

PARADISE

The life of a congregation is a rich community tapestry of people, programs, ministries and worship. We lift up the patterns of this tapestry at Unity Church with the threads of monthly themes woven through our worship and programming. These themes deepen our understanding of our own faith and strengthen our bonds with one another in religious community.

Paradise has burned down. An inferno of flames and wind blazed through Paradise, California, in November, leaving burned-out cars, toppled homes, and a torched landscape in its wake. At least eighty-eight people died, almost all over the age of sixty. Nestled in the foothills of Sierra Nevada Mountains, Paradise had earned its name from the majesty of the area's ponderosa pines. Its location, natural beauty, and relatively inexpensive real estate had made the town a popular retirement spot for working-class seniors.

It's a troubling coincidence to write about paradise after reading so many stories about its destruction. When many Unitarian Universalists consider paradise, we think about the beauty of nature: flower-filled spring meadows, bright blue mountain lakes, craggy, snow-capped peaks, and yes, the cliché of tropical beaches. This earth—and none other—is our chance at heavenly paradise. So we seek out earthly treasures and, in rare, special moments, find ourselves in the sweetness of the Garden. As environmentalist John Muir wrote, we feel the sun and "bathe in spirit-beams." We "blend with the landscape and become part and parcel of nature." Wholeness. Beauty. Paradise. Like Muir, we UUs feel that protecting and nurturing the paradise that surrounds us is a spiritual charge. We have lost one Paradise. Will we lose it all?

The earth always has the seeds of paradise buried inside, waiting to blossom, yearning to be seen and appreciated. Our communities do as well. When we talk about our aspirations for Beloved Community, that is potential paradise. Unity Church's fourth Ends statement says we promise to "know each other in all our fullness and create an ever-widening circle of belonging for all people." Doing that work takes effort,

but it helps us break away from fear and move toward Beloved Community. An "ever-widening circle of belonging" is not a new understanding of potential paradise. Ephrem the Syrian, a fourth-century theologian, believed *reciprocity* held the key to paradisaical delight. What Ephrem called "the richness of one supplying the wants of another" created a form of paradise for both the giver and the receiver. The radical table fellowship of early Christian communities embodied this idea. So did civil rights workers, black and white, who gathered after long hours of work around a pot of beans in rural Mississippi, honoring hosts who were "telling it like it is." Listening as our neighbors offer the fullness of their experiences, experiencing a radical proximity to new ideas, and embracing the messiness, complexity, and beauty of our shared existence, can open us to the paradise that surrounds us.

Or maybe we get the paradise we believe in. Once exiled from the Garden of Eden, ancient Israelites went in search of the promised land, with the journey more important to the story than the destination. Vikings who fell in battle believed they would be carried away by warrior maidens to the land of Valhalla. Once in Valhalla, they would live to fight again and again, training for the ultimate battle, Ragnarök. (You may have seen this depicted in the last Thor movie. It didn't look like eternal happiness.) In the *Aeneid*, Vigil describes the Greek paradise of Elysium as a place where "in groves we live, and lie on mossy beds, By crystal streams, that murmur thro' the meads." In descriptions, Elysium features lots of lounging about, plenty of good food and music, and maybe some light sports playing. Early Celtic Christians believed that the Garden of Eden represented not a physical place, but the deepest

dimension of our being. Because humans had been cast out of paradise, Celts believed we live forever in a kind of exile from our truest selves, always searching for our truth. Which version of paradise most resonates with you?

The concept of paradise has the potential to ignite our imaginations and change our world. Poet Mary Oliver explains that "the path to heaven doesn't lie down in flat miles. It's in the imagination with which you perceive this world, and the gestures with which you honor it." Paradise has been destroyed, yes. Again and again. But our actions and our imaginations can still make a difference. Civil rights leader and Congressman John Lewis claims that living "as if" is the key: he notes that "you live as if you're already there, that you're already in that community, part of that sense of one family, one house. If you visualize it... for you it is already there." The future is now.

*Hallman Ministerial Intern Kathryn Jay
with this month's theme team:
Drew Danielson, Rob Eller-Isaacs,
Ken Ford, Karen Hering, and KP Hong*

PARADISE THEME RESOURCES

FILMS

Cinema Paradiso (1988)

TELEVISION

The Good Place (2016-present)

BOOKS

Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment by Jennifer Nordstrom (2018)

A Different Pond by Bao Phi (2017)

The Overstory by Richard Powers (2018)

Just Words



Later this month Janne and I will return to Oakland to preach. It's been nineteen years since we last led worship there. They invited us back to help them celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the church. They have asked us to reflect on the past and the future of the church in the city. The assignment makes me think about the whole notion of progress. Nineteenth century religious liberals believed that human beings should strive to be perfect, that such striving was at the center of the spiritual life and that it would inevitably be reflected in the "progress of man onward and upward forever." The very notion seems a quaint anachronism in light of increasing racial disparity and the deepening climate crisis. Progress? What progress?

And yet... there are ways of being we choose to cultivate because they make our lives worth living. Before we said yes to your kind invitation to become your ministers we served the First Unitarian Church of Oakland, California. That congregation's historic home was built in 1890. Into its cornerstone in letters at least a foot high is carved a single word: truth. I remember in what must have been the late 80s, standing in that pulpit saying that any claim to truth with a capital T was so bound up in manifest destiny and the pretensions of patriotic pride that the notion had become not only useless but deeply destructive. Progress is a concept much like truth that has become suspect in recent years.

Looking back, I realize there is a very different way to understand these words. What if truth is an aspiration? What if the effort to discern the truth is among the promises we make? What if inquiry and engaged discourse is actually central to the covenant we make not only as a congregation but also as a nation and ultimately as planetary community? And what if progress is more a measure than an assumption? What if these old liberal values are not outworn but in need of revival? And what if we are called by faith to insist that within, among, and beyond ourselves, truth and progress be restored as core to the promises we make to one another and the world? I imagine the human community will be more loving and more just when we take up again the old core values of our liberal faith and once more proclaim them.

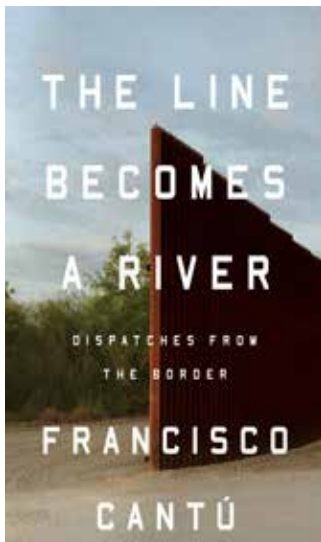
Yours for tomorrow and today,

— Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs

The Wheel of Life
In Memoriam
 Johanna Sulser
 July 14, 1929–December 29, 2018

Flowers for Worship
 If you would like to provide flowers for Sunday worship, contact Martha Tilton at 651-228-1456 x105 or martha@unityunitarian.org.

