

## Awakening

*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. We explore each theme in worship and in our newsletter; in covenant groups, Wednesday evening programming; and in our community outreach ministries, literary journal and programs, and many other opportunities. The June theme is awakening.*

What wakes us? If we are asleep in the ordinary sense, it may only take a clap of thunder, a baby's cry, a partner's snore, or the morning sun. For those in a much deeper sleep, a kiss from a prince or a laying on of hands may be needed. But what if we are already awake? Then what sorts of things *really* wake us up? And what do we awaken to?

When the Buddha was once asked whether he was a god or a wizard or a man, he replied not with a noun, but with an adjective: "I am awake." The Buddha had been awakened by the suffering of others, by the disparity between his life as a prince and the lives of others he saw outside the temple. He was awakened, as many of us are, by lived experience and new information. He was awakened to a new perspective.

The Buddha's awakening occurred in the solitude of his heart, but sometimes spiritual awakenings occur on a grand scale. During the First Great Awakening, a period of religious revival that took place in pre-independence America, an evangelical and emotional branch of Christianity flowered. Much of Protestantism woke up to the idea of passion in the religious life, to the idea that everyone could preach. The Second Great Awakening, in the 19th century, spread the fervor to places far beyond New England, where Unitarianism and Universalism have their American roots, and shifted the nation's religious energy to new places and new denominations.

We might think that we know what an awakening looks like or feels like, but most of us have had the experience of being unsure whether we are awake

or asleep. Awakening can be gradual or sudden, gentle or rude. And one awakening can lead to another – every answer may produce more questions, awakening us to our own ignorance, or to the power of mystery.

Awakenings are seen as positive, but it can be challenging to be fully awake, and stay fully awake, to all that the world is. In the 1899 novel "The Awakening," the main character develops a clear and tragic view of the limits on her life and desires. And being awake for too long is a form of torment, one that takes a person away from the restorative unconsciousness of darkness.

Sometimes we are woken up; other times, we can decide how and whether we want to wake up. There is value in having a conscious awakening to the potential that each day brings. Some may try a mantra for greeting the day – "I enter this time, I enter my life, I enter this day." Huston Smith, the great writer about the world's religions, has made a point since the age of seven to have his first utterance upon awakening be a single word: "Good." (He may be onto something – his 93rd birthday was last month.)

The world is full of stories about sleeping and awakening – Rip Van Winkle, Sleeping Beauty, Snow White – and many children seem to take those stories to heart, resisting bedtime for fear of missing something if they aren't awake. May they, and we, experience awakening at just the right times.

– By Jim Foti, on behalf of this month's cover essay "theme team"

## Awakening Resources

### BOOKS

*Tales of Wonder: Adventures Chasing the Divine*, Huston Smith's autobiography, takes readers around the globe as Huston awakens to the countless ways of being spiritual.

*Goodnight, Moon*, the classic children's story by Margaret Wise Brown and Clement Hurd, is a bedtime story in which readers are awakened to images of the everyday.

### MOVIES

*Awakenings*, a 1990 feature starring Robert DeNiro and Robin Williams, is based on the memoir of the same name by Oliver Sacks, a doctor who helped patients emerge from lengthy catatonic states.

*Pleasantville*, a 1998 comedy/drama starring Tobey Maguire and Reese Witherspoon, tells the story of a town that awakens from its bland perfection to the colors and passions of life.

### ONLINE

National Public Radio is among the news outlets that have done recent stories on how music can revive patients suffering with dementia. For text, audio, and video, go to [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org) and enter "dementia" in the search box.

# JUST WORDS / WHEEL OF LIFE

## Just Words

"I was worried," she said as she passed by on her way to place her flower in the arch. "This early spring meant there would be no lilacs left but look at the amazing array of peonies." I was worried as well. Spring is unpredictable here in Minnesota. Our first year here it snowed on Easter. But despite the lack of lilacs and the threat of rain we brought our flowers forward and watched as the arch, covered at first only with thick greenery, soon glowed with every color of the rainbow. No one there that day could doubt the message that radiant arch conveyed. There was no need for explanation, no need to narrow the wash of feeling down to some singular interpretation. We look into the Communion arch as we look into a mirror and see the church reflected there in all of its diversity and strength.

