Vol. 42, No. 11

Unity Church-Unitarian

August 2019

Unity Church-Unitarian

fosters transformation

religious community that encourages lives of integrity, service, and joy

Sunday Worship

Sunday worship services are held each week at 10:00 a.m., through September 1. Sermon podcasts and archives are available online at www.unityunitarian.org.

August 4: Learning to Swim

We seek to lead lives of integrity, service, and joy. Sometimes in our daily actions, we allow discomfort, fear, or unexamined habits to convince us to let go of our values and to act in ways that are contrary to how we want to be in the world. What do we do when we fall short of our aspirations? Join Bob Lies and Bob Peskin to explore what it means to embrace change and to cultivate the courage to examine habitual ways of being that prevent us from living out the truth we claim to be our own.

August 11: Bringing our Best Selves Forward: Claiming our Personal Power When our egos are befriended, and our authentic selves invited to emerge, can we allow ourselves to shine? There seems to be an urgency right now, for all of us to move beyond whatever is keeping us small, and to take another step into our personal power, for the good of the planet. Our "spark of the divine" has a knowing, and can communicate with us in sometimes mysterious ways, but we also know that deep down inside, we are in charge of our own choices. When we take ourselves seriously, and with reverence, we can bring our true strength forward. Join Suzanne Quinn-McDonald and Bailey Webster as they explore what sovereignty can look like in our lives.

Musician: Ron Parker, guitar and vocals

August 18: You Don't Ever Let Go of the Thread

No matter how intentional and clear we are in our lives, life keeps challenging us with the unexpected and uncontrollable. Angela Wilcox and worship associate Nelson Moroukian will explore those threads that help us hold on through transitions, tragedies, and time, and celebrate the immutable aspects of our faith and our communities. Pancake breakfast after the service!

Musician: Dawn Baker, piano

August 25: Grounded Faith

Unitarian Universalism's commitment to religious freedom is often misrepresented as "religion-lite," where you get to choose the easy elements of theology and ignore the harder ones. And yet, life-long UUs Erika Sanders and Rev. Lisa Friedman have found the principles and faith of Unitarian Universalism to be life-saving in their hours of need. What is the essence of that strength and foundation, and what can it offer us in these challenging times?

Musicians: Oasis (vocal trio)

September 1: That's (Not?) Funny!

We can be such a dreadfully earnest and serious people. Our faith also equips us with open minds and a keen appreciation for irony, incongruity, absurdity, and the stuff from which humor is made. We know how laughter can be medicine, and how the causes of social justice have often been served by pioneering comedians, from Lenny Bruce through Dick Gregory to Ellen DeGeneres. We also know how sarcasm and ridicule is used too often to belittle and bully the vulnerable and the oppressed. We'll reflect on how to draw boundaries and appreciate humor that is a tonic, and not toxic, in our struggle for justice, and our everyday lives. And we'll parse some of the best and worst Unitarian Universalist jokes!

Worship leader: Dane Smith

Musicians: Dan Schwartz, guitar and vocals; Bryan Janssens, bass

Offering Recipients

Each Sunday, thirty percent of the offering supports the Community Outreach Ministry at Unity Church and seventy percent is given to a chosen community non-profit.

August 4: Frogtown Green

The mission of Frogtown Green is to make Frogtown the greenest, healthiest, and most beautiful neighborhood in Saint Paul. To do this, Frogtown Green advocates for greenspaces, promotes sustainable activities, and manages several parklets, urban farms, and gardens throughout Frogtown. To date over 270 trees have been planted. Unity Church member Patricia Ohmans, a Frogtown resident for over 35 years, is the founder and part-time director of Frogtown Green.

August 11 & 25: One Voice

One Voice Mixed Chorus Minnesota's own - and one of North America's largest — LGBTO and straight allies community chorus. One Voice is about building community and creating social change by raising their voices in song! Its Out in Our Schools program takes the choir into Minnesota schools to explore diversity through learning and performing choral music. This collection will help cover the cost of music scores and programming.