2019 Congregation Book Read



The Line Becomes a River *Dispatches from the Border*

By Francisco Cantú
 Riverhead Books 2018

Available in the
 Bookstall and Anderson Library

Let's Talk!

Congregation Book Read Discussions

Plan to attend a discussion even if you haven't read or finished the book!

Wednesday, February 6 • 7:10 p.m.
Sunday, February 10 • 12:30 p.m.



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FEBRUARY SUNDAY SERVICES / OFFERING RECIPIENTS

February Services

Sunday worship services are held at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m., and 4:30 p.m. except where noted. Religious Education for children and youth is offered at all three service. Sermon podcasts and archives are available online at www.unityunitarian.org.

February 3: Reclaiming Eve

The great majority of Unitarian Universalists resist anthropomorphic images of the divine. We largely reject images of God the Father, but is there something to be gained in imagining the divine form as female? Worship associate Suzanne Quinn MacDonald will join Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs as they reconsider what we might learn from reclaiming the female divine form.

February 10: Heaven's Second Rate Hand-Me-Down

"Used to be a world half there, heaven's second rate hand-me-down, now I'm walking with a reverent air... everything is holy now." Singer songwriter Peter Mayer has it right. Ultimate bliss is not some far off goal only to be found in the hereafter. Old images of paradise tend toward idolatry. Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs and worship associate Bob Peskin will help us shatter some of those old images.

February 17: Unlocking Heaven's Door

When the doors to paradise are locked and guarded, who gets locked in and who locked out? And who holds the keys? Rev. Karen Hering and worship associate Lia Rivamonte explore the dynamics of power present in the concept of paradise and possibilities for tapping into that power creatively as we live with and through change.

February 24: Paradise on Earth

As Unitarian Universalists, many of us believe that paradise is found here on earth, not in a hard-earned heavenly afterlife. Yet as Joni Mitchell once sang, "we paved paradise and put up a parking lot." Earth itself is our Garden of Eden, but we are destroying it. Join Hallman Ministerial Intern Kathryn Jay as we explore ways we might reclaim the earth as holy ground and recover paradise, bit by tiny bit.

Story Sundays happen frequently throughout the church year, with children in grades 1-8 beginning in worship with the congregation in the Sanctuary. After the opening hymn, prayers, and children's message, Workshop Rotation children (grades 1-5) proceed with their Journey Guides to classes while junior high youth (grades 6-8) remain in the Sanctuary for the entire worship service.

Organ Dedication Concert

Sunday, February 10 • 2:00 p.m. • Sanctuary

Aaron Miller, Guest Organist • See page 15 for details.

February 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 a chosen community non-profit recipient. Please make checks payable to Unity Church.

February 3: RISE

Reviving Islamic Sisterhood for Empowerment (RISE), founded in 2011, grew out of the realization that many Muslim women are creating a positive impact within their communities but remain unseen and are rarely given leadership roles. RISE exists to amplify the voice and power of Muslim women from all races and countries by building relationships within and beyond the Muslim community. RISE's commitment to weaving a Muslim presence into the larger fabric of American life aligns well with Unity's Ends statements to work for racial healing. This collection will be dedicated to community engagement training. Unity Church member Dick Buggs has submitted this nomination.

February 10: The Circle of Peace Movement

Former St. Paul Police Chief Thomas Smith referred to The Circle of Peace Movement (TCOPM) as one of the most innovative undertakings in St. Paul. TCOPM touches lives in Minnesota and beyond — working to fulfill its mission: to end violence and promote racial healing. Through mentoring of youth and families and advocating for their larger well-being, TCOPM works to pull community members from the school to prison pipeline. This collection will support TCOPM's weekly Monday Circles and meal, which are free and open to all. Unity Church member Russel Balenger is TOCPM Executive Director.

February 17: Summit-University Planning Council

St. Paul's district councils work to improve neighborhood physical, social, and economic structures. The Summit-University Planning Council puts communicating and connecting with its 18,500 residents at the core of its work, and this offering will be used to reach underrepresented communities in the district and for the development of a community coloring book that will be used as an engagement tool while building pride in the neighborhood. Unity Church has held an organizational seat on the council for over 12 years with Pauline Eichten, Ken Green, Pat Haff, Ginny Martin, and Martha Tilton serving as Unity Church representatives.

February 24: East Side Freedom Library (ESFL)

East Side Freedom Library, located in the Arlington Hills Library, aims to inspire solidarity, advocate for justice, and work toward equity for all. The telling and gathering of stories is a major theme for ESFL. Formal interviews, workshops, and small-scale public performances allow local residents to learn about the work and residential histories of the East Side. Through art and culture ESFL created a crossroads through which neighbors can move into larger purpose in their work for social and economic justice. This collection will be matched by a grant from St. Paul's STAR program. Unity Church members Andy Steiner-Manning and Rick MacPherson are ESFL board members.

Paradise Within Reach

From Clover Earl, Trustee



My first official undertaking as a member of Unity's Board of Trustees was the December meeting and year-end celebration dinner. It was extremely inspiring to hear trustees, those who were cycling off, as well as those completing their first and second terms, share their experiences. It really is an honor and privilege to serve this community that has

given me so much since walking through its doors at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday, September 25, 2016.

Then, in early January, we gathered for a retreat, which has been spoken about from the pulpit. I should mention that I love engaging in this kind of collaboration with like-minded and passionate people. Our charge was to consider our work for 2019 and beyond, and by "beyond" I mean decades into the future. At the conclusion of the meeting, a request was made for one of us to volunteer to write the February newsletter column. When I heard that the theme for the month was paradise, and for reasons I cannot explain, I raised my hand.

Having mastered the art of procrastination, I have had almost three weeks to get this done, and just this morning I asked the marvelous Martha Tilton for an extension, which she of course granted. What is odd is, that when I heard the theme was paradise, it was not a vision of the Garden of Eden before the "fall," or of palm trees and crystalline water lapping the shores of a white sand beach covered in seashells waiting to be found.

No. The first thing that came to mind was the Camp Fire that ravaged the city of Paradise, California, and the mass shooting that happened on the Las Vegas Strip in a town also called Paradise. I am not a believer of heaven and hell as final destinations, and yet in the here and now, it is a challenge to make sense of these types of events; to know how to put them in perspective.

Unity Church very quickly became my refuge, a place to return to when life in the here and now makes no sense. On the Wednesday after the 2016 election, I was in a state of shock and remember feeling deeply grateful that I had a community to connect with, to *be with*, in the face of the inconceivable.

