

## REPAIR

*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.*

My grandfather knew how to keep time moving. Head bent over the wooden jeweler's bench at the back of his jewelry store and peering through a small magnifying loop attached to his glasses, he repaired watches. He patiently disassembled gears and springs and knew how to put them back together so they could once again keep time.

As we turn from last month's theme of "Brokenness" to this month's theme of "Repair," I am wondering what we are asked to repair — in the world and in ourselves. And, how do we know how to make these repairs as well as when we might need to start over anew?

With a watch, it's obvious it needs repair when its numbers or hands stand still. But when it's just running fast or slow, it might take a while to realize something needs fixing. So too with less mechanical things prone to breaking down — relationships, systems, practices, communication, understandings. Perhaps the first fix to consider is letting ourselves stand still long enough that we can notice what really needs repairing. Not coincidentally, this is one of the fruits of having a spiritual practice and participating in a community of faith.

Once we do notice a brokenness that needs repair, the rapid pace of change itself can make it difficult to know how to begin. Were he still living, my grandfather would not have the knowledge needed to fix today's

gearless digital watches. Similarly, when we look at the brokenness of the environment or the broken institutions that perpetuate systemic oppression, we often do not know how to fix them. So this work of repair requires creative engagement with the discomfort of not knowing. We are asked to let go of old assumptions and challenged to stretch our hearts and minds as bridges between past and future, open to new knowledge and learning as we go.

The word repair traces its origins to an old French word meaning "to make ready, again." Notice, it is not about returning to where we were before the breakage. Nor is it a matter of perfection — original or restored. Repair, at its core, is about preparing to begin again.

How relevant this is to today's challenges, as we work to repair our relationships with nature and one another, especially across our differences. And, how ancient too, arising from the Jewish concept of *tikkun olam*. According to the story from Jewish mystic Isaac Luria, before creation there was only a holy darkness. Then God sent divine light into the world, bringing about all forms of life; but the vessels carrying the light shattered and ten thousand shards of divinity became scattered as sparks embedded in all beings and every part of creation.

Humans, the story says, were given the capacity to find this light hidden in all beings and events and to make it visible

by our interactions with them. This task, known as *tikkun olam*, is restoring the wholeness of the world. No wonder it is a teaching and phrase often applied to environmental and justice work.

Clearly, the brokenness around us and within us today cannot be repaired by returning our inner gears to their previous alignments. Perhaps instead, our task of repair is one of uncovering the hidden light, first in our own hearts, and then in the world around us. Might this make us, and the world, ready again — for right relationship with nature and one another, for wholeness and the beloved community we seek to make real?

*By Associate Minister Karen Hering  
on behalf of this month's theme team:  
Ahmed Anzaldúa, Drew Danielson,  
Janne Eller-Isaacs, Rob Eller-Isaacs,  
Lisa Friedman and KP Hong*

### Repair Theme Resources

For further reflection on this theme, a variety of resources including books, poems, videos and audios, are listed in this month's Chalice Circle packet available online at [www.unityunitarian.org/chalice-circles.html](http://www.unityunitarian.org/chalice-circles.html) and in the brochure racks at church.

Also visit [www.unityunitarian.org/uploads/6/1/0/3/6103699/repair.pdf](http://www.unityunitarian.org/uploads/6/1/0/3/6103699/repair.pdf) for sermons and other resources from previous years on this theme.

## Just Words



I have never thought Black History Month was a good idea. Given the global challenge of dismantling racism and the particular realities of how racism manifests here in the United States, we should be paying attention each and every day of the year. Then this past September, Team Dynamics, the consulting group coaching the church as we pursue our stated aspiration to become “a multicultural spiritual home built on authentic relationships,” offered us a tool to move beyond the confusion of conflicting, heartfelt priorities. They call it “the house of intersectionality.” Each room is named for an aspect of identity: age, ability, gender, class, etc. They name the front door “race.” We enter the work of addressing oppression in all of its forms by confronting white supremacy within, among, and beyond us.

Our monthly theme of repair seems particularly appropriate as we continue to deepen our congregational commitment to be credible, resilient partners in working to end racism. Almost twenty years ago we entered into a covenant promising to bring the work of ending racism to the very center of congregational life. Now, the effort touches every aspect of what we do together. The Beloved Community Staff Team coordinates this work. The team is facilitated by Director of Religious Education Rev. KP Hong and includes the members of Unity's Executive Team as well as our Director of Music Ministries, our Coordinator of Youth and Campus Ministries, and three lay leaders in roles that involve administrative support and communications. We meet twice a month and manage a wide array of programs for advocacy and learning. After many years of delegating the monitoring and evaluation of our anti-racism to the Anti-Racism Leadership Team, the Unity Church Board of Trustees has resumed responsibility for making sure we are doing the best we can to pursue our best intentions.

As Janne and I prepare to retire, we are hearing murmurs of concern that the centrality of Unity's commitment to anti-racism, anti-oppression, and multicultural ministry may be diminished with our departure. Let me reassure you. Though both Janne and I are deeply devoted to the work both on a personal and a professional level, there have always been lay leaders urging us onward. Though we have not conducted a formal study of the question, it seems to me that for every person who is reticent and hopes the church will soon de-emphasize this questionable attempt to become a more diverse, more inclusive, more multicultural congregation, there are at least three who wish we could move more quickly and more forcefully into the future.

A second murmur of concern we hear now and again is that the growing use of the term “multicultural” indicates that we have declared either victory or defeat in regard to racism and moved on to a different agenda. Again, let me reassure you. We are acutely aware that we live in the “house of intersectionality.” We continue to enter the house through the door that invites us to work to root out racism. We know it is Holy work. We know all too well that it is the work of many generations. I guess Black History Month makes good sense after all. Even after all these years there are so many stories we have yet to learn, so many neighbors we have yet to meet. It makes good sense to set some time aside to renew both our attention and our commitment to helping to heal America's original wound.

The Movement's always movin' on,  
Rob Eller-Isaacs

**MYSTERY  
MANOR**

**The 31st Annual Unity  
Church Children's Musical**

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

**Written and Directed by  
Mary Blouin Auffert**

**Music by Sandy Waterman**

**March 5 at 7:00 PM**

**March 6 at 7:00 PM**

**March 7 at 5:30 PM**

**TICKETS GO ON SALE FEBRUARY 23!**

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# FEBRUARY SUNDAY SERVICES

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## Sunday Worship

Sunday worship services are held at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m., and 4:30 p.m., except where noted. Religious education classes are available during all three services. Sermon podcasts and archives are online at [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org).