August 18: East Side Elders

East Side Elders serves the Dayton's Bluff, Payne-Phalen, and Conway-Battle Creek neighborhoods. Its primary mission is to enable seniors to life safely and independently at home. In 2019, its transportation outreach has provided over 1650 rides to more than 600 individuals. Today's collection will go to ESE's Act of Kindness fund, helping seniors who are struggling to make ends meet. Unity Church member Anacleta Martina nominated ESE.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES / WHEEL OF LIFE

Finding the Right Words

Jackie Smith, Trustee



Filotimo. Chesed. Hygge. What do these words mean? If you look them up in Greek, Hebrew, and Danish you get broad definitions, and very specific meanings. As a longtime language teacher and learner I love the complexity of words, and marvel at the limitation of language. We use language to connect and express our deepest longings. We agree as a culture on the meaning of words, but if you have ever had a misunderstanding with a loved one, you have seen the limitation, the space for misunderstanding, and the depth to which we rely on a (possibly) unreliable form of communication. It's what we've got, though!

At the July board meeting we explored the areas of church life that are raising anxiety for us, and areas that bring us excitement. For many, *transition* was a word that came up as a source of both anxiety and excitement. Other words, such as *transparency* and *trust* permeate our conversations and work around the transitions we approach as a community. Our plans to engage the community in the decisions and the processes in the coming years are undertaken with great weight and care. We hold the Ends Statements in mind at every turn. The Board of Trustees know that our Ends charge us to work for transformation. Our Ends lay bare our goals, our desires for our community. Yet, we too often get stuck on words, which mire us in inaction, and keep us from the community we seek to achieve.

But back to words. We can use words to forge ahead, and we can use them to hold us back. If we rely too heavily, or get caught up in words, we will not move, we will not grow. "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye." Antoine de Saint-Exupéry reminds us that there are many things that we can not express in bullet points, but can only be experienced in the heart. So how do we manage the balance? How can we, as a community, demand growth and justice from one another, and let the mystery of our hearts stay centered in our work? How can we maintain transparency in a process that appears linear, but contains deep emotions, expectations, hopes, fears and so many other things that can not be named?

There are some points that we can count on as a community. There will be multiple opportunities to engage in the various upcoming transitions. Your input as a church member will be sought out at several points. Opportunities for leadership and action will be ongoing and ask for a variety of commitment levels and skill sets. Keep your eyes, ears, and hearts open as these opportunities emerge.

Moving forward as a trustee, I see transition as a spiritual practice, as an opportunity to explore patience, flow, flexibility, and love for my community. I know what these words mean to me. They may hold different meanings for you, but I am confident that we know we are heading in the same direction together, in love.

Ministerial Transition

Communication Resources

Unity's Board of Trustees is making all congregational communication regarding the ministerial transition process available online at www.unityunitarian.org/ministerial-transition.html. This webpage also contains contact information for the Board's transition subteam: John Steiner-Manning, Clover Earl, and Jackie Smith.

The Wheel of Life

In Celebration

Jean Kummerow and Frank Mabley

married July 5, 2019

In Memoriam

John Greenman

January 7, 1923 – July 5, 2019

Merging of Waters

Be sure to collect water from your summer adventures for our Merging of Water reunion service on Sunday, September 8, 2019.

COLUMBARIUM / PASTORAL CARE

Columbarium

Feasibility Information Meeting

Barbara Hubbard, Executive Director

In 2012, the Unity Church congregation renovated its building and set aside space on the lower level for a possible columbarium: a peaceful, beautiful space where ashes could be interred and loved ones remembered. Responding to recent inquiries, the Executive Team consulted with Unity's architects for an initial design proposal. A rendition of the future columbarium is seen here. Prices of each niche would vary by size and location, with an estimated cost range of \$1,500 to \$3,000.



In May, the Executive Team distributed a card during Sunday services with a questionnaire to provide an initial assessment of the congregation's interest in having a columbarium. Of the 200+ respondents, 40% are not interested and the other 60% are either ready to commit, are interested in more information and/or would like to be in a focus group.

