already feel like they belong. Kyle looks forward to getting involved in some of Unity's many projects and missions. Some of his current passions include running, biking, and reading.

Sandy Bentley-Williams has been attending Unity intermittently for approximately two years while in search of a new church home. Sandy has found Unity to be welcoming, enlightening and inspirational and is eager to participate in the many opportunities for community service.

Molly Gust was born and raised in Saint Paul and is active in the local community. She is excited to be part of the Unity Church family and looks forward to becoming engaged in service opportunities and continuing her spiritual journey.

August Parish Hall Artist

Lars Samuelsson

Looking for Godot; Finding God in the Commercial Landscape

The intention of this exhibit is to explore the relationship between religion and commercialism, and how religion has become yet another product sold in the marketplace.

What gives religious symbols its power is the narrative behind it; a story that tells us where we came from, how to behave, and where we are going. Symbols are bearers of meaning.

In a culture dominated by commercial clutter, religions has to compete with other more entertaining and convenient leisure activities. Thus, for religion to be relevant it has to become brands. Branding is about creating meaning through a product, and it is about fulfilling a need.

In and of themselves, products have no meaning; it is the marketing process that gives meaning to a given product. Branding gives it an emotional dimension beyond its physical attributes.

I have chosen to concentrate on religion because they are supposed to represent authenticity. To me, they are symbols whose meaning and narrative has remained unchanged despite the passage of time.

Commercialism, on the other hand, is everything religion is not; by its very nature, commercialism changes constantly to whatever the market deems most important.

When you transform a religious symbol to fit into a landscape dominated by commercialism, it will inevitable take on a different character than was originally intended. As a photographer, I am interested in finding out what that looks like.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Welcome Words

These are the days of summer that we need to remember in the heart of a Minnesota January. How the glad sounds of children filled the church halls at Chalice Camp. How we shared laughter and lemonade in our flip flops in the Parish Hall. How we have been nourished by the talents and reflections of our own members each Sunday during worship. How we have cared for one another during the joys and sorrows which come in all seasons. How the tenacious flowers survived the wild spring weather to bloom with grace beneath the bright sun. The spiritual life reminds us to be present to this very moment – whatever it might be – that we might experience the fullness of our days. May we soak up the gifts of summer and share in its gladness.

Rev. Lisa Friedman
Director of Congregational Life

Pathway to Membership Classes

Unity Church offers three different classes for visitors who are exploring Unity as a spiritual home. Sign up at the Welcome Table on Sundays or contact Laney Ohmans at 651-228-1456 or laney@unityunitarian.org. Childcare is available by contacting Christy Randall at 651-228-1456 x127 or christy@unityunitarian.org at least one week in advance. Rev. Lisa Friedman is also happy to meet with you to answer questions and to welcome you into the congregation. She can be reached at lisa@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x 107.

Welcome to Unity: Our Class for Newcomers Sunday, August 4: 11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

If you have been visiting and would like to find out more about Unitarian Universalism and our congregation, we invite you to join us for a *Welcome to Unity* class.

Finding Yourself at Unity: A Deeper Exploration

Three night series: Thursday, August 22, 29, September 5: 6:30–8:30 p.m. (supper provided)

Full-day class: September 28: 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (includes a potluck lunch)

In this class, we will have an opportunity to share part of our religious journey, to take a more in depth look at the history of Unity Church, to discuss the expectations and benefits of membership, and get to know the programs and ministries of the congregation.

Committing to Unity: Joining Unity Church Wednesday, October 23: 7:00-8:30 p.m.

This class explores the deeper meanings and expectations of membership and shared ministry. It offers time to reflect on the meaning of generosity and how you can discover the places in your life where the world's needs meets the gifts and joy you have to offer. The class will conclude with a celebration ceremony as participants sign the membership book and officially join the church! A New Member recognition ceremony will be held on Sunday, October 27.

Ongoing Groups at Unity Church

These groups are open to all members and friends of Unity Church. If you are looking to connect with a group, please contact the person listed below, visit the church website at www.unityunitarian.org for meeting information, or call the church office at 651-228-1456.

A New Look at the Bible: Second Thursday of the month (August 8) at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528.

Afterthoughts: This group will meet after the 10:00 a.m. service during the summer. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528 for more information.

Caregivers Group: An informal support group for caregivers. Third Thursday of the month (August 15) from Noon–2:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at janne@unityunitarian.org for more information.

Evergreen Quilters: Second Tuesday of the month (August 13) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and fourth Saturday of the month (August 24) from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Contact: Peggy Wright at 651-698-2760 for more information.

Job Transitions/Networking Group: Every Monday at 9:00 a.m. in the Anderson Library. Contact Janne Eller-Isaacs at janne@unityunitarian.org for more information.

Living With Grief Group: A group for people living with grief and loss. Third Tuesday of the month (August 20) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at janne@unityunitarian.org for more information.