The day before we gathered to celebrate Flower Communion, Leon, Janne, Bob Peskin and I attended "Committing to Unity," the final class in the Pathways to Membership series. As part of the class Leon reads Unity's ends statements aloud and invites comment. The ends statements developed by the Board following deep conversation with the congregation reflect a variety of responses to a basic question: how do we want our church to be different in five years from how it is today? They are statements of aspiration. One in particular sparked a challenging conversation among those about to sign the membership book.

*Unity Church—Unitarian is a radically hospitable, spiritually vital and supportive community where people of all ages feel welcome and connected across identities including race, class, gender, sexual orientation, ability, politics and education.*

One person said we were doing pretty well on sexual orientation but were clearly failing race and class. Another said, I wasn't brought up in a middle-class family and I can't say how grateful I am to have found this place. As the conversation continued, ranging into what we mean when we say we want to be "radically hospitable," I wondered how a young father, a person-of-color about to join the church, might be feeling. I didn't ask. It wouldn't have been fair to put him on the spot. But when I saw him at coffee hour following Flower Communion I asked, "Do you feel different now that you're a member of the church." "Yes," he said to me. "Now I am one of those who helps make others feel welcome."

Janne and I want to express our gratitude and best wishes to Leon Dunkley as he leaves Unity Church to take up his new ministry at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring, Maryland. He has helped to make our welcome both more real and warmer. We also thank and acknowledge the fine work of Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Luke Stevens-Royer, who will become Assistant Minister at the White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church this coming August. As construction begins on our church home we are especially grateful for the privilege of serving Unity Church.

Rob Eller-Isaacs

### The Wheel of Life

#### In Celebration

**Rocky Josef Niemela**  
Born one more redeemer  
April 28, 2012  
to parents  
Jennifer Niemela and Joe Brzycki

**Anders Lentz Magnuson**  
Born one more redeemer  
April 29, 2012  
to parents  
Dotty and Ben Magnuson

**Lily Gee-Yun Lau**  
Born one more redeemer  
April 30, 2012  
to parents  
Heather Farber-Lau and Richard Lau

### Flowers for Summer Worship

If you would like to bring flowers from your garden for a 10:00 a.m. summer worship service, please contact Julie at the Church Office at [julieh@unityunitarian.org](mailto:julieh@unityunitarian.org). The available dates are June 3 through September 2. The flowers need to be arranged in a vase and placed in the chancel by 9:15 a.m. on the Sunday you select.

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### Important Construction Updates

Visit [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org) or [www.unitytomorrow.org](http://www.unitytomorrow.org) or call the church office at 651-228-1456 to get up-to-date information about building use and building progress during the *Unity Tomorrow* summer construction schedule. For a look-ahead schedule and pictures from the groundbreaking ceremony, please turn to page 8.

## JUNE/JULY SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION

### Sunday Worship Calendar

Beginning May 27, and continuing through September 2, Sunday services will be held each week at 10:00 a.m. Sermon podcasts and archives are available online at [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org).

During the summer months, access to the Sanctuary will be available each Sunday through the entrance located at the southeast corner of the Sanctuary on Portland Avenue (see photo at right) and through the handicap entrance in the parking lot on the east side of the Eliot wing. Parking in that lot will be limited. An abbreviated coffee hour will be held on the front porch and lawn of the church-owned duplex located at 722 Holly Avenue (just east of the Holly parking lot).



### June 3: *Awakenings*

Threshold experiences are often a wake-up call, opening our eyes to new worlds that await beyond the doorway. Young adulthood is a prime moment for these awakenings, in ordinary human lives and in sacred story. High school graduation is the threshold of adulthood, the start of open season on epiphany and enlightenment. Come celebrate our 2012 Unity graduates at this year's Senior Bridging Sunday and launch into June's theme — awakening — with worship leaders Kerri Meyer and Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs. Meet and bless our beloved high school seniors over pastry and coffee before the service at 9:00 a.m.