### February 2: *There Is a Hole in the Roof*

On February 12, 1963, a significant fire swept through the Sanctuary of Unity Church. It burned a large hole in the roof directly above the reading desk on the eastern slope of the main roof. The next day the trustees met with then minister, Arthur Foote, to decide how best to proceed. They knew they wanted to save the building but were unsure about whether to restore it or to remodel. We cannot help but wonder what values informed their decision. Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs and worship associate Kevin Harris will offer the first in a series of services on repair.

### February 9: *Being Made New*

When restoration to a previous state is not possible, can repair create something unexpected and new? Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs, worship associate Kara Younkin Viswanathan, and others will wrestle with this topic through the lens of mental health challenges.

### February 16: *Not This Again*

Some things need to be repaired simply because something cracks, or a seal wears out, or some other relatively predictable part fails. However, there is also the reality of design flaws. That is where things can get complicated. What do we do when something fails not because it is worn out and needs replacement or repair, but because of poor design or systemic failure? How do we take genuine, personal responsibility for systemic oppression? Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs and worship associate Lia Rivamonte will grapple with how we can approach such complicated questions.

### February 23: *A Fixer's Guide to an Unknown Future*

There is no manual for repairing many of the problems facing us today. Rev. Karen Hering and worship associate Jake Rueter consider how our imagination can equip us to think beyond repair.

February 23 is a Story Sunday, with children in grades 1-8 beginning in worship with the congregation in the Sanctuary. After the opening hymn, prayers, and a story for all ages, Workshop Rotation children (grades 1-5) proceed with their Journey Guides to their classrooms for religious education programming while junior high youth (grades 6-8) remain in the Sanctuary for the entire worship service.

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

## 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 2: *Bolder Options*

Bolder Options provides referral based, one-on-one wellness mentoring for youth ages 10-14. Mentors and youth attend weekly activities to pursue physical, academic, and social/emotional health goals. After meeting goals and working together weekly for at least one year, participants remain involved in the alumni program. This collection will help purchase running shoes and bike safety gear for youth participants. Unity Church member Heidi Mastrud is the former director and patron of Bolder Options.

### February 9: *Philando Castile Peace Garden*

The Philando Castile Peace Garden will be located at the site of Philando's tragic death on July 6, 2016. Philando's family and community members, along with the city of Falcon Heights and the St. Paul and Minnesota Foundation, have developed the vision for a contemplative gathering space built around walkways, gardens, and gathering areas that will welcome all who seek to work toward reconciliation and racial justice. This collection will help underwrite the first phases of design and construction.

### February 16: *Monarch Joint Venture*

Monarch Joint Venture is a partnership of federal/state agencies, NGOs, and business and academic programs working together to protect the monarch migration across the United States. Its mission is to protect monarchs and their migration by collaborating with partner groups to conserve habitats, educate community members, and research monarchs and their habitats. Its vision is thriving monarch populations that sustain monarch migration into perpetuity. Unity Church member Therese Sexe serves on the board of Monarch Joint Venture.

### February 23: *Bountifield International*

Bountifield International partners with women farmers to better feed their communities, reduce the drudgery of outdated food processing, and improve their lives through innovative postharvest technology. Women are given access to business education, technical support, financial capital, land ownership, and decision making authority. Once empowered, they feel the pride of increasing the size and quality of annual harvests, thus realizing larger income and independence for their families. This collection will support the purchase of multi-crop grinders and training for food packaging and storage. Unity Church member Donna Gies is an advisory board member for Bountifield International.



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES



## Search Committee: We need your input!

**Jackie Smith, Board Chair**

Thank you to all who attended the congregational meeting in mid January. After a morning of preaching a fantastic sermon on change, Jen Crow, Unity's Transition Coach from the UUA outlined the upcoming months. She described the process of our search for a new called minister. She also had time to answer many excellent questions about the process, terminology, and other concerns around our ministerial search. I had several helpful conversations with congregants about aspects of the transition, and I feel excited about the work of the next six months. If you were unable to attend the meeting, you are invited to listen to it online at <https://www.unityunitarian.org/ministerial-transition.html>.

Many things are happening concurrently: planning for a unique farewell celebration for Janne and Rob, assembling search materials for an interim minister, and deep discussions about the nature of church as we live into this change. Questions from the procedural to the spiritual have come up in our trustee conversations, and in the community.

Our biggest upcoming task is to assemble a search team. Our hope is to create a skilled, balanced team that can hold the community as a whole throughout the search process. We hope to put together a team of church members who work well with others, understand the Ends that were developed through the congregational input this last year, and will represent and serve the whole congregation while understanding various parts of church life. It is important that the candidates have been active members of Unity Church and demonstrate responsible leadership. Ultimately, they have a deep love for this community and want to find a new senior minister who embraces where we are heading, along with where we have been.

As we form this team, we need your input! We are collecting nominations from congregants in three ways. On Saturday, February 15, all Unity Church members will receive a phone call from a current or past trustee. Congregants will be asked for input at that time. Additionally, trustees will be available in the Parish Hall following services on February 16 and 23 to collect nominations. Finally, an online form will be emailed to all congregants to complete. All voting members will have the opportunity to nominate up to two individuals that they feel would contribute to a balanced team.

Once this information is gathered, the board will work to assemble a slate of about 20 candidates for the congregation to review and vote on at the congregational meeting on April 26. Please mark that very important date on your calendars!

Many church members have expressed their interest in joining the team. I am overwhelmed at the quality of gifts and talent that we have at Unity. Congregants are welcome to nominate themselves for the search team. It is also important to remember that we will have many ways to engage in this transition. From an interim support team to our party on May 31 — opportunities abound!

If you see an unknown number pop up on your screen on February 15, please pick up!! We'd love to chat and hear what you have to say. If you can't talk then, not a problem! Find us on Sunday at church, or check your email. Bottom line: we'd love to hear what you have to say!

## Rejoice at the River All Congregation Worship Service and Retirement Celebration for Janne and Rob

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 31, 2020, at Harriet Island. An all-congregation, outdoor worship service will be followed by lunch, program, and party!



# BELOVED COMMUNITY STAFF TEAM

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## Unity Church Is on a Journey

Mary Pickard on behalf of the Beloved Community Staff Team

We're on a journey to becoming a multicultural anti-racist community. What's the path, you ask? How do we actually do this as a congregation? What, exactly, are we being called to do? Those are some of the questions that arise as we commit to this journey.