Men's Retirement Group: Monday, August 5 and 19, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact: Phil Morton at 952-934-3578 for more information.

Unitots!: A drop-in playgroup for families (parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles) with kids through preschool age. Every Monday and Thursday, from 9:30 a.m.-noon, in the nursery. Contact Christy Randall at christy@unityunitarian.org for more information.

Unity Book Club: Second Tuesday of the month (August 13) from 7:00-8:30 p.m. The book they will be discussing in August is *Under the Tuscan Sun*, by Frances Mayes Contact Jack Hawthorne at jack.hawthorne@comcast.net for more information.

Unity Bridge Club: Friday, August 2, at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Priscilla Swartz at 651-454-3209.

Women's Retirement Group: Second and Fourth Thursday of the month (August 8 and 22) from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact Leah Doherty at doher001@umn.edu.

Zen Meditation: Find renewal and grounding. Tuesdays from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., in the Ames Chapel. Contact Ken Ford at kford5@comcast.net.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Women's Retirement Group

Retired women are warmly invited attend the upcoming meetings of the Women's Retirement Group which will be held on Thursday, August 8, and 22, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. The group meets twice a month on the second and fourth Thursday. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Leah Doherty at doher001@umn.edu.

A Kitchen Invitation

Do you enjoy cooking or baking? Are you one of those people who likes to hang out in the kitchen at gatherings, because that's where the fun is? Then trying out a Soup Supper or Wellspring Wednesday cooking team might be for you. Our leaders plan and work out the recipes, then our teams come together to make the delicious food happen. If you would like to learn more, contact Lisa Friedman, Director of Congregational Life, at lisa@unityunitarian.org.

Dine with Nine

Potluck in the Parish Hall

Saturday, September 7 • 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Are you interested in getting to know more people at Unity Church? Do you enjoy great food and lively conversation? Would you like to extend the hospitality of our community to both new and long term members alike? Beginning in October, small groups of Unity Church members and friends will gather in each other homes once a month for food and fellowship. Join us for an all-ages potluck dinner in the Parish Hall to kick-off our new Dine with Nine season and to learn more about the program.

Sign Up for Dine with Nine

You can sign up to participate in this year's Dine with Nine suppers in several ways — at the September 7th potluck, via Unity's website, or by email to Teresa Wernecke at teresa475@gmail.com. Please include your contact information and let us know if you would like to sign up for a family or adult only group or whether you have particular location or transportation needs. We look forward to another great year!

Boston Pilgrimage: October 11-16, 2013

You are invited to join our ministers for a pilgrimage to the Unitarian Universalist holy sites! We'll visit Plimouth Plantation, Harvard Divinity School, the Oracles of Concord, Walden Pond and the historic churches of Boston. There will be time for sightseeing as well as conversation and reflection. We will be staying at Pickett/Eliot House, the UUA B&B high atop Beacon Hill.

The approximate cost will be \$1300 exclusive of airfare. Limited scholarship funds will be available. If you are interested in participating in this pilgrimage, please contact Song Thao at song@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x115 to have your name added to the list. An initial refundable deposit \$200 per person will hold your place.



What's New in the Library and Bookstall!

From Louise Merriam, Library and Bookstall Team

What is more important in a library than anything else – than everything else – is the fact that it exists.

— Archibald MacLeish

If you haven't visited the Anderson Library recently, I strongly recommend that you take a trip to the second floor of the Eliot Wing to see the transformation. After a long absence from Unity Church, I recently visited the renovated library for the first time. The space is not only shiny and new — new paint, new carpet, new climate control, and new lighting. It's also welcoming in an entirely different way. There are comfy chairs where you can sit and read, use your laptop, or even take a quick nap. And this last suggestion is not frivolous.

When I was in college, the university library had a large reading room with high ceilings, lovely windows, lots of newspapers, and big leather armchairs. It was known as the Drowsing Room, and many students went there to catch up on sleep after pulling all-nighters.

There's a reason people take catnaps in libraries — they are calm and safe places. But I like to believe it's more than that. In my experience, the very air in a library, no matter how dusty, is full of possibilities and wisdom that is ours to choose, whenever we get around to it.

It is wonderful to know that we have choices. In fact, it's often downright relaxing. So I invite you to wander in, pick up a book and try out the new reading areas. Who knows what will happen? You might have a well-deserved snooze, or you might be transported to an entirely unexpected place. Libraries change lives in big and small ways.

Cairns update: Although the early deadline for submitting artwork, poetry and prose has come and gone, the editorial board of the *Cairns Arts Journal* is still accepting entries until October 7, 2013, for this year's volume. Visit the Cairns web page to learn more at <http://www.unityunitarian.org/cairns-arts-journal.html>.