### June 10: *The Great Awakening* — Rachel Lonberg

In the 1730s and 1740s, a religious revival known as The Great Awakening swept through the American colonies. This first mass cultural experience in the American colonies left an enduring impact on American religion and culture. Join worship associate Bob Steller and Rachel Lonberg as they explore the Great Awakening and Unitarians' role in it. This is Rachel's final sermon as Hallman ministerial intern.

### June 17: *Coming Out and Waking Up* — Rob Eller-Isaacs

The whole notion of progress has become suspect in recent years. But I am utterly convinced that "the arc of the moral universe bends toward justice." Justice is the work of love in community. We know we've seen significant progress when an ever-increasing number of people all around the world feel free to be who they are and love whom they love. Rob and worship associate Mike Huber will conduct a service which will include a collage of stories about coming out and waking up.

### June 24: *Awakening Life* — Katy Taylor

There's a lot of talk in different traditions about Awakening—awakening to what? If we're awakening, doesn't that imply we've somehow been asleep? Katy Taylor and worship associate Steve Harper will explore what it might look like to awaken to the natural, life force energy in all of us and how that awakening not only fuels our passion, but helps us to find our innate balance.

### Summer Solstice Celebration

Wednesday, June 20 • 7:00 p.m. • Sanctuary

Details on page 14.

### July 1: *Unitarian Universalism vs. Exceptionalism* — Chico Hathaway

Exceptionalism is the idea that we are so extraordinary that we are exempt from the rules that apply to others. But how does this square with Unitarian Universalism? How does our UU world view guide us in thinking about our personal importance, and in thinking about "American exceptionalism"? This Fourth of July holiday, let's take a moment to reflect on our place in the world — both as individuals, and as a nation.

### July 8: *With Love as Our Guide* — Rachel Lonberg

We regularly sing the hymn *Love Will Guide Us*, but what does it mean to let love be our guide? What does it cost us? In this service, we will explore this idea, focusing on the story of Rachel's maternal grandmother. Love led her from a Nebraska farm to Los Angeles, from a religiously conservative childhood to outspoken opposition to Proposition 8, the California ballot measure that defined marriage as between one man and one woman. Where might love lead us?

### July 15: *Ready to Be Unsteady* — Rev. Karen Hering

What does it mean to "find and keep your balance," as we say each Sunday, in times of so much change — environmentally, economically, technologically and personally? Rev. Karen Hering and worship associate Don Lorr will explore poet Luci Shaw's suggestion that "maybe this is what is meant for us — to be ready to be unsteady."

### July 22: *Can I Paint Your Nails?* — Dick Buggs

Dick Buggs and worship associate Kate Connors explore the energies of that beguiling emotion, exuberance, which proclaims and disperses much of what is marvelous in life. Why is exuberance, a powerful life force that fuels creativity, discovery, inspiration, and survival, only an occasional thing, known in youth but often lost with time? Lost? Or could it be that now and again life drops us into a situation where a rendezvous with exuberance might just make "divinest sense."

### July 29: *Charity Begins At Home?* — Patricia Ohmans

Charity is an old-fashioned word that's fallen out of favor lately. Patricia Ohmans and worship associate Ray Wiedemeyer will take another look at the word and the idea, examining its implications—especially for those of us who love to feel generous. Musician: Krisin Sponcia, jazz piano and Graydon Peterson, bass.

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# LETTER FROM LEON DUNKLEY

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## Draw the Moon

From Leon Dunkley, Director of Congregational Life

I keep on laughing to keep from crying  
I keep on dreaming to keep from dying  
I keep on trying and I ain't gonna stop.

You get right down to the bottom of the barrel and float back on the top. — Amos Lee



Have you ever noticed that there are certain songs that stay with you, that leave a lasting impression? I don't mean the annoying ones that you can't get out of your head for days. I mean the songs that brush up against you and change you to the soul. I mean the songs that hit too hard and that cut too deep... staining you with the sands and oils of life. Music is like that. Life is like that. And sometimes goodbyes are too.