So what does any of this have to do with the idea of paradise which is defined as an "ideal or idyllic place or state?" The opportunity to give thought to this month's theme has opened my eyes to the notion that paradise is within reach every moment of every day — if we are open to it.

I have had an ongoing text thread for years with two friends. The Saturday afternoon following the board retreat, Jane initiated a conversation about our weekends. I shared that I had just returned home from church (she knew I was at a retreat), and she asked how it was. My response: It was exhausting, and I was in heaven.

Change/Growth, Growth/Change

From Pauline Eichten, Beloved Community Staff Team

For a seed to achieve its greatest expression, it must come completely undone. The shell cracks, its insides come out and everything changes. To someone who doesn't understand growth, it would look like complete destruction. — Cynthia Occelli

With the development of Unity's new Ends statement — "create a multicultural spiritual home based on authentic relationships" — the Beloved Community Staff Team created an experimental group called Multicultural Conversation Partners.¹ Among the dozen or so in the group, half the members are persons of color and half are white. These multiracial partnerships are in regular conversation, both as duos and as the larger group.

The idea is to foster an ongoing conversation/learning process, which KP Hong describes as risking "an encounter with another that distances ourselves from our familiarities" — going beyond the usual racialized forms of self-protection and moral shelter.

I am struck by the phrase "moral shelter." I interpret it to mean the ways in which I affirm my identify as a "good" white person, someone who is aware of systemic racism and opposed to it. I don't easily admit to the racist thoughts that bubble up from my subconscious. I'm active around issues of racial equality, but I'm not sure I'm willing to put my life in danger. When I traveled by myself to a one-time Sundown town in southern Illinois, it never occurred to me that it could be dangerous for my bi-racial daughter to do the same.

"I'm doing enough," my comfortable white self says. And then I read about another white person calling the police on black people going about their lives, playing golf or having a picnic in the park, or another black man being shot by police. And I know that there is an urgency to change and I must do my part.

As the Unity Church congregation works to live into our aspiration to create a multicultural spiritual home, there will be change. And from that change will come growth. The hope is that these conversation partners can help to develop a possible reality beyond racialized barriers that will offer new ways of doing/being that can apply to congregational life.

We cannot obtain what we lack if we tenaciously cling to what we have. — Charles F. Haanel

¹ The Multicultural Conversation Partners include Sheila Bosc, Jessica Burton, Rico Duran, Pauline Eichten, Kevin Harris, Heidi Johnson, Rich Lau, Mary Pickard, Lia Rivamonte, Erika Sanders, Jon Vaughan-Fier, Ray Wiedmeyer

MINISTERIAL INTERN / PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP

Hallman Ministerial Intern: Kathryn Jay



"How would you define paradise?" I asked my fourteen-year-old daughter Annabel.¹

"Well, people always talk about the Bahamas or Hawaii, or lying on a tropical beach somewhere, as paradise, so maybe it's that," she said.

"But some people define paradise as heaven," she added, "a place with big, puffy clouds where you sit and eat with a white-haired god in endless banquets."

I acknowledged that a tropical beach sounded like paradise, especially in the middle of February, and shuddered at the idea that all-you-can-eat banquets might qualify as heavenly. Annabel countered with the idea that maybe banquets in paradise might include waiters.

She paused. "But those aren't my idea of paradise at all." Then she ripped off an extensive, detailed list of possible ways she might define paradise: laughing with a group of good friends, hiking somewhere beautiful, eating tons of delicious food, waking up warm in her sleeping bag on a cold morning of camping, hugs from her moms, playing catcher in a championship victory.

I love my Unitarian Universalist daughter! For Annabel, paradise is the right here, the right now. (All those R.E. classes and times in worship may have had an impact.) Paradise doesn't happen only on once-in-a-lifetime vacations or after death. Instead, Annabel believes she can capture tiny moments of paradise while living her life. Paradise is about seizing everyday happiness. No need for a heavenly afterlife for her.

I aspire for that attitude as well, though I often get bogged down in reading the latest political news, or discovering a new ache or pain, or despairing at the number of emails in my inbox. It's so hard to hold onto the idea that we are creating our own paradise right here on earth. Life gets in the way. I focus on the frustrations and annoyances and miss the beauty in front of me. I forget to see the little bits of paradise in my daily life, to stop and think "it doesn't get any better than this moment."

Maybe paradise is about shifting my mindset more than any place or person or moment. Whenever I see fragments of the holy, get brief flashes of insight, I need to pause and embrace them. Like Annabel, I don't believe in a heavenly paradise that comes after I die. So I need to practice seeing the wonder and possibility that surrounds me. I come home from work to a dog who loves me so much that her whole body vibrates with joy when I walk in. That's a tiny piece of paradise. I have amazing memories of quiet hours spent reading near a mountain lake. Another tiny piece of paradise. I get at least a few wrap-up hugs from my family every day. So much paradise.

¹ I got permission from Annabel to share this conversation.



Pathway to Membership

Sign up for Pathway to Membership classes at the Welcome Table on Sundays or contact Kathryn Jay, Hallman Ministerial Intern, at kathryn@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x109. She is also happy to meet with you personally to answer questions and to welcome you into the congregation. 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 10:20-11:15 a.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 and get to know the programs and ministries of the congregation. Childcare is available in the nursery.

- February 3: Religious Education for Children, Youth and Adults
- February 10: Worship and the Liturgical Year
- February 17: No class (President's Day weekend)
- February 24: Building Tour

Committing to Unity: Joining Unity Church Wednesday, March 20 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 meet 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!

WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY

Wellspring Wednesday is a multi-generational opportunity to gather midweek at church for food, fellowship, and fun.

6:00 p.m.: Dinner in the Parish Hall! \$7/adult, \$4/child ages 5 to 12, \$2/child ages 2 to 4, and \$20/family. (Children under age two are free.) All meals will offer vegetarian and gluten free options. People with specific food allergies may contact madeline@unityunitarian.org to arrange for a special preparation. Please email Kathryn Jay at kathryn@unityunitarian.org for financial assistance to help cover the cost of dinner.

6:50 p.m.: Intergenerational worship in the Ames Chapel

7:15 p.m.: Learning and Fellowship
Childcare is available and you do not have to sign up in advance.

Help cook and serve a Wellspring Wednesday meal!

Help is needed on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Contact madeline@unityunitarian.org to volunteer!

Propose a Wellspring Wednesday program!

Is there a program or class you would like to see offered — or that you would like to offer — at Wellspring Wednesday during the this year? Submit a proposal! Proposal forms are available online at www.unityunitarian.org/wellspring-wednesday.html.