Bookstall update: The Bookstall is on vacation through Labor Day. Look for new titles and great reads in September.

commUNITY is the newsletter of Unity Church–Unitarian. It is published monthly, except the month of July. Deadlines are the 15th of each month. Subscriptions are free to those who make pledges to Unity Church and are available to others for \$30 per year.

Unity Church–Unitarian
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COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Update from Unity's Racial and Restorative Justice Teams

The Unity Church Racial Justice and Restorative Justice teams have met regularly throughout this past winter and spring to plan for our faith response to the February 2013 discussions of the book, *The New Jim Crow; Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander.

In their commitment to living at the intersection of faith and injustice, the challenge for the teams has been to take the hundreds of participant suggestions from the book discussions and shape them into a structure for the congregation, and the larger community, that would begin to address this racial caste-like system.

Team members are currently planning regular forums for the coming year that will more closely examine the inherent racial issues and myths in the U.S. system of incarceration and offer concrete activities and actions for all to become more involved in doing their part to dismantle the system. These programs will be built around the major categories of prevention, incarceration, and re-entry. These areas disproportionately affect Americans of color and will link our faith community with other local community organizations and churches committed to this social justice work.

More detailed information about these programs will be shared in September.

Food Ministry at the Jeremiah Program

Help cook a meal for moms and kids at the Jeremiah Program on Tuesday, September 17, from 4:30-7:00 p.m. at the St. Paul campus located on Concordia Avenue. Adults and school age children are welcome to help! Jeremiah Program assists single mothers and their children to break the cycle of poverty by providing a community where they can prosper, two generations at a time. Contact Karen Buggs by at 651-297-0111 or buggs745@hotmail.com.

District 8 (Summit-University) Elections

If you live in the neighborhood, support Unity Church's continued presence on the Summit-University Planning Council by voting on Saturday, September 14, in the SUPC board election. Cast your vote at the SUPC table at the Selby Avenue Jazz Fest (Selby and Milton, 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.). You must live within the SUPC boundaries (Summit to University, Lexington to Marion). Your vote counts!

If you would like serve on the SUPC Board of Directors, please contact Martha Tilton at 651-228-1456 or martha@unityunitarian.org for more information.

News from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)



Encourage the House to Protect Asylum Seekers in Immigration Law

UUSC supporters sent more than 2,000 e-mails to the U.S. Senate, approximately 2,767 people signed our Change.org petition to the Senate, and supporters throughout the country also made follow-up phone calls. This advocacy included protections for asylum seekers in the comprehensive immigration bill that passed last week — and it succeeded! As the topic gets picked up in the House of Representatives, make sure that asylum seekers and torture survivors aren't forgotten and left to languish in detention centers. The spotlight for legislative action now moves to the House of Representatives. Let Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi know that the Senate bill contains important refugee and asylum provisions that need to be included in any final legislation. A few key items include the following:

- Access to legal support within five days of being detained
- Streamline procedures for release of asylum seekers
- Community-based alternatives to detention.

Call the Capitol Switchboard at 202-225-3121 and ask to be connected to Minority Leader Pelosi's office.

Head to the beach with UUSC's eco-friendly products!

Ditch the synthetic flip-flops for stylish, recyclable natural rubber ones from Planet Flops! And say goodbye to chemicals on your skin with Badger's line of all-natural sunscreens, bug sprays, lip balms, and moisturizers. All purchases from UUSC's online store support its work to advance human rights throughout the world. Get ready for the beach with products that do good for you and the planet at <http://shop.uusc.org>.

Unity's 8th Annual Pilgrimage to NOLA!

Join in the 8th annual Unity Church pilgrimage to New Orleans from November 2-9, 2013!

This pilgrimage is a time to participate in volunteer service in some of the many New Orleans neighborhoods that have not fully recovered from the flood following Hurricane Katrina. It also provides time away to reflect on larger race and class equity issues and the ways these issues intersect with our Unitarian Universalist faith. The week-long trip also includes meeting with community leaders, connecting with friends and homeowners from previous pilgrimages, and exploring the rich culture of the Crescent City.

For more information or to sign up to travel to New Orleans, please contact Pat Haff at pat@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x126.

Did you miss Religious Education Registration?

Save the Date: September 4, 2013

If your family missed our four spring sessions of registration for Religious Education (R.E.) 2013-14, please plan on joining us for the September session on Wednesday, September 4, at 7:00 p.m. Child care is provided. Spaces remain in most classes. R.E. begins on Sunday, September 15, 2013.

Our Whole Lives: 7th – 9th Grades

If you are interested in having your youth enrolled in Our Whole Lives, a holistic sexuality and relationship program of the UUA, you will need to attend **one** of the Parent/Guardian Orientation sessions which will be held on Wednesday, August 21, and Tuesday, August 27, at 7:00 p.m., at Unity Church. OWL is intended for 7th through 9th graders but is generally comprised primarily of 8th graders. Classes meet on Wednesday evenings from September through late April. Please contact Drew Danielson, Coordinator of Youth and Campus Ministries, at drew@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x112 with questions.