Unity's Board of Trustees developed the current Ends Statements (<https://www.unityunitarian.org/values-mission-ends.html>) over a five-month intensive discernment process involving the entire church community. Two of our 2018-2023 Unity Ends Statements commit us to:

End 1: Create a multicultural spiritual home built on authentic relationships.

End 7: Create brave space for racial healing and dismantling dominant culture.

These are our hopes and dreams — our shared ministry — and they come from a sincere desire to see change. Aspiring to change is a good start, but it is not sufficient.

The Executive Team was charged with setting and measuring concrete strategies for all the Ends Statements. As one example, the Religious Education Ministry Team is conducting an extensive evaluation of the R.E. curricula with the goal of situating our UU faith in multiculturalism. Another is to strengthen small group ministry opportunities with intentional emphasis on cultural identity.

But are we individually prepared to do the work? What cultural lens will each of us bring to this? How will we build a common understanding of our approach? That's why the strategies for achieving our Ends Statements contain a healthy dose of training and coaching — but not the kind of diversity training so many of us have experienced in the past.

Unity Church is taking a different approach, based on the IDI — the Intercultural Development Inventory. Those who developed the IDI define intercultural competence as “the capability to accurately understand and adapt behavior to cultural difference and commonality.”

“It's the most widely used assessment tool of intercultural competence,” according to Rev. KP Hong. “The IDI has been rigorously tested, with validation from extensive social science as a reliable measure of intercultural competence across cultures. It invites us to better understand and grow our own multicultural competence — both as individuals and as a congregation.”

Taking the online IDI assessment gives us a sense of our intercultural capacity. With coaching, we can create action plans that will help us develop the skills to bridge across differences. KP is quick to note there is no one path or simple formula, “We have to be willing to fail, as failure attests to the credibility of our work. That's how we learn and move forward. That's where humility comes in.”

Unity Church is working with Team Dynamics on our journey. I have worked with them, using the IDI, at a nonprofit where I am a volunteer board member. This nonprofit has seen significant changes in human resources and benefits policies, grant guidelines and processes, candidate search and hiring practices. It is sometimes difficult, messy and discouraging. It is sometimes exciting, adventuresome, and satisfying. It is always filled with curiosity, growth, and care for each other.

Thanks to the Helener Carrier Endowment for Racial Justice at Unity Church, the IDI and follow-up coaching sessions are being offered to religious education teachers, pastoral care team

members, worship associates, welcome team members, Obama School volunteers, and other key ministry groups. Those who participate can receive a confidential, individualized coaching session to help design a personal action plan. In addition, each team will be given a group profile and coaching to create action plans to help move the congregation toward achievement of its hopes and dreams for the Beloved Community.

If you aren't in any of these groups and are not personally contacted to take the IDI, but wish to participate, you are welcome to do so! To inquire or sign up, please contact Drew Danielson at [drew@unityunitarian.org](mailto:drew@unityunitarian.org), who is administering the process.

For more information:

1. IDI, LLC: <https://idiinventory.com/>
2. Team Dynamics: <https://teamdynamicsmn.com> Check out the podcast “BEHAVE – Episode 1917” for why they use a “developmental approach” to trainings.
3. Unity Church, Team Dynamics, and New Questions: <https://www.unityunitarian.org/beloved-community-news>

# WELCOME WORDS



## Welcome Words

**Rev. Lisa Friedman**  
**Minister of Congregational and Community Engagement**

We are often drawn to community to seek repair, whether for a broken heart, or a broken world, or both. The strength for the work of repair can often be found in the realization that we are not alone in either our pain or our hope.

If you are new to Unity Church, I'd like to extend a special invitation to some of the opportunities coming up yet this winter. The congregational book read in February is an opportunity to explore a common text that expands our anti-racism and multicultural understanding, and Gathering for the Earth is an opportunity to shape Unity's vision for becoming a Green Sanctuary congregation. As the Minnesota Legislature begins their 2020 session, you will hear of opportunities from Unity's Community Outreach Teams to bring your voice to some critical policy and funding issues related to climate justice, restorative justice, gun policy, equitable housing funds, and more. Nationally, Unitarian Universalists are working on the 2020 Census and voting rights and registration.

Repair is important spiritual work, and it is made possible by all of the other ways that we worship, pray, learn, and laugh together. We welcome you into this larger shared ministry! See you in church!

## Pathway to Membership Classes

Sign up for Pathway to Membership classes at the Welcome Table on Sundays or contact Rev. Lisa Friedman, Minister of Congregational and Community Engagement, at [lisa@unityunitarian.org](mailto:lisa@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x 107. Lisa is also happy to meet with you personally to answer questions and to welcome you into the congregation.

## *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. Attend sessions in the order that works for you! In these classes, participants will share parts of their religious journey, take a more in depth look at the history of Unity Church, discuss the expectations and benefits of membership, and get to know the programs and ministries of the congregation. Childcare is available in the nursery.

- February 2: Q & A with a Minister
- February 9: Religious Education for Children, Youth, and Adults
- February 16: Building Tour
- February 23: Membership 101 & Congregational Life

## *Committing to Unity: Joining Unity Church*

**Saturday, March 14 • 1:00-3:00 p.m. • Unity Church**

Have you been considering membership at Unity Church? 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! RSVP by filling out an Intent to Join card at the welcome table in the Parish Hall or by emailing Rev. Lisa Friedman at [lisa@unityunitarian.org](mailto:lisa@unityunitarian.org).

## Mentoring at Unity

Unity Church has a mentor program available to all visitors and new members. A mentor serves as a guide and a resource in the congregation. They pledge to meet at least once a month face to face, and be available for ongoing questions and advice for at least six months. Each mentor/mentee team can decide what is most helpful — to have a buddy with whom to attend services and events, or a partner with whom to discuss Unitarian Universalism and each other's spiritual journeys, and more.

If you have questions, or would like to request a mentor, please stop by the Welcome Table in the Parish Hall on Sunday or email Rev. Lisa Friedman at [lisa@unityunitarian.org](mailto:lisa@unityunitarian.org).

## Winter Parking

Unity Church has a commitment to accessibility which includes parking near the church for members and friends who have mobility issues. Therefore, each Sunday, the entire parking lot located directly east of the church is now reserved for handicapped parking, assisted parking, and electric vehicle charging.

Parking for everyone else is available in Unity's lot on the corner of Portland and St. Albans, on the street, and on Sundays in the Obama Elementary parking lot.

While the entire lot is restricted parking on Sundays only, please continue to observe and respect posted parking signs during the week.