February 6

Dinner: TBA

Buoyancy: Living Between Dualities

Unity Church member and award-winning filmmaker Will Hommeyer presents his new film at Wellspring Wednesday. *Buoyancy* is more than a film about cancer, courage and chemotherapy. It's an intimate portrait of a woman who becomes stricken with a rare diagnosis. Juggling life and death she finds a path to authenticity as surgery, chemo, and radiation strip away the nonessential.



"Oh, our shattered hearts beating in their darkness. We've always known it is not whether they will break but what we do with their brokenness."

The vision for *Buoyancy* was to go behind the veil to share one woman's personal, innermost journey exploring life, sexuality, disease, motherhood, and mortality. Will used his camera to document Jeannie's odyssey as she stumbled down the rabbit hole of cancer treatment. The film draws on universal themes of fear, loss and love within Jeannie's experience and allows the audience to see themselves in her place; to walk beside her on her journey.

Will Hommeyer and the main subject of film Jeannie Piekos will both be present at the screening. Jeannie recently published a book of poems and essays about her experiences. She will read selections from her book *Buoyancy*, the memoir. Copies of both the film and book will be available for purchase.

All Congregation Book Read Discussion

The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches From the Border by Francisco Cantú is the memoir of Cantú's nearly four years in the Border Patrol. Even if you haven't read it, or haven't finished it, please do come to the discussion.

Textile Arts

This group meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 7:15-8:30 p.m. and is open to textile creatives of all ages. Bring your knitting, embroidery, needlepoint, etc. Contact: Linda Mandeville at lindamandeville41@gmail.com.

Yoga: Meditative Movement

We will use gentle movement and yoga breathing techniques to activate and explore some of the 108 sacred sites within the body, called marmani (marmani). Activating marmani via yoga poses provides a healing connection for all of our internal systems.

New Family R.E. Orientation

This session is for families new to Unity Church who would like to learn more about religious education for children and youth.

Tween Group

Meet in Ames Chapel at 6:45 p.m. for worship, then heads to Jr. High classroom 21. Pick up is at 8:30 p.m.

WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY

February 13

Dinner: Chicken pot pie, salad, dessert

Open Page Writing Session

Exploring Paradise

RSVP to karen@unityunitarian.org

Paradise has been imagined as a garden laden with fruit, absent of toil and suffering and shining in perfect possibilities, each one realized. What can we learn about the world we live in today, by exploring myths of paradise found somewhere else?

Forming Partnerships with Indigenous Communities

Sponsored by Unity's Mano a Mano Community Outreach Team, this presentation will focus on direct experience and lessons learned through work with marginalized native communities in Bolivia and in the Upper U.S. Midwest. It emphasizes approaches to building partner relationships that are respectful, that draw on the strengths and resources of each member, and that benefit the community as a whole.

Dr. Michael Dockry, a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, is a Research Forester with the U.S. Forest Service and an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota Forest Resources and American Indian Studies Departments. His research focuses on building collaborative teams with tribes to support tribal natural resource management, strategic foresight and climate change adaptation planning. Segundo Velasquez is a Unity Church member and co-founder of Mano a Mano International Partners. Mano a Mano partners with indigenous Bolivian communities to address needs identified by them for improved access to health care, education and food security.

Yoga: Loving Kindness Meditation

Metta bhavana, or loving-kindness meditation, is a method of developing compassion. It comes from the Buddhist tradition, but it can be adapted and practiced by anyone. This is a meditation of care, concern, tenderness, loving kindness, friendship — a feeling of warmth for oneself and others.

Tween Group

February 20

Dinner: TBA

What's So Funny about Friendship?: Amicus and the Art of Relationship Building in the Justice System

Friendship and the justice system aren't normally concepts that are thought of together, but those involved in Amicus have learned that there's power in a trusting relationship. Join Volunteers of America Community Justice Director Chris Doege and others as they talk about the Amicus One to One volunteer program and how friendship can lead to safer, more hopeful communities.

Being Civil in an Uncivil Society

Rev. Ed Brock, recent interim minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Birmingham, Alabama, will explore the roots of his interest in civility and peacemaking and discuss his recently published book *Optimal Relationships*.

Rev. Chris Jimmerson, Minister for Program Development, UU Church of Austin says "Ed Brock has written an extraordinarily powerful and useful book to help us all forge optimal relationships in a variety of settings, despite the polarization we seem to so often find ourselves facing. Filled with stories of real life people, he provides us with a road map of practical principles we can follow, rooted in family systems theory."

The Rev. Keith Kron, director of the UUA Transitions Office, says "Meant for individuals, groups, or systems, this short book of stories and observations is filled with good reminders, insights, and re-frames that will be useful in getting unstuck. If you're looking to think more about civility and connection in your relationships, then this will help!"

Yoga: Vinyasa Flow

This class is for individuals seeking faster and more rigorous movement. Flowing from pose to pose is coordinated with regulated inhales and exhales to strengthen muscles and build balance.

Textile Arts

Bring your knitting, embroidery, needlepoint, etc.

Tween Group

February 27

Dinner: TBA

They/Them Project

Local photographer Brent Dundore and a guest speaker (TBA) are bringing the They/Them project — gorgeous black and white portraits with artist interviews of local trans folks — to Unity Church! Come to learn about gender non-conforming people, what the deal is with pronouns anyway, and ask questions in a educational environment.

We are Worthy Now

Sending books to UUs in Prisons

The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) has almost 900 members who are currently incarcerated. They communicate with CLF solely through the mail which involves a lot of folding, stuffing and addressing of envelopes! Join Unity Church member and CLF staff member Hannah Franco-Isaacs to send out correspondence courses to UUs in prison.

Yoga: Balancing the Chakras

Use movement, mudra (hand gestures), and chanting to activate the chakras and provide energy for every part of the body, mind, and spirit.

Tween Group



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Save the Date

Second Annual Queer Retreat

Saturday, March 23, 2019

Unity Church is hosting a retreat for all those who identify under the queer and/or trans umbrella, and especially for people who don't fit into the gender binary.

**GIVE BLOOD.
SAVE LIVES.**



Save the Date

Blood Drive at Unity Church

Monday, March 25 • 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Parish Hall

Unity Church will host a blood drive for the American Red Cross in March! Watch for information about scheduling a donation appointment online. Interested in volunteering or helping organize? Contact Kathryn Jay at kathryn@unityunitarian.org.

Committed Couples Class

Committed Couples is a class designed to support all couples who are committed to one another and to promote healthy and productive conversations about relationships. The class will cover issues like finances, spirituality, the impact of family of origin issues, parenting, intimacy, and conflict. There will be sharing and work done in small groups and as couples. Each couple creates a relationship vision together which serves as a foundation for the work that happens during class.