We invite anyone who is interested in learning more about the possibility of a Unity Church columbarium to come to an information meeting on Sunday, September 15, at 1:00 p.m., in the Center Room. Questions? Please contact Barbara Hubbard, Executive Director, at barbara@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x116.

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 733 Portland Avenue Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104 651-228-1456 www.unityunitarian.org

Pastoral Care at Unity Church

Unity Church Pastoral Care Team members are specially trained and formally commissioned members of the congregation who work with our ministers to lend support to parishioners in moments of challenge, crisis, and celebration. Interactions are confidential, and no information is shared unless a congregant indicates that he or she would like others in the congregation to be involved or informed.

If you (or someone you know within our congregation) are in need of the services of Unity Church's Pastoral Care Team, please contact Unity's Co-Minister and Pastoral Care Coordinator, Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs, at janne@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x106. You are also invited to complete the confidential online form at www.unityunitarian.org/pastoral-care.html.

Pastoral Care Groups

Families Living with Mental Health Challenges

A support group for families living with mental health challenges. Meets the first Saturday of each month (August 3), from 9:30-11:30 a.m., in the DeCramer Room.

Caregivers Group

Are you a part-time or full-time caretaker of loved ones in your life? Do you need support in order to sustain the care you are giving? This group meets the third Thursday of the month (August 15), from noon -2:00 p.m., Anderson Library

Living With Grief Group

This group is open to all people living with grief and loss. Come discuss issues related to the grieving process. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month (August 20), from 7:00-9:00 p.m., in the Gannett Room.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Pathway to Membership Classes

Sign up for Pathway to Membership classes at the Welcome Table on Sundays or contact Rev. Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x107. Childcare is available by request at least one week in advance.

Finding Yourself at Unity: A Deeper Inquiry

Finding Yourself at Unity is offered on a regular basis on Sundays, from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., in the Ames Chapel. These sessions can be attended in the order that works for you and will offer participants the opportunity to share part of their 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. Childcare is available in the nursery.

August 4: Q & A with a Minister August 11: Membership 101 August 18: UU History

August 25: Religious Education for Children, Youth, and Adults

Committing to Unity: Joining Unity Church Wednesday, September 25 • 7:15-9:00 p.m.

Have you been considering membership at Unity? 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 concludes with a ceremony as participants sign the membership book and officially join the church!

Opportunity St. Paul

As part of a city wide effort, Unity Church is joining other faith communities to rally an army of volunteers to combat poverty. Unity is becoming an anchor house of worship for Opportunity St. Paul, which matches volunteers with nonprofit organizations that have proven records of effectively addressing barriers to economic mobility. Opportunity St. Paul also offers volunteers learning events that build community and advance understanding of how to make a meaningful dent in poverty. As a key part of the effort, Unity hopes to get at least 10 volunteers to participate. What this means is that you will:

- Commit to volunteering once a week for a year with one partner organization. You will receive all the support and resources you need to be successful in your role.
- Attend bi-monthly learning community events, which include dinner and fellowship, presentations, and interfaith dialogue. These events provide context for volunteers and help build community.
- Join a group of dedicated volunteers who are passionate about working to make a meaningful impact in our city.

To learn more, contact Ann Russell at annjd83@gmail.com or Sherri Knuth at sknuth001@msn.com. They will coordinate Unity's team of volunteers. They are eager to get started!

All Summer: Tuesday Night Chopping

In an effort to utilize more Minnesota grown produce in the Unity Church kitchen, volunteers are invited to shop for, prep, chop, can, preserve, and freeze summer's bounty! You will learn new recipes and techniques, enjoy tasting Minnesota's freshest fruits and vegetables, and share good conversation and lots of laughs. Opportunities to participate include shopping at the farmers market and kitchen work on Tuesday evenings from 4:00-6:30 p.m. Details and sign up are online at http://bit.ly/summerchop.





Julia and Michelle prep cookie dough for freezing. Patt and Pam make pickles!

Chalice Circles begin again in September!