# ARTIST IN RESIDENCE / SPRING FUNDRAISER



## Cosmic Repair

**Rebekah Crisanta de Ybarra**  
Unity Church Artist in Residence

Last month I wrote on the theme of brokenness about the cycles of trauma which can form core beliefs of feeling “broken, beyond repair” and why healing change is critically connected to transformative justice, hope, and forgiveness. In my faith, rooted in Lutheranism and Maya cosmovision, a belief in the fundamental interconnectedness of all God’s life forms is what I believe to be at the core solution of our collective destruction or liberation. Can it be that we are just as connected to everyone we love as much as everyone who has caused us harm, those we reject, and even those on the other side of contemptuous divides? We are all relatives in the great family tree. Animals, plants, and even stones, the air, soil, and water are alive and connected as kindred spirits.

As a child, I remember being fascinated by Frida Kahlo’s famous painting of her family tree, each relative connected by a beautiful flowing red ribbon. They were the fancy kind of ribbons worn in girls’ carefully braided hair for special occasions in Mexico. I studied how the people’s faces floated like balloons on strings and generations connected down to Frida in the middle, and the souls of her miscarried babies. Even at a young age it resonated with me. She had painted it just as I felt it to be true energetically. My mother told me, and I’ve since told my daughters, “Don’t be afraid. You are never alone. We used to be connected by an umbilical cord and even though it was cut, there’s still an invisible string there that connects us to all our great-great-great grandparents and all our great-great-great grandchildren.”

From oral tradition from my tribe in El Salvador, the Wilkala threads connect all things seen and unseen on Mother Earth. All of humanity, and indeed the universe, are connected by these tiny little strings invisible to the naked human eye. With thousands of years of ancestral backstrap weaving traditions, one can imagine them as a beautiful hand embroidered *huipil*, a traditional woman’s Indigenous blouse, masterfully woven one inch per day. Multicolored rainbows glistening with beads, geometric designs, animal symbols, flowers. A heavy tapestry for all their crisscrossing connections and loose threads flowing, unravelled ends, knots unfinished. It is, of course, eerily similar to String Theory, but I prefer the poetic way my ancestors described it long ago.

Close your eyes and imagine, if we are all connected how even the smallest disrepair can travel thru the threads to affect us all. And what we send out may come back to us on the cosmic highway. How the tiniest of family tears, estranged friends, and apathy can unravel the fabric of humanity. Or how blatant cruelty to the Earth’s animals and water can shred our collective strength connected by Love. The antidote to our unravelling interconnectedness is to weave love, respect, justice, forgiveness back together thru all things.

## The BUZZ

### Unity Church Spring Fundraiser

Unity's annual fundraiser will be on Saturday, March 21, 2020 (the first day of spring!). Save the date and start planning your donations! Activities that build and sustain connection and fellowship are the focus of this year’s fundraiser — times at vacation homes, tours, theme parties, dinners, tickets to concerts, theater and sporting events. We will be accepting donations through February 23 and the catalog will go live on March 7! Can you offer?

- A game night or pool party with families?
- A tasting event: beer, wine, soup, sausage, dessert?
- Share your talents: arts and crafts, group music lesson, a recipe swap, guide a bike tour, hike or trip to the BWCA?
- A rocking house music concert – or a jazzing, folkling or classical one?

Of course, we are also accepting donations of:

- Gift Baskets
- Gift Cards
- Event Tickets

Please note that this year’s emphasis is on building community and that we *won’t* be accepting tangible items including artwork.

We can’t wait to see what you have to offer! To make a donation, please complete the online form at <https://www.unityunitarian.org/spring-fundraiser.html>.

This year's fundraiser will feature a live mini-concert!

Our goal is \$30,000 which will support the mission and programs of the church.

If you’d like to join the planning team, please contact Barbara Hubbard at [barbara@unityunitarian.org](mailto:barbara@unityunitarian.org).



## Parish Hall Artist

### Karen Weaving Circle

The Karen people are an indigenous ethnic minority from Burma and Thailand who have been persecuted by the Burmese military government for over 60 years. More than 17,000 Karen and other refugees from Burma now live in Minnesota, making it the largest Karen community in the U.S.

Karen people from Burma are known for their centuries-old tradition of weaving textiles using cotton thread and backstrap looms. The Karen Weaving Circle grew from a group of refugee women from Burma who wanted to continue their weaving traditions in Minnesota and pass their knowledge to first-generation youth. The Weaving Circle was established as a program of the Karen Organization of Minnesota in 2015 in partnership with Roseville Adult Learning Center, East Side Freedom Library, and the Weavers Guild of Minnesota, with primary funding from the Minnesota State Arts Board. Weaving Circle members meet weekly to weave together, teach classes for Karen youth, and sell textiles and demonstrate their craft at local events.

## Spotlight YOUR Art

Choose your favorite piece of art — anything from your personal creation, your child's creation, or art that's been on a wall in your home for a long time. Your piece, along with a statement of why it's a favorite, and a photo of you, will be displayed for two Sundays in the **Art Share** space in the Parish Hall. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. You'll be contacted by a member of the Art Team with details. Questions? Email Marty Rossmann at [rossm001@umn.edu](mailto:rossm001@umn.edu).

## Men's Breakfast

On Saturday, February 1, the men of Unity Church will gather for good food, friendship, and conversation. The breakfast will run from 8:30 until 10:00 a.m. All men are welcome!

## Kung Fu

Explore the rich Five Animal Kung Fu (Leopard, Snake, Tiger, Crane, and Dragon) to develop a personalized style that suits your temperament and body type. Beginners and experienced martial artists welcome! Classes are held Saturdays, from 11:00 a.m.-noon, in the Body Room, and on Wednesdays during Wellspring Wednesday (see pages 10-11). Questions? Contact Bryan Kujawski at [barney.kujawski@gmail.com](mailto:barney.kujawski@gmail.com).

## Thursday Midday Tai Ji Offers Movement Meditation

The Tai Ji and Qigong class led by Lisa Schlingerman will meet the first Thursday this month, on February 6, from 11:00-12:30 p.m. Watch the March newsletter for future sessions. Classes include Tai Ji, Qigong, sitting meditation and poetry based on the teachings of Taoism. Wear comfortable shoes and loose clothing. Please email [lisaschlingerman@gmail.com](mailto:lisaschlingerman@gmail.com) if you plan to participate. A free will offering will be taken.

## Racial Justice Film Series: *Dawnland*

**Friday, February 14 • 7:00 p.m. • Robbins Parlor**

A documentary about cultural survival and stolen children, *Dawnland* takes the viewer inside the truth and reconciliation commission for Native Americans. This film was awarded an Emmy for outstanding research in 2019.