Led by Janne and Rob Eller-Isaacs, the Committed Couples class will be held on seven Tuesday evenings — April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; and May 7 and 14 — from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Registration is free for pledging members of Unity Church and \$110 for non-pledging friends. To register, please contact Martha Tilton by at martha@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x105.

Free child care is available by request to Ray Hommeyer at ray@unityunitarian.org. One week advance notice is required.

Fellowship Groups

AA Groups: Unity Church hosts **12-step programs** in partnership with local AA and Al Anon groups. Al Anon meets Wednesdays, 5:00-6:00 p.m., Science Room; Fresh Air AA meets Thursdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Anderson Library.

Afterthoughts: This group meets after the 9:00 a.m. service. Contact: Paul Gade, 651-771-7528.

Caregivers Group: An informal support group for caregivers. Third Thursday of the month (February 21), noon–2:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs, janne@unityunitarian.org

Elders Circle: Meets the third Tuesday of the month (February 19), 1:00-3:00 p.m., Center Room.

Evergreen Quilters: Second Tuesday of the month (February 12), 7:00-9:00 p.m. (at Unity Church), and fourth Saturday of the month (February 23), 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 (February 2), 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 (February 19), 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs, janne@unityunitarian.org

Men's Retirement Group: Monday, February 11 and 25, 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 on the first, third, and fifth Sunday of each month, 6:30-8:00 p.m., COA/OWL room.

New Look at the Bible: Second Thursday of the month (February 14) at 7:00 p.m. 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: Meets the first and third Wednesday of each month (February 6 and 20), 7:00-8:30 p.m. Bring your knitting, embroidery, needlepoint, etc. Contact: Linda Mandeville, lindamandeville41@gmail.com

Unity Book Club: Second Tuesday of the month, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Contact Jack Hawthorne, jack.hawthorne@comcast.net.
February 12: *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles
March 12: *Hillbilly Elegy* by JD Vance

Women In Retirement: Meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month (February 14 and 28), 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact Lisa Friedman, lisa@unityunitarian.org

Young Adult Group (ages 18-35) meets every other Thursday (February 14 and 28), 7:00-9:00 p.m. Meet at 6:30 for dessert and tea. Contact KP Hong, kp@unityunitarian.org

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

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

A Day Retreat about Living Well with Change

Saturday, March 2 • 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. • Unity Church

Registration now open: www.unityunitarian.org



LIVING IN THE BETWEEN

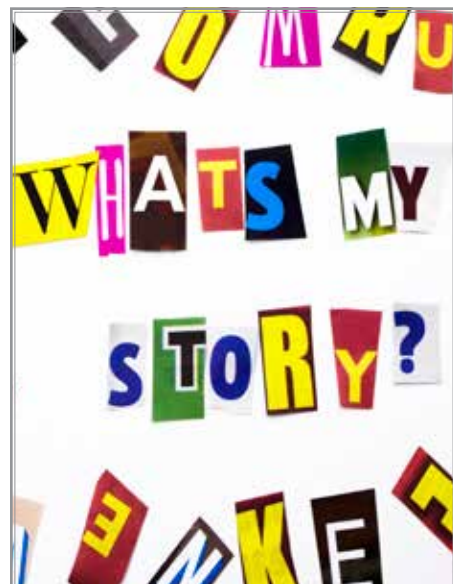
finding, creating and sharing brave and beautiful space in the midst of change

Have you ever noticed how exciting change can be when you embrace it instead of trying to avoid or resist it? Have you wondered about different ways to welcome it and work with it? This day retreat on Saturday, March 2, "Living in the Between," is an invitation to tap into the creative possibilities present when change rocks the boat in our personal lives and communities.

As Unity Church begins a series of staff transitions that will continue for the next few years, come explore the nature of change and some of the ways — practical, creative and soulful — to engage it with an open heart. Led by Consulting Literary Minister Karen Hering, Hallman Ministerial Intern Kathryn Jay, and others, the day will include workshops, music, conversation, creative activities, and good food and fellowship. Together we will consider how to find, create, and share brave and beautiful space in the midst of change.

[T]he transition zones in our lives are incredibly rich places. They should be honored, even savored. Yes, with all the pain and fear and feelings of being out of control that can (but not necessarily) accompany transitions, they are still the most alive, most growth-filled, passionate, expansive moments in our lives. — Danaan Parry

Registration is \$25, including lunch; childcare and scholarships available. Deadline is February 25. Details and registration available on-line at www.unityunitarian.org.



Save the Date!

**2019 UNITY CHURCH
MEN'S RETREAT
Saturday, April 13, 2019**

What's My Story?

Sharing our stories is one of the most powerful and profound ways we have of communicating with each other. The 2019 Unity Church Men's Retreat is coming soon, offering us an opportunity to hear and share stories about what it is to identify as a man within ourselves, in our families, and in the wider community.

The day-long retreat will be held at Unity Church on Saturday, April 13, from 8:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Registration will begin in March.

Recognizing that gender is not binary, we welcome all individuals who identify as male.

If you have any questions about the retreat, please contact either Steve Harper at steveharper.home@gmail.com or Rob Eller-Isaacs at robei@unityunitarian.org.

Hope to see you there!

LIBRARIES AND BOOKSTALL / OPEN PAGE WRITING



CELEBRATE

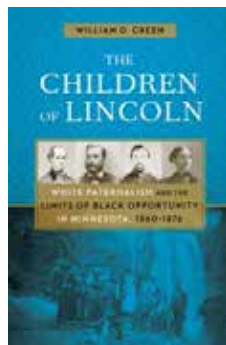
National African American History Month 2019

From Shelley Butler, Libraries and Bookstall Team

"You can tell a great deal about a country and a people by what they deem important enough to remember, to create moments for — what they put in their museum and what they celebrate," according to Lonnie Bunch, founding director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. "Yet," he goes on to say, "I would suggest that we learn even more about a country by what it chooses to forget — its mistakes, its disappointments, and its embarrassments... African American History Month is a clarion call to remember... a call that is often unheeded."

Minnesotans are guilty of collective or civic amnesia when it comes to racism, as much as anyone. Did you know that several slave-owners, appointed to the territorial government, brought their slaves with them to live in Minnesota? Or that as more Easterners came in the 19th century and Minnesota became more "civilized," that Minnesota's laws, policies, and attitudes became more racist?

Thankfully, William D. Green, professor at Augsburg and leading Minnesota historian, has just published his third excellent book on race, civil rights, and racial equality in Minnesota, *The Children of Lincoln: White Paternalism and the Limits of Black Opportunity in Minnesota, 1860-1876*. Find this and his first two books in the Anderson Library.



Let's Talk! Congregation Book Read Discussions!