Chalice Circles are small groups of 8-10 participants who come together with a trained leader, once a month from September–June, to nurture spiritual growth in community. At the beginning of each month, participants receive materials based upon the monthly worship theme. From these materials, each participant chooses one spiritual exercise and a deep question to sit with for the course of the month. At the end of the month, participants gather with their group to share their experiences. Details and sign up are online at www.unityunitarian.org/chalice-circles.html.

Dine with Nine... Brunch or Dinner

Are you interested in getting to know more people at Unity Church? Do you enjoy good food and lively conversation? Beginning in October, small groups of church members and friends will gather in each other's homes once a month for food and fellowship. The self-directed groups will choose dates, times, and places for their gatherings. Visit the Dine with Nine table in the Parish Hall on Sundays, August 11 through September 22, to learn more. Sign up to participate online at www.unityunitarian.org/dine-with-nine.html 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.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Fellowship Groups

These 12-step groups meet at Unity Church: Al Anon meets Wednesdays, 5:00-6:00 p.m., Science Room; Fresh Air AA meets Thursdays, 8:00-9:30 p.m., Anderson Library; Debtors Anonymous meets Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Drama Room.

Afterthoughts offers time to discuss the service. This group meets after the 10:00 a.m. service. Contact: Paul Gade, 651-771-7528.

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

Evergreen Quilters: The group meets the second Tuesday of the month (August 13), 7:00-9:00 p.m. (at Unity Church), and fourth Saturday of the month (August 24), 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (offsite). Contact: Peggy Wright, 651-698-2760

Families Living with Mental Health Challenges: A support group for families living with mental health challenges. Meets the first Saturday of each month (August 3), 9:30-11:30 a.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs, janne@unityunitarian.org

Living With Grief Group: For people living with grief and loss. Third Tuesday of the month (August 20), 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs, janne@unityunitarian.org

Men's Retirement Group: Monday, August 12 and 26, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact: Tom Zell, tomzell@me.com

National Alliance on Mental Illness support group for young adults with a mental illness meets the first and third Sunday (August 4 and 18) of each month, 6:30-8:00 p.m., COA/OWL room.

New Look at the Bible: Meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. The group will **not** meet in August. Contact: Paul Gade, 651-771-7528

Recovery from White Conditioning: Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 p.m., Gannett Room. Contact: Dayna Kennedy, daynamelissa@icloud.com

Textile Arts Group will meet on a summer schedule for August. Bring your knitting, needlepoint, or other textile and join them in art and conversation on the second and fourth Thursday of the month (August 8 and 22) from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Contact: Linda Mandeville, lindamandeville41@gmail.com

Unity Book Club: Second Tuesday of the month, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Contact Jack Hawthorne, <u>jack.hawthorne@comcast.net</u>. August 13: *Diesel Heart* by Melvin Carter II

Women In Retirement: Meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month (August 8 and 22), 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact Lisa Friedman, lisa@unityunitarian.org

Young Adult Group (ages 18-35) meets every other Thursday, 7:00-9:00 p.m. This group is **not** meeting in August. Contact KP Hong, kp@unityunitarian.org

Zen Meditation: Find renewal and grounding. Tuesdays, 5:00-6:00 p.m., Ames Chapel. Instruction offered August 6 at 4:30 p.m. Contact KP Hong, kp@unityunitarian.org.

August Parish Hall Artists

Kaye Frieberg

Kaye Frieberg is an abstract acrylic artist who attends the White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church and lives in Golden Valley. She is an experimental artist who uses a multi-layered approach to her painting. She primarily uses acrylics. Sometimes, hand painted papers, collage, ink and intuitive mark-making are added, as well. Paintings are abstract or semi-abstract.

Kaye is drawn to the mysterious — ancient cultures, unknown realities and the ambiguities of this world. She likes to leave her paintings open to interpretation by the viewer. It is important to her that the painting evoke a mood, a feeling or an emotion. Her goal is to capture a sense of mystery and do a painting that resonates with the viewer.