Coming of Age (COA): 9th Grade

If you missed registration for 2013–2014 COA, contact Drew Danielson at drew@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x112 ASAP to see if there is space available.

Free Child Care

Free child care is available for all church-sponsored activities. Please contact Christy Randall by email at christy@unityunitarian.org. Reservations must be made one week in advance.

Meet the Ministry with Children and Youth Staff



Unity Church is thrilled to welcome K.P. Hong as its new Director of Religious Education. If you would like to get in touch with K.P. (and extend a warm welcome), he can be reached by email at kp@unityunitarian.org and by phone at 651-228-1456 x104.



Christy Randall is our Program Assistant. For seven years she's kept our teachers well equipped and classrooms well organized. Christy also oversees the church nursery and its dedicated staff. Contact Christy by email at christy@unityunitarian.org and by phone at 651-228-1456 x127.



Drew Danielson is Unity's Coordinator of Youth and Campus Ministries. Drew oversees the Coming of Age program, the Our Whole Lives program, Tower Club and the Macalester Campus Ministry. Drew can be reached by email at drew@unityunitarian.org and by phone at 651-228-1456 x112.

2014 Pledge Team

Meet Rob McCready



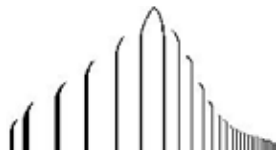
I am the newest member of the pledge team, aka "the rookie." I want to give you a brief introduction of myself and my family and a sneak preview of this October which will be Unity's 2014 operating pledge drive month.

I'm happy to participate on the pledge team as it will give me a better look into what goes on in the life of the church and I look forward to meeting more members and staff. I've been involved in the Religious Education program for the five years that we've been coming to Unity Church and this is another way to deepen my connection with all of you.

My wife Kate and I have three sons, Erik (10), Alex (6), and Owen (13) and we live near Macalester College. Our boys are all in the same school for one year (yay!) at Capitol Hill Elementary. Our favorite things to do as a family are hiking, biking and skiing/snowboarding.

We have revived the past pledge drive theme, "From This House, to the World," because it feels like this is what's happening today at Unity Church. Our beautifully renovated building is not only a resource for our congregation as we find strength and inspiration, but also a place from which we can live out our values in the world.

Watch for upcoming pledge events and materials, and be sure to join us on Sunday, October 6, when the Reverend Jay Leach, Senior Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte, will be our guest speaker.



UNITY CHURCH—UNITARIAN

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**TIME SENSITIVE
MATERIAL**

Sing in a Unity Church Choir

Here at Unity Church we have a vital choral program and invite you to consider joining us this year. For the adults, it is helpful to have some musical experience such as music lessons at some time in your life or having sung with a choir. Of course, if that is not in your background but you have a passionate interest and the courage to jump into the flow of things in order to learn a new skill, we invite you to come and sing with us. We have a great time together!

Please feel free to contact Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministries, with any of your questions at ruth@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x118.

First rehearsals for this church year are as follows:

- **Children's Choir** (grades 1 - 5): Sunday, September 15, from 10:00–11:00 a.m. Kathleen Radspinner, director (kathleenr395@gmail.com)
- **Unity Choir** (adult, high school and beyond): Thursday, September 12, from 7:30– 9:15 p.m. Ruth Palmer, director
- **Unity Singers** (auditioned membership): Tuesday, September 10, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Ruth Palmer, director
- **Women's Ensemble:** Sunday, September 15, from 10:15-10:45 a.m. Ruth Palmer, director

Change a life! Be a literacy tutor.

Helping children with reading can change a young person's life—and yours! AARP Experience Corps is looking for older adults (50+) in St. Paul to tutor in kindergarten-3rd grade classrooms. A small stipend is available for those who make a commitment of 10 hours per week throughout the school year. For more information please call Noreen at 612-708-5933 or send an email to experiencecorps@voa.org. Call now for fall 2013 placement!

Children's Musical 25th Anniversary

February 27, 28, & March 1, 2014

In celebration of the continued vitality and growth of our Unity Children's Musical, Sandy Waterman, Mary Blouin Auffert, and the Unity Church music program will be offering this beloved activity for 6th, 7th and 8th graders, beginning in January 2014. This gives the opportunity for three years of involvement and completes the arc of musical offerings for our children at Unity Church. Children's Choir is offered for grades 1 through 5 and the Children's Musical is *now* offered for grades 6 through 8. We are all very excited about this!

Watch for future announcements concerning the schedule and a fall organizational meeting for parents. Feel free to contact Ruth Palmer at ruth@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x118 with any questions.