There is still time to read *The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches From the Border* by Francisco Cantú before the book discussions, but even if you haven't read or finished it yet, please do come to the 2019 Book Read events (held at Unity Church):

- Wednesday, February 6 • 7:10 p.m.
- Sunday, February 10 • 12:30 p.m.

Open Page Writing Sessions

Led by Consulting Literary Minister Karen Hering, Open Page writing sessions are invitations to correspond with the "still, small voice within." Using stories, poetry, images and objects as well as wisdom from religious teachings, science and history, and provided prompts, participants reflect on the month's theme in their own words and on their own pages. No writing experience is necessary. Bring something to write with and on; the rest will be provided! Free; RSVP requested to karen@unityunitarian.org.



Exploring Paradise

Wednesday, February 13 • 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Paradise has been imagined as a garden laden with fruit, absent of toil and suffering and shining in perfect possibilities, each one realized. What can we learn about the world we live in today, by exploring myths of paradise found somewhere else?

Surrender: the nerve center of consent

Wednesday, March 13 • 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Henri Nouwen called surrender an act of deep listening and receiving. Howard Thurman often referred to it as the "nerve center of consent." Others have defined surrender as an offering of ourselves. To what sacred truth and presence do you offer yourself? What is the meaning of surrender in our spiritual journeys? What does it ask — and not ask — of us today?

Freedom

Wednesday, April 3 • 7:00-8:30 p.m.

"Freedom is not something that anybody can be given," said James Baldwin. "Freedom is something that people take and people are as free as they want to be." How do we find and claim the freedom we each want and need? And what responsibilities accompany our freedom? How does true freedom ironically bind us to others?

Peace: inside and out

Wednesday, May 8 • 7:00-8:30 p.m.

"Peace is people talking together with a heart in between them." So says a wise eight-year-old, reminding us that peace is less about the absence of conflict than our ability to respond to one another with hearts engaged and held open in conversation and relationship. This session explores the inner and outer dimensions of peace and how one affects the other.

Wisdom

Wednesday, June 5 • 7:00-8:30 p.m.

"At the crossroads, Wisdom takes her stand." As we consider the crossroads of our own times, this writing session explores the proverbs Wisdom offers now as her stand and guidance. What proverbial wisdom, old and new, do we need today and where might we find it, worldwide and within?

A Young Adult's Role in Paradise

From Clairece Cooke, Unity Church young adult

A note from Ray Hommeyer, editor of Unity's Young Adult Column: During a compelling conversation at Young Adult Group, Claire Cooke reframed a question that surprised and inspired me. I asked Claire to share her insights with the congregation by exploring this month's theme of paradise. As a member of the church, Unity is where she experiences the promise of Beloved Community, the closest humanity can get to paradise.

If you are a young adult that attends a religious institution, you have likely been asked by your older peers, *where are the young adults?* A phrase not uncommon at Unity Church, projected onto younger ears. An earnest question portraying genuine interest. The answer that easily comes to mind is: honestly, I don't know. If I had to guess, I would say most youth who grew up at Unity Church live elsewhere now for one reason or another. Some are involved in facets of the church including young adult group, welcome team, worship associates, youth leaders, and choir. There are those who consciously do not come and then there is a significant portion of the world's young adult population that does not know we, Unitarian Universalists, exist.

What I am more interested in is, *what do you want with young adults?* And a whole cascade of questions that come with that. I think the true question is: *what is the role of young adults in paradise?* First, let me tell you the definition I have imagined for paradise. A state in which a person with clear sight feels at peace, or where joy is experienced in the absence of destruction. Idyllic, requiring constant work and impossible to maintain in its perfect state but inseparably tied as the connection between the struggle and purpose of life. That is big. Here, church exists as a space that actively moves towards paradise, a space where it can exist, a space where it is taught and practiced through Beloved Community.

If our goal is to work towards and struggle for paradise, I doubt that increasing the number of young adults in pews, diligently listening to the service, is the only goal since numerical outcomes alone do not guarantee the presence of love or community. Furthermore, striving for higher numbers might substitute actual commitment and depth of faith formation by giving an illusion of increased involvement.

We feel compelled to ask where the young adults are because we know that without everyone, our community is not the paradise we strive towards. When we identify omission or exclusion that we do not know how to address, we often default to asking the group in question for something. What if instead, we practiced asking a question of ourselves: what can you give to young adults, and what might you gain in return? If you walk down the path of these questions with Beloved Community as a guiding light, there you might find the young adults.

February Parish Hall Artist

Steveboyyi Makubuya

Steveboyyi Makubuya lives in Uganda. He doesn't know when he was born. Brought to a children's home at the age of around nine months, he grew up without the knowledge of his name, his parents, birthday, or even the presence of a family. When the orphanage closed its doors, Steven was 17, and he continued his life back on the streets, relying on his creativity and courage to survive daily obstacles. His artistic themes reflect a longing for family integrity, the constant struggle for survival, and evoke the raw essence of street life common throughout Africa. The spare spatial composition of his work allows the viewer to imagine the social milieu surrounding the central characters and provides an opportunity to thoughtfully walk along with them as they go about the common tasks of daily living. Steven is a child of Africa who has a strong desire to reach out to the world through his art, to help relieve suffering wherever possible, to remind us of the day-to-day struggle faced by countless people around the world, and also to provide us with the opportunity to see the possibility of finding hope, joy, peace, and true happiness despite our circumstances.

Steveboyyi was given the opportunity to visit the U.S. in 2017 and participate in his first ever solo exhibition. His stay was cut short due to unforeseen circumstances, and upon returning to Uganda, Steveboyyi lost the use of his eye. The work in this exhibit was created following his eye accident and passed through many hands to get to the U.S., given the lack of a formal mail system in Uganda. His exhibit is being handled by friend Moira Villiard from Duluth, MN.