## Save the Date: Unity Men's Retreat

The 2020 Unity Men's Retreat will happen on Saturday, March 28. This year's theme will be stewardship, in the context of "within, among and beyond." Morning activities will include breakfast, an opening worship, a plenary session, a set of workshops, and small group reflection. The afternoon will include lunch, another set of workshops, and small group reflection, after which we'll all come back together for a closing plenary, a closing worship, and a happy hour. Details and registration to come! Attendees will reap good rewards for the investment of this late winter Saturday.

## Queer Retreat

**Saturday, April 4, 2020**

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. For more information visit [www.unityunitarian.org/lgbtq.html](http://www.unityunitarian.org/lgbtq.html) or contact Ray Hommeyer at [ray@unityunitarian.org](mailto:ray@unityunitarian.org).

## 2020 Thresholds Group

The annual Thresholds series, a facilitated small group for reflecting on "threshold" changes in our lives, will be offered in April and May this year. Whether your threshold is chosen or not, this series of four meetings with others living on the brink of significant change, offers a rich invitation to participate in the dynamic possibilities present in threshold times. Registration will open in March. Save these Saturdays and watch for details in the March newsletter.

**April 25 • 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

**May 9, 16, 30 • 9:00 a.m.-noon**

For more information, contact Karen Hering at [karen@unityunitarian.org](mailto:karen@unityunitarian.org).



# 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 9:00 a.m. service. Contact Paul Gade, 651-253-1493

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

**Evergreen Quilters:** The group meets the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00-9:00 p.m. (at Unity Church), and fourth Saturday of the month, 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, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Contact Janne Eller-Isaacs, [janne@unityunitarian.org](mailto:janne@unityunitarian.org)

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

**Men's Conversation Group** meets the second and fourth Monday of each month, from 7:00-9:00 p.m., in the Gannett Room, to discuss a wide range of topics. Contact Terry McDanel, [tmcdanel@gmail.com](mailto:tmcdanel@gmail.com)

**Men's Retirement Group:** Monday, February 10 and 24, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact Tom Zell, [tomzell@me.com](mailto:tomzell@me.com)

**National Alliance on Mental Illness** support group for young adults with a mental illness meets the first, third, and fifth Sunday 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. Contact: Paul Gade, 651-253-1493

**Recovery from White Conditioning:** Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 p.m., Gannett Room. Contact Dayna Kennedy, [daynamelissa@icloud.com](mailto:daynamelissa@icloud.com)

**Textile Arts Group** meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 7:15-8:30 p.m. Bring your knitting, embroidery, needlepoint, etc. Contact Linda Mandeville, [lindamandeville41@gmail.com](mailto:lindamandeville41@gmail.com).

**Unity Book Club:** Second Tuesday of the month, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Contact Jack Hawthorne, [jack.hawthorne@centurylink.net](mailto:jack.hawthorne@centurylink.net).  
February 11: *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough  
March 10: *Chronicles of a Radical Hag (with recipes)* by Lorna Landvik

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

**Young Adult Group** (ages 18-35) meets two Sundays per month, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact KP Hong, [kp@unityunitarian.org](mailto:kp@unityunitarian.org)

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

## Literary Events You Won't Want to Miss

### Marg Walker's Book Launch

### Congregation Book Read Discussions

Shelley Butler, Library and Bookstall Team



Unity's own Marg Walker — accomplished poet, Unity Singer, wonderful person — has a new book of poetry out, and we are honored to celebrate her book launch at Unity Church this month. *Sitting in Lawn Chairs After a Complicated Day* — well, just let me say I love it! It is a much larger book than its physical slim size would suggest. From hospital room to a boy's bedroom, Nicaragua to the Yangtze River, birth to death, Marg covers much ground, some of it holy and some of it "with tendrils of need too dense to part / except by cutting."

Marg shares her unique way of interpreting the world around her with insight, tenderness, wonder, and detail, but with some surprises of vulnerability, too: "If you were here / you could tell me how to endure / having once been extraordinary / in your eyes." She is able to craft a poem by cutting to the heart of the matter and ending it with the skillful precision of a surgeon. When her elderly mother can't recall the meanings of words anymore, "What lasts? she settles for asking / but I don't know how to answer." I can't wait to hear Marg read these poems in person.

Please join us for the launch of Marg's new book to include a reading, book sale and signing, and reception on Saturday, February 29, at 7:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall.

**If you haven't read *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead yet, please do— it's an important work in the body of anti-racism literature! There's still plenty of time before the Book Read discussions.** If you haven't read the book before the discussions, come anyway. The conversation around one hundred years of "reforming" boys and the disproportionately harsh treatment of African Americans is bound to be challenging and provocative. Books are available in the Bookstall and Anderson Library. Come discuss *The Nickel Boys* on:



- Sunday, February 23, at 12:30 p.m. and/or
- Wednesday, February 26, at 7:15 p.m.

# WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY

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February 5

Dinner: TBA

## **Karen Culture and Traditional Weaving**

During this presentation, participants will learn an overview of the Karen history, culture, and resettlement in the U.S. We will explore life in the refugee camps, and cover everything from food, to clothing, to family, and more. Come with open ears and any questions.

## **Creativity as a Spiritual Practice: Repair + Sashiko**

This month, the group will explore the theme of repair through the meditative practice of sashiko, a form of Japanese functional embroidery. Learn the basic stitching and pattern techniques and leave with an invitation to engage with the monthly worship theme in your daily life. These sessions are open to all interested in exploring the monthly theme beyond words, regardless of creative experience.

## **Artists in Residence**

Ina Yukka, Unity's newest resident artists, are a Chilean mother-son duo specializing in traditional South American folk music and *canción nueva*. From February through April they will lead weekly workshops as part of Wellspring Wednesday programming. These workshops will cover a variety of topics, ranging from Andean dance, building and performing on traditional Andean musical instruments, and learning songs connected to the history and folklore of the Andean region.

## **Intergenerational Violin Orchestra for Beginners**

Join Mayra Mendoza for a beginning violin orchestra class — all ages are welcome! Learn the violin basics while having fun in a friendly, welcoming orchestra class. Please bring your violin/music stand if you have one. Mayra is a violinist and teacher who volunteers with the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphony, McPhail Center for Music, and the Minneapolis Public Schools. She has also played with the Wayzata Orchestra and Northeast Symphony. Questions? Email [mayraquitzia@hotmail.com](mailto:mayraquitzia@hotmail.com).