Weeya Michelle Smith

Weeya Michelle Smith grew up in the south where she experienced different cultural experiences. She grew up in a creative family who were puppeteers where her talents were used as a puppeteer and artist. As a young person, she was commissioned to create backdrops for theatrical shows for local churches in her area. She attended college and her work was in several shows throughout the community. After college she began her teaching career. Her art background help to develop her skills as an art teacher.

While teaching art to over 600 students a year, she was the featured artist in the Capital One Gallery in Washington, D.C. Her work was on display for a month and was seen by thousands of people. Two years ago, her artwork was used for The National Congress of American Indians Conference. The artwork, a painting titled "The Smoke Dancers" was later purchased and is currently on display at the Alabama Indian Affairs Commission in Montgomery, Alabama.

Currently, Weeya sits on the board of the Woodland Indian Art Show & Market. The Woodland Indian Art Show & Market is a non-profit organization created to expand the awareness and appreciation of Woodland Indian Arts and Culture through education, events and markets.

As an artist, I currently use watercolors in a nontraditional way by using the paint thickly throughout the piece and mounting the paper onto black canvas. Borders represent the rules that are placed upon us as humans. Each of my paintings have something crossing outside of the border to express what little freedoms we may experience without constraints. It is my small way of rebelling.

Art is an expression from the world surrounding the artist. Art is everywhere and for us artist, we create from our world, our experiences, from stories we have heard, from others experiences and the people we meet. The world is constantly evolving and so do we as artist. With every piece of work I create, I evolve. I am forever changing and growing. — Weeya Michelle Smith

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Sustainable Living Team News

This summer SLT is learning to be the Spark!

Bonnie Power, Sustainable Living Team

It is summer — it is hot! What a great time to work with Julia Nerbonne about how to strategize and coordinate in our community to work on climate justice.

Julia is the Executive Director of Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, and an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota.

Julia spent an evening with us in an abbreviated "Be the Spark" training focused on how to network with other groups to work together on climate and social justice. Climate change impacts the mission of many groups — like immigration. So why not support each other and combine forces for a bigger result? We look forward to working together to energize our community to become active and be a voice for climate justice. Yup! It is an urgent issue with a serious timeline in which to make changes before the worst consequences become inevitable. That means that there is also a lot that we can do to make a difference. Lots of options, lots to gain and we can start now.

Our first effort to kick off the next year for the Sustainable Living Team will be to organize for the September 20th Climate Strike Day. This is the day that students and anyone supporting them will leave schools and work as a strike. This started with Greta Thunberg, a 15-year-old girl from Sweden. Her story is inspiring. Find out more at globalclimatestrike. net. This movement was started by youth — it is exciting to support them! Watch for upcoming announcements about September 20th Climate Strike Day and how to participate.

During August, the Sustainable Living Team will be creating a schedule of environmentally focused events for the coming church year. Please join us and share your ideas! Contact Nicole Lynskey at nicolelynskey@gmail.com for more information about how to get involved.



Members of Unity's Sustainable Living Team at their training with Julie Nerbonne, Executive Director of Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light.

Join Us! We're Doing a Lot!

Nancy Heege Unity's Obama School Ministry Team

Members of the Unity Church congregation are contributing to the health of our community in a big way! The principal of Barack and Michelle Obama Elementary School is reporting improved test scores and says volunteers from Unity Church are making a difference!



Join us! We're doing a lot!

One-time tasks:

- Help a teacher get settled into a new classroom the week before school begins
- Help host morning coffee or a faculty lunch at Unity Church on Monday, August 26.
- Help at a Scholastic Book Fair

Occasional tasks:

- Get involved in special student projects for two hours on eight Wednesdays in fall, winter or spring
- Bring snacks for an Obama School staff meeting
- Work with others on fundraising proposals at places like Kowalski's
- Raise funds for Cub cards (used to reward parents for participation in their child's activities) or other financial needs, such as purchase of supplies and equipment requested by the teachers.

Once a week for a couple of hours or more:

- Listen to a student read
- Help a student with math
- Assist the librarian with getting books in the hands of the students
- Support student projects in the Maker Room

Other large and small projects will be available.