Unity Church Young Adults Group

Young Adult Group (ages 18-35) meets:

- Thursday, February 14 • 7:00-9:00 p.m. • Gannett Room
- Thursday, February 28 • 7:00-9:00 p.m. • Gannett Room

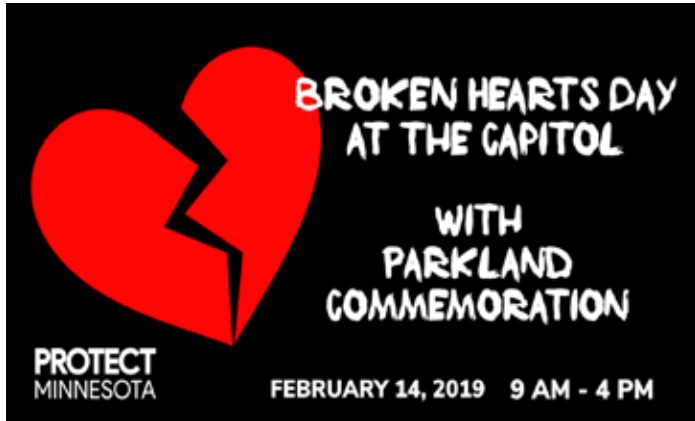
At 6:30 p.m., the group gathers for coffee/dessert "happy hour." Check out our YA blog: <https://stayingabeatlonger.com/>! All are welcome. To be added to the Young Adults email list, please email kp@unityunitarian.org.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Join Unity Church and Protect Minnesota for Lobby Day at the Capitol

Thursday, February 14

Lobby and Rally, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



Unity Church members and friends are encouraged to attend Protect Minnesota's annual Lobby Day on Thursday, February 14, at the Minnesota State Capitol. This is the first anniversary of the Parkland school shooting and participants will meet with their elected representatives to deliver "Broken Hearts Valentines" and encourage their support for expanded criminal background checks and passing the Red Flag law. Then at 2:30 p.m., the group will gather with students from Minnesota March For Our Lives in the Rotunda to commemorate the tragic shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Email raphael@protectmn.org as soon as possible to set up your appointments with legislators. There will be volunteers to accompany you if you wish. Also email Raphael if you can volunteer to help others get to their appointments. Here's how the day's schedule will go:

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Arrive at Christ on Capitol Hill Church 105 University Avenue West, in St. Paul, one hour before your earliest appointment to receive information and training. You can park at the church and take a free shuttle to the Capitol complex. Volunteers will accompany groups to legislative offices. After the meetings, participants will be asked to fill out brief reports about what they learned from their representatives.

10:00 a.m.

Press conference in basement of the Capitol.

2:30 p.m.

Rally in the Rotunda. A commemoration of the Parkland School shooting with Minnesota March For Our Lives (look for the Unity Church banner, or stop by the Gun Sense table in the Parish Hall on Sundays to find out where we hope to stand).

If you have questions about Protect Minnesota Lobby Day or would like to learn more about the Unity's Gun Sense Ministry Team, please contact Sue Conner at sue.conner@comcast.net or Joan Duke at joanduke@comcast.net.

Fourth Friday Sustainable Film Series

Saving Snow

Friday, February 22

7:00 p.m. • Robbins Parlor

Join the Sustainable Living Team for a showing of *Saving Snow*. Across the country people who depend on winter for their livelihood are feeling the heat.

Here in Minnesota it is major ski races like the American Birkebeiner and Mora Vasaloppet, and businesses that depend on shoveling and plowing snow. This is about how industries and towns that depend on snow are affected and what they are doing to move to a clean energy future. The U.S. cross country ski team and Minnesota's own Jessie Diggins — gold medalist at the 2018 Olympics — endorse policies that can help us move to a clean energy future and you will see their video during this presentation

Moderator is Steve Jorrisen, a PhD physical scientist who has been following climate change and its impacts since 1983. An avid backpacker, he hiked the 220 mile John Muir Trail in 2017. Steve is a member of Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) and belongs to the St. Paul Chapter of CCL. He will talk about the changes and impacts happening now in Minnesota but also actions we can all start taking now.



Rainbow Chalice Alliance

Pi(e) Day!

Ready to Bake

Purchase a pie from the Rainbow Chalice Alliance Pi(e) Day (3.14.19) Sale and help support Unity's participation at Q-Quest, a yearly festival for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and allied youth!

Pies can be ordered throughout February at the Rainbow Chalice Alliance table in the Parish Hall. Past offerings have included blueberry, apple, and French silk! (Worry not, many can and do order two pies.) RCA is only able to make a limited number of pies, and it's first come, first served. The pies are prepared and frozen so you can bake them whenever you want. Thanks to all of you, RCA is able to help at Q-Quest, and additionally help fund Queer Prom and Youth Pride in the spring. Pie baking volunteers are always needed. Please email Kevin Ely to volunteer: kevin.m.ely@gmail.com.



MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Paradise Lost



From Drew Danielson,
Coordinator of Youth and Campus Ministries

My daughter, who wavers between being a 14 year old and a complete grown-up, is highly incensed by the lack of snow as of mid-January. It's bumming her out – not just because it's ugly out and she can't ski or go sledding or build a snowman; it's also because our snowless winter is proof of the apocalypse. There will be no more idyllic winter frolics in the snow. Every Christmas-time reference to Currier and Ives snowscapes or sleigh bells or skating parties only serve to remind her that this past perfect time is gone. And she knows exactly who to blame.

It's me. Well, me and everyone else of my generation, who though we try to distance ourselves from greedy narcissistic billionaires that are in power and currently enacting calamitous environmental policies, are actually all the same. We won't stop buying plastic water bottles or buying SUVs or eating cheap hamburger. We ruined paradise.

I have practiced empathy, telling her I in fact agree with her and also feel incensed by the end of snowball fights and outdoor skating in February. I've tried to modulate a little by saying we are no doubt in something of an "El Niño or Pinto or Santa Maria" cycle and we won't really never have a winter wonderland moment again. But she rolls her eyes. "You were stupid and evil. I'm sorry, but you were. Oh, and you're also racist." She says, arms crossed, brow furrowed.

She's not wrong. I move away from dwelling on personal guilt by talking about Adam and Eve and the original paradise. "You know the Bible isn't the domain of stupid, simple minded people. I try to stress that in COA. Many of the greatest minds in history are in that thing, and they knew, 2,000 years ago or whatever, that when we decided we could play God, we'd lose paradise."

"Ugh, so 2,000 years ago they knew science would kill everything, but we decided to be so stupid we just wouldn't stop. That makes me so mad. At least my generation knows we're destroying the Earth... or you were." This is really cathartic for her.

We actually managed to bring this to talking about Beloved Community, which is the unit covered in COA in January. And the larger original question which is "what is the role of the church?" Harper has no hesitance on this one — "Fix it. You ruined paradise, you have to fix it. People can't continue to rule and ruin the world. Dogs could do better!"

Woof!

R.E. Calendar

February 2019

Sunday, February 3: Regular RE; Second semester begins for Jr. High

Wednesday, February 6: New Family Orientation 7:15 p.m.

Sunday, February 10: Regular R.E.