## **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](mailto:lindamandeville41@gmail.com).

## **Religious Education New Family Orientation**

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

## **Embodied Spiritual Practice: Yoga**

Pamela Scott will offer a practice of mindful movement and gentle yoga. Dress comfortably, bring a mat and a small blanket if you have one. All levels welcome!

## **Kung Fu**

Explore our rich Five Animal Kung Fu to develop a personalized style that suits your temperament and body type. Beginners and experienced martial artist welcome! Be our guest and see if this is the right fit for you. Questions? Email Bryan Kujawski at [barney.kujawski@gmail.com](mailto:barney.kujawski@gmail.com).

February 12

Dinner: TBA

## **Two UUs Read Love Poems for Valentine's Day**

To celebrate the day dedicated to professing love, Kim Chapman and Jim Armstrong will read poetry on the theme of love — romantic, among friends, and otherwise — written by themselves and other poets. Kim and his family have been attending Unity Church since the early 1990s and have been members for almost 20 years. He is a consulting ecologist at Applied Ecological Services. He and Jim recently co-authored a book of environmental essays, *Nature, Culture, and Two Friends Talking*. Jim and his family have been lay leaders and musicians at the Unitarian Church in Winona for over 20 years. Jim is a professor of English at Winona State University. He has published three books of poetry and several poetry chapbooks, and with Kim, *Nature, Culture, and Two Friends Talking*.

## **Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR)**

Learn the three steps anyone can take to help prevent suicide. Just like CPR, QPR is an emergency response to someone in crisis and can save lives. QPR is the most widely taught gatekeeper training program in the United States, and more than one million adults have been trained in classroom settings in 48 states. This one-hour class is for members of the community over the age of 16 who want to learn best practices in suicide prevention.

## **Caucus for Climate**

Join the Sustainable Living Team (SLT) for a Caucus for Climate training sponsored by Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (MNIPL). Precinct caucuses in Minnesota are Tuesday February 25. Attend this training to learn about caucuses and to make sure climate is a top priority for your party, whichever one you belong to. Thousands of Minnesotans caucusing for climate will send a powerful statement that climate is a top priority in 2020! Whether it's your first time at your caucus or you've been before, we will have tools to help you fully participate, including a climate resolution to introduce. Come to the training and join Unity's SLT and hundreds of other people of faith in Minnesota Caucusing for Climate February 25.

## **Getting Scrappy**

**Artists in Residence: Ina Yukka**

**Embodied Spiritual Practice: Yoga  
Kung Fu**

# WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY

February 19

Dinner: TBA

## Open Page Writing Session: The Creative Task of Repair

Author Elizabeth Spelman calls repair "the creative destruction of brokenness." How do we engage in repair, personally and collectively, with imagination and an openness to discovering a new wholeness? This guided writing session is an invitation to consider creative approaches to repairing the brokenness within and around us. RSVP requested to [karen@unityunitarian.org](mailto:karen@unityunitarian.org).



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!

## Creating Better Government

Unitarian Universalists are frequently advocating for social change, but like most Americans we find that our government can be unresponsive. But why? What is it about our political system that allows elected representatives to ignore "the will of the people"? Using the incisive 2017 analysis of Michael Porter and Katherine Gehl (*Why Competition in the Politics Industry is Failing America*), Chico Hathaway will lead an exploration of the causes of the problem, and what can be done about it.

## Gun Violence Breaks Hearts



On Broken Hearts Day, February 27, 2020, thousands of broken heart cards will be delivered to legislators at the State Capitol, each containing the story of a Minnesotan who lost their life to gun violence, in an effort to encourage reasonable gun safety legislation. Join the

Gun Sense Ministry Team to help craft some of these "Broken Heart" cards. We'll provide all the materials, and would appreciate your hands of support!

**Artists in Residence: Ina Yukka**

**Intergenerational Violin Orchestra for Beginners**

**Textile Arts**

**Embodied Spiritual Practice: Yoga**

**Kung Fu**

February 26

Dinner: TBA

## The 2020 Unity Church Congregation Read: DISCUSSION *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead

In this bravura follow-up to the Pulitzer Prize winning bestseller *The Underground Railroad*, Colson Whitehead brilliantly dramatizes another strand of American history through the story of two boys sentenced to reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida. This evening is one of two opportunities to come together and discuss the book in small groups. Copies of the book are available in the Unity Bookstall and the Anderson Library, as well as a book read guide.



## Onward Educators • Topic: Take Care of Yourself

Using the work of education, coaching, and resilience researcher Elena Aguilar, we will strengthen and support one another in monthly meetings. Grounded in neuroscience, social science, and psychology, this workshop will change the way we think about emotions, stress, and our purpose as educators. We will focus on the 12 habits that cultivate resilience, and their correlating dispositions, and provide a roadmap for how to feel more effective, more fulfilled, and happier at work. Facilitators Jackie Smith and Julianne Malcom will guide the group through a year of resilience-building exercises and reflections, and participants will collaborate to build their capacity for resilience throughout the school year. The sessions follow an arc throughout the year, but participants are welcome to come to some or all sessions. All educators are welcome.

**Artists in Residence: Ina Yukka**

**Embodied Spiritual Practice: Yoga**

**Kung Fu**

**Tween Group (grades 5-7)**

## Wellspring Wednesday

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

Dinner begins at 5:45 p.m., followed by worship in the Ames Chapel at 6:45 p.m., and an evening of rich programming beginning at 7:15 p.m. All are welcome. Childcare is available and you do not have to sign up in advance.

The cost for dinner is: \$8/adult, \$4/child ages 5 to 12, \$2/child ages 2 to 4, and \$20/family. (Children under the age two are free.) All meals will offer vegetarian, vegan, and gluten free options. People with specific food allergies should email [madeline@unityunitarian.org](mailto:madeline@unityunitarian.org) to arrange to have a special preparation. Email Lisa Friedman at [lisa@unityunitarian.org](mailto:lisa@unityunitarian.org) for financial assistance to help cover the cost of dinner.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## How to Lobby for Gun Sense

Gun Sense Ministry Team

**To lobby** = to seek to influence a politician or public official on an issue.

### What to Wear

Dress in your normal clothes and wear comfortable shoes. You can expect that your senator or representative will be in professional attire but there is not a dress code for constituents.

### How to Prepare

Write up what you plan to say and bring it with you. Feel free to read it. Leave a copy of it with your senator or representative.