If you would like to work in the school with us this year, please pick up a set of volunteer forms at Unity's Holly Avenue reception desk, fill them out, and return them in a sealed envelope to the Church Office marked "Attention: Rev. Lisa Friedman." Included is a form giving your permission for the school to do a Background Check (at no cost to you). We look forward to hearing from you!

Marty Rossmann: rossm001@umn.edu
David Smith: david.smith52@yahoo.com
Karen Abraham: kabe1260@gmail.com
Nancy Heege: nancyheege@cs.com

LIBRARIES & BOOKSTALL



Books

Why Should I Buy a Book? I Already Have One: Part Two

Shelley Butler, Library and Bookstall Team

Last year, I told you about how whenever my father received a book as a gift, he said, "What did you give me a book for? I already have one." He was kidding, of course, and read to us kids at bedtime just like my mom did. "One story or two poems?" Either way, Mom or Dad read to us from our very own set of children's literature.

With the average cost of a hardcover children's book rising \$1.49 in 2018 to an average cost of \$18.68 (School Library Journal), libraries are more important than ever. We are blessed at Unity to have our own Whitman Children's Library/ Story Room in the lower level of the Eliot Wing.

Yet, while a library provides a wealth of variety and volume, there is something special about owning your own book, too. To be able to hold a book of your own, put it down and pick it up again anytime, is to know that reading belongs to you as surely as that book does.

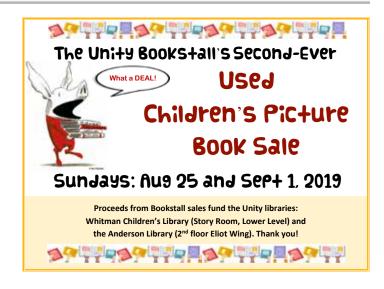
Thus, we are holding the Unity Bookstall's Second-Ever Used Children's Picture Book Sale on two Sundays this year: August 25 and September 1. Included are like-new to good picture books, former library books, and paperbacks. We're even sneaking in a book or two for parents this year.

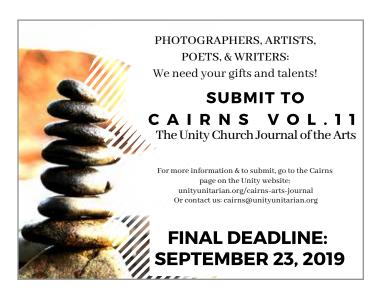
Come buy a book for a child you love, even if they already have one.

Sneak Peek at September "Books: News and Reviews from the Library and Bookstall Team"

After the Good News: Progressive Faith Beyond Optimism by Rev. Nancy MacDonald Ladd. Read now; meet/hear the author this fall at Unity Church.







Read Now — Meet the Author This Fall

After the Good News

Progressive Faith Beyond Optimism by Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd





After the Good News Progressive Faith Beyond Optimism by Nancy McDonald Ladd Skinner House, 2019

> Available in the Unity Bookstall and the Anderson Library

Two opportunities to meet and hear Rev. Ladd at Unity Church

- 1. Saturday, October 12, at 9:00 a.m., Samuel Morgan Forum!
- 2. Sunday, October 13, at the 9:00, 11:00, and 4:30 services!

Sanctuary Entrance: 733 Portland Avenue • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104 Business Entrance: 732 Holly Avenue • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104

651-228-1456 • fax: 651-228-0927 • www.unityunitarian.org • unity@unityunitarian.org

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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Summer Sunday Pancake Brunch

August 18 Following the 10:00 a.m. service!

Join us for a pancake brunch after Sunday worship. We'll have fresh pancakes, real maple syrup, sausages, juice, coffee, and more! Want to help flip pancakes? Contact Madeline Summers, Volunteer Coordinator, at madeline@unityunitarian.org.

Food Shelf Donations

Thank you for supporting the families served by the Hallie Q. Brown Food Shelf! Food shelf collection trunks are located at the Holly and Portland Avenue entrances. Nonperishable food, toiletries, and pet food are all gratefully accepted.