Saturday, February 16: Tower Club Youth Con (overnight)

Sunday, February 17: No R.E. Classes (Presidents' Day weekend); activities for school-age kids, nursery care available

Friday, February 22: COA Sacred Spaces overnight

Saturday, February 23: Teachers' Night Out 6:00-8:30 p.m. (free child care and family fellowship time, RSVP required to michelle@unityunitarian.org)

Sunday, February 24: Story Sunday (Grade school and Jr. High children in Sanctuary); no COA

Twin Cities Youth Con

February 16-17

First Universalist Church
3400 Dupont Avenue South, MPLS

Unitarian Universalist high school youth (grades 10-12) from around the greater Twin Cities come together for this annual gathering, hosted by a different congregation each year. Youth will gather to talk, eat, play, worship, and enjoy informative and fun workshops.

At Youth Con, participants get to know other UU youth, explore their faith, and experience the power of gathering with the intention of creating community grounded in love, joy and justice.

All Unity Church youth in grades 10-12 are invited to attend. Details and registration are online at <https://uuyouthcon.weebly.com/>.

Summer Camp Activities at Unity Church 2019!

Are you ready for another summer of community, excitement and fun?

We are!



CHALICE CAMP
July 8–12 and July 22–26

CHALICE KIDS
July 15–19 and July 29–August 2

The 30th Annual Unity Church Children's Musical Presents

A LITTLE ANXIOUS

Unity's 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders

Written and Directed by Mary Blouin Auffert

Music by Sandy Waterman

The entire production – from the script, to the music, to the choreography – is original material created for Unity's 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.

Mary Blouin Auffert, playwright and director, returns for her 10th musical.
Sandy Waterman, composer of the musical score, returns for her 30th musical.

PERFORMANCES

Thursday, March 7 • 7:00 PM

Friday, March 8 • 7:00 PM

Saturday, March 9 • 5:30 PM

TICKETS

\$5/children • \$10/adults • \$20/family

Children under age 5 are free.

Purchase tickets online at www.unityunitarian.org,
in the Parish Hall beginning February 24,
and at the door on the evening of the performance.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Music Notes



From Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministries

"Where Everything Is Music" — Rumi
Don't worry about saving these songs!
And if one of our instruments breaks
it doesn't matter.
We have fallen into the place
where everything is music.
The strumming and the flute notes
rise into the atmosphere,
and even if the whole world's harp
should burn up, there will still be
hidden instruments playing.
So the candle flickers and goes out.
We have a piece of flint and a spark.
This singing art is sea foam.
The graceful movements come from a pearl
somewhere on the ocean floor.
Poems reach up like spindrift and the edge
of driftwood along the beach, wanting!
They derive
from a slow and powerful root
that we can't see.
Stop the words now
open the window in the center of your chest,
and let the spirits fly in and out.

Yes, "everything is music." We don't have to worry about "saving these songs" that have been and are precious to us. They have had their impact on our hearts, on the very nature in which we hold our breath and free it to serve our intention. You only have to remember to "open the window in the center of your chest, and let the spirits fly in and out." When we do that, it also frees us to receive the new songs that will fly in.

The curious thing I find, as I look at the legacy of moments we have shared, is that while the active experience of each exact moment has passed, the heart imprint is indelible. Hopefully, all the "song imprints" will continue their impact in an excitement to see and live new perspectives and act as foundation for the building of the future legacy of moments. It is such a rich experience to find one's voice can sing in the flow of so many different moments. The imperative being to always sing! I have heard and seen you discover and share your voices in so many ways. Voices that clearly "flew in and out" of the "center of your chest". That moment of seeing this is paradise for me. And, for more people than you know. For while that exact moment is past... its impact lives on by inviting the next moment to fly right in! May every day bring you moments that invite you to sing because they "kill you with delight".

Everyday
I see or hear
something
that more or less
kills me
with delight... — Mary Oliver (from "Mindful")

Organ Dedication Concert

Sunday, February 10 • 2:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

Aaron Miller, Guest Organist



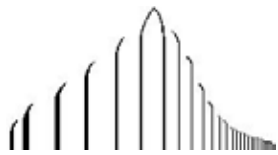
On Sunday, February 10, the congregation of Unity Church will celebrate the recent renovation its Noack Organ with a dedication concert. All are welcome!

Aaron David Miller is a renowned organ improviser having won numerous international awards and given concerts across the country. His orchestra works have been performed by such ensembles as the Seattle Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Zurich Symphony, and St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. Recent compositions include works for Yale University and a Christmas recording by the Bach Chamber Players of St. Paul, Minnesota. Dr. Miller is Music Director at House of Hope Presbyterian Church. He is also a Forensic Musicologist for Donato Music, Scarsdale, New York.

Save the Date

Celebrate Ruth Palmer

Mark your calendars for the evening of May 11, 2019, when we will have the opportunity to celebrate our dear Ruth Palmer and the enormous impact she has had on our musical and spiritual lives. Jake Runestad and Dale Warland have each been commissioned to write a piece in honor of Ruth as she starts her retirement. These pieces will be premiered that evening, with a reception following the concert. More information will be coming as the day approaches, but for now, save the date!



UNITY CHURCH—UNITARIAN

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

JENNIFER TONG, CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REV. JANNE ELLER-ISAACS, CO-MINISTER
REV. ROB ELLER-ISAACS, CO-MINISTER
BARBARA HUBBARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
REV. LISA FRIEDMAN, MINISTER OF CONGREGATIONAL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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**TIME SENSITIVE
MATERIAL**

**A Day Retreat about
Living Well with Change**
Saturday, March 2 • Turn to page 9

Boston Pilgrimage



October 16-21, 2019

Janne and Rob will lead a pilgrimage to the Unitarian Universalist homelands of New England. Visit Plimouth Plantation and wander the streets and back lanes of Boston and Concord. Explore the historical roots of our faith and our democracy and walk the paths that our religious ancestors walked.

If you are interested, please send a refundable \$200 deposit to Song Thao, Financial Assistant, to hold your place. Balance is due June 15, 2019. Scholarships are available. The trip will cost between \$1400-\$1800, exclusive of airfare.

Racial Justice Movie Night

RONDO

BEYOND THE PAVEMENT

Friday, February 8 • 7:00 p.m. • Parish Hall

Rondo: Beyond the Pavement, a documentary filmed by Rondo youth, shares the voices of a thriving Saint Paul neighborhood torn apart by the I-94 corridor. The 30-minute film will be followed by a Q&A session with a panel of the filmmakers and others. Refreshments will be served.

Join Unity Church members and friends for an ongoing film series to further our growth in the understanding and challenging of white supremacy and structural racism.

Food Shelf 1,000 Pound Challenge

In 2018, 763 pounds of food were donated to Hallie Q. Brown Food Shelf by Unity Church members and friends. That's a lot of food. Our contributions supported about eight families for one month. Let's donate even more in 2019!

Bring a can of soup or other non-perishable items every time you come to church. Collection trunks are located by the church entrances. The challenge for 2019 is 1,000 pounds!