- Have a couple of talking points
- Bring a personal story if you have one (a personal experience that motivates you on the issue of gun violence prevention)
- State your personal feelings on the issue of gun violence prevention

### Where to Lobby

Lobbying can be in person, in the office of the legislator, sent by email, or left on voicemail. In person meetings are considered the most powerful, but *anything* helps your voice to be heard.

### Remember!

These politicians are just people... hired by you, the public. Keep that in mind. *But*, part of their professional skill set is to be a talker, so we suggest that *you* take the lead. You are there to make your voice heard and your thoughts understood. Try this: "Thank you for meeting with me (us)," and then launch right into your written paragraph.

The two bills that we hope to have passed this session are:

1. The Expanded Background Check and
2. The Extreme Risk Protection Order (Red Flag) bill

The Legislature starts its session on February 11, 2020. You can lobby at any time. Call your legislator and make an appointment or come to **Protect Minnesota's planned Broken Hearts Lobby Day on February 27**. Protect Minnesota will schedule your appointments for you, give you a brief introduction, show you where to go, and even give you doughnuts! To register and have scheduled appointment visit <https://protectmn.salsalabs.org/lobbyday2020>.



PROTECT MINNESOTA'S  
**Broken Hearts Day at the Capitol**  
Thursday, February 27, 2020  
Lobbying Visits....9am-3pm  
Rally in the Rotunda....3:30pm

Gun violence breaks hearts  
in Minnesota. Join us and  
take action for sensible  
gun laws.

More info at [protectmn.org](https://protectmn.org).



PROTECT  
MINNESOTA

## Minnesota Needs 2020 Census Workers

Every ten years, the U.S. Census Bureau is responsible for conducting the nationwide census. The Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance and UU congregations across the state are working to support an accurate and inclusive census. The census determines how many representatives each state gets in Congress and is used to draw district boundaries. It determines plans for roads, schools, and emergency services and the distribution of more than \$675 billion from the federal government to states and community. Minnesota is currently falling behind in recruiting enough workers to ensure a complete and accurate census. If you will be 18 or older by May, find out more at <https://2020census.gov/>.

## Like Science? See Below.

Obama School Ministry Team

Thanks for your generous donations of clothing for the scholars at Barack and Michelle



Obama Elementary School. The outdoor clothing, socks and underwear, and sweatpants will be put to good use!

We've had a request for more classroom volunteers from the teacher in the science resource room. Classroom work requires a background check. Contact Marty Rossmann for more information at [rossm1@umn.edu](mailto:rossm1@umn.edu).

We also invite you to consider joining the fifty-plus volunteers at the school for the 2020-2021 school year. Watch for information in future newsletters.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



## Gather for the Earth: Finding Hope and Resilience

### Sustainable Living Ministry Team

It is hard to ignore bad news of weather records broken and species decline. Many of us feel a growing sense of foreboding and despair. How do we respond? How can we reclaim hope?

Members of Unity's Sustainable Living Team (SLT) find hope and power in collective action. We support each other when the work is hard and find cause to celebrate. We are working to earn UUA Green Sanctuary Certification, which will help us as a congregation deepen our commitment to the Seventh Principle: "Respect for the interconnected web of existence of which we are a part."

**Please, join us on Saturday, February 29, from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., as we Gather for the Earth**, a joyful morning honoring our connection to the earth and to each other, with opportunities to reflect on concerns, to share insights, dreams and possibilities. Consider together what we are called to do individually and as a congregation on behalf of environmental justice and to combat climate change. Help the SLT establish a Green Sanctuary Action Plan that incorporates our most compelling opportunities as a congregation. Voices of all ages are welcome. Childcare will be available for the youngest ones and related activities will be available for school-age students.

We ask that attendees register online at [www.unityunitarian.org/sustainable-living.html](http://www.unityunitarian.org/sustainable-living.html). However, no one will be turned away at the door.

Please also join the SLT for upcoming events including Climate for Caucus with Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light during Wellspring Wednesday on February 12, and our Film Series on February 28 featuring *To the Ends of the Earth*. This month you can also let elected officials and candidates know the climate and environment matter to you by making sure it's a priority on your party's agenda on caucus night, February 25.

### February Sustainable Living Team Calendar

- February 2: Meeting, 10:15-11:00 a.m.
- February 12: Wellspring Wednesday: Caucus for Climate
- February 19: Meeting, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- February 28: Film: *To the Ends of the Earth*
- February 29: Gather for the Earth!

Interested in joining the Sustainable Living Team? Email us at [unitysustainableliving@gmail.com](mailto:unitysustainableliving@gmail.com) or stop by our table in the Parish Hall on Sundays.

Sustainable Living Team Film Series  
**To the Ends of the Earth**

Concerned citizens living at the frontiers of extreme oil and gas extraction bear witness to a global crossroads. Can human ingenuity rebuild society at the end of the fossil fuel era? Opportunity for discussion follows.

The rise of extreme energy.  
The end of economic growth.  
A new way forward.

February 28  
7 pm  
Robbins Parlor

## Winter Warm-Up Drive

Unity's Racial and Restorative Justice Team is grateful for all of the generous donations received so far! All donations will be shared with clients of Amicus, an organization serving people as they re-enter society after incarceration. Please consider donating:

- Washcloths, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand lotion, deodorant, dental floss, razors and shaving cream
- New winter coats, gloves, hats, scarves, boots (men's) and socks
- Hand and foot warmers
- Bus passes or the cash to buy bus passes

On Sundays, bring donations to the Racial and Restorative Justice table in the Parish Hall. Donations delivered during the week should be brought to Lisa Friedman's office.

## Help Provide a Meal for Jeremiah Families

Help cook a meal at The Jeremiah Program, a residence and education program for single moms and their children. Volunteers are needed from 4:00-7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 6; Thursday, April 16; and Thursday, May 12. Contact Karen Buggs at 651-297-0111 or [buggs745@hotmail.com](mailto:buggs745@hotmail.com).

## Volunteer: Foodmobile

Keystone Community Services' Foodmobile is a mobile food shelf that visits 30 sites and serves over 3,000 people each month. Volunteers spend two hours helping people with food selection and product restocking. Daytime, weekday hours are available. For more information contact the Keystone volunteer coordinator at [volunteer@keystoneservices.org](mailto:volunteer@keystoneservices.org) or call (651) 797-7725.



## Mr. Fixit

**Drew Danielson, Coordinator of Youth and Campus Ministries**

I place tremendous value on a person's ability to fix things. I feel that anyone who can put something back together, save an object from its demise, get a thing going again is really the best kind of person there is. On the other hand, the "wreckers" — those who bust stuff or screw up the workings — those people deserve their own ring in Hell! Strong sentiments I know; they come out of closely held, basic values passed down from my farmer and carpenter ancestors, surely. More immediate, they come from my dad — a universally loved sweet heart of a man — who nevertheless freely vented his anger and disgust for people who "break things."

It was a hard lesson to feel Dad's rare ire when I came to him with a broken axle or cracked wing on a toy plane or truck. I would be briefly damned for the reckless, wanton, truly immoral nature that would abuse a good, valuable object. Dad never stayed mad at me long. He quickly shifted into "fixit" mode, and was in fact energized by the chance to apply his ingenuity and skill with tools to repair the damage. And very often what he did was an improvement on the original! The repaired item gained even more worth, with a built-in reminder to be careful.

I also learned from my dad that being contrary or sullen, or in any way "wrecking" a situation was a terrible thing too — better to make the best of it, avoid any conflict, keep things rolling! I'm sure I pass this same thinking on to my kids, to your kids, to anyone who's around me much. I am a patient sort for the most part but get very short with wreckers and obstructers. And like my dad I put great self-value in being able to fix stuff. I don't like to throw away anything broken; I feel obligated to try a repair. I have spent a large portion of my life dreading and then minimizing the idea that we people can also be broken, believing it is better to walk very softly around each other to avoid what makes us fragile. Because breaking is bad. I uphold avoiding conflict and pain as a virtue, and I keep a tool belt of humor and donut holes handy to fix what breaks. I very often shift to repair mode too soon, I know. Ask my wife.

I don't think I will stop believing in the high virtue of repair. I may soften my stance on the evilness of things breaking. Things *will* break — things might be repaired, they might be good as new, they might be better, they might be less. What is most important is that we hold the pieces together tenderly.



## Music Notes

**Ahmed Anzaldúa  
Director of Music Ministries**

Outside of my work at Unity Church, I direct a professional choral ensemble named Border CrosSing. We will start the month of February with two concerts of gorgeous Renaissance and Baroque choral music from Latin America, the first concert will be at Westminster Hall in downtown Minneapolis on February 1st and the second at Unity Church on February 2 (<https://bordercrossingmn.org/>). These early music works are at the core of how Border CrosSing seeks to repair a choral landscape that has been historically segregated in a wide variety of ways.

When the Rev. Jen Crow preached at Unity a few weeks ago, she referenced "The danger of a single story," a fabulous TED talk by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. There are numerous "single stories" about Latin American culture. When I perform school concerts I will often ask students to tell me what sorts of things they think about when they think about "Latin American music." The responses invariably include mariachi, salsa, Shakira, and "La cucaracha." Adjectives such as rhythmic, spicy, festive, and colorful are also quite common among the responses. While there is certainly a lot of music from Latin America that matches these descriptions (and Border CrosSing performs plenty of it), this "single story" of Latin American culture can contribute to stereotypes that serve to dehumanize — a slippery slope that may lead to us being regarded as lazy, prone to partying instead of working, and perhaps not capable of experiencing the world as seriously or fully. These responses also speak to the "single story" that exists of classical music: that it is exclusively the realm of white, European men. The danger of the single story narrative is that it is incomplete; repair begins by embracing complexity, by seeking out what is missing, what we don't know that we don't know.

A picture — or, in our case, a song — is worth a thousand words. Rather than trying to explain the many other stories that exist, of speaking endlessly about the history of Latin American music and the many unacknowledged contributions of Latin American musicians and composers to the canon of European classical music, we can simply perform and let the music itself shatter that single story. Breathtaking choral polyphony in Native American languages from Guatemala, Mexico, and Peru; a gorgeous Requiem Mass by a black composer from 18th-century Cuba; a lively concerto for orchestra and voices written by a nun in 17th-century Mexico... these things simply do not fit into the single story that most listeners have about Latin America or classical music. They do not need to be explained, they are experienced and, if we did our job, the experience is such that the listener is moved to accept and seek out a more complex story than what they had before.

# Mystery Manor

The 31st Annual Unity Church Children's Musical  
Unity's 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders  
Written and Directed by Mary Blouin Auffert  
Music by Sandy Waterman

## Mystery Manor

March 5 at 7:00 PM,  
March 6 at 7:00 PM, &  
March 7 at 5:30 PM

Unity Church Unitarian  
733 Portland Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55104

[unityunitarian.org](http://unityunitarian.org)

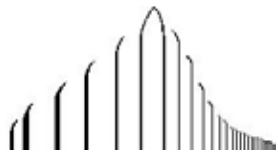
The Unity children's musical returns with a new story, new songs, and new dance moves!

Bring your family for an evening of fun; the show lasts approximately an hour and fifteen minutes.

Tickets are \$5 for children, \$10 for adults, and \$20 for families (children under 5 are free).

No one will be turned away because of an inability to pay.

Purchase tickets online at [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org) and in the Parish Hall starting February 23. Tickets are also available at the door on the evening of each performance.



# 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](http://www.unityunitarian.org) • [unity@unityunitarian.org](mailto:unity@unityunitarian.org)

JACKIE SMITH, CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REV. JANNE ELLER-ISAACS, CO-MINISTER  
REV. ROB ELLER-ISAACS, CO-MINISTER  
REV. KP HONG, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
BARBARA HUBBARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
REV. LISA FRIEDMAN, MINISTER OF CONGREGATIONAL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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**TIME SENSITIVE  
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*The* **NICKEL BOYS**



**2020 CONGREGATION  
BOOK READ**

**DISCUSSIONS HELD**  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 • 12:30 PM  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26 • 7:15 PM

**COLSON WHITEHEAD**

*The* **BUZZ**

**Unity Church  
Spring Fundraiser**

Details on page 7.

**Share your Musical Gifts!**  
If you play a musical instrument, compose, sing, teach music, or if music is a significant part of your life in other ways, contact Ahmed Anzaldúa, Director of Music Ministries, at [ahmed@unityunitarian.org](mailto:ahmed@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x118, to find ways to connect your musical gifts to the congregational life at Unity Church.

ONE VOICE MIXED CHORUS PRESENTS

**THE BAYARD RUSTIN: MAN BEHIND THE DREAM**

ONE VOICE MINNESOTA'S LGBTQIA MIXED CHORUS

February 22, 2020  
2:30 pm and 7:30 pm  
O'Shaughnessy Auditorium  
St Paul, MN 55105

Guest Artists  
Brandi Hooker, Zane Wiley, Vanessa Garcia