Goodbyes stay with me. They leave lasting impressions. I usually sing so I can get through it all. It's hard sometimes. Music makes it easier. So, I sing. I sing two different kinds of songs to help me get through. I like sweet songs. They help me through. Allison Kraus singing *Carolina On My Mind*, or Joe Cocker singing *Delta Lady*, or Joni Mitchell singing *Refuge of the Roads*... She is special to me. She sings,

*I met a friend of spirit, he drank  
and he womanized  
And I sat before his sanity... I was  
holding back from crying  
He saw my complications and he  
mirrored me back, simplified  
And we laughed how our perfection  
would always be denied  
"Heart and humor and humility,"  
he said, "will lighten up your heavy  
load..."*

I have been singing this song for decades. It makes life meaningful for me.

I sing hot songs as well. As Duke Ellington used to say, "It makes no difference if it's sweet or hot." The hot songs are better for me these days. The Doobie Brothers singing *China Grove*, or The Black Crows singing *Hard to Handle*, or Susan Tedeschi singing *Little by Little*. She is really awesome, especially when she gets to the refrain...

*Oooh... lord... I say ooh child, baby  
that's the way I feel*

*Oh, I say ooh child, baby that's the  
way I feel*

*I said oooh child, baby that's the  
way I feel*

It's terrible poetry but she's totally, totally right! And when she sings it, heaven comes right down to earth.

The best song for tough goodbyes is not really a song at all. It is a story that was written by Crockett Johnson in 1955. It's a children's story, technically, but I still read it all the time—*Harold and the Purple Crayon*. It's my favorite. I'm on my fourteenth copy. I keep giving the book away (and to "children" of all ages, if you know what I mean). In the story, Harold is a four-year-old boy whose purple crayon can create worlds. The book is 60-pages long and all but one of these pages has a moon drawn on it. The opening passage is lovely.

*One evening, after thinking it over  
for some time, Harold decided to  
go for a walk in the moonlight.  
There wasn't any moon, and  
Harold needed a moon for a  
walk in the moonlight.*

So, Harold drew a moon up in the sky and went out walking. The story continued...

*He needed something to walk  
on. He made a long straight path  
so he would not get lost. And  
he set off on his walk, taking  
his big purple crayon with him.  
But he didn't seem to be getting  
anywhere on the long straight  
path. So he left the path for a  
short cut across a field. And the  
moon went with him.*

And the moon went with him. The story is awesome, especially when it gets to the refrain. *And the moon went with him*. This is the line that makes things easier for me. When Harold left the path, the moon went with him. I'm glad for that.

These St. Paul days will soon become a moon for me. Soon, I will draw them in the sky and take them with me on the journey. I will take every sweetness and every tear—each of them, soul-level deep. When I need to remember this time, I will draw the moon and you will be near. The same is true in reverse, I imagine. It's the coolest of purple crayons.

When we draw the moon, the moon goes with us. How could it possibly be otherwise? Life is good like that. Songs are good like that. Songs are prayers.

So when you pray, sing a little. And when you sing, live a little. And as you live, draw down the moon and go out walking! I'll meet you there and bring the popcorn. It's a great adventure! Every blessing.

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# MINISTERIAL INTERNS

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## Rachel Lonberg: 2011-12 Hallman Ministerial Intern



This is my last column as Hallman ministerial intern. It has been a joy to be with you all, to learn with you, to worship with you, to lead classes for adults, children, and youth, and to attend a tremendous number of meetings. (I put a quarter into a jar for every meeting

I have attended this year. Currently, that jar is brimming with \$72.50 – that’s 290 meetings since August 15.) Thank you for supporting me as I grow into ministry. My work in the future will be forever marked by the time I have spent with all of you.

Most immediately, that work will be just a mile from Unity Church. I will be spending next year in a chaplain residency program at United Hospital, offering spiritual care to patients and their families. (I hope that none of you will be admitted to United Hospital in the coming year, but if you are, please request a chaplain!) My husband Brian and I will continue to live nearby – we are moving into an apartment just a few blocks from the church in early June.

Even though I will be in the neighborhood, you will not see me around Unity Church. I will be finding a new church home. It has been such a joy to get to know so many of you and I would love to witness the next chapter in your lives and in the life of the church, but that is not to be.

When a minister leaves a church, he or she stays away for a number of years. This art of leaving is one of the hardest things for ministers to master. How to leave well is the final thing that I will learn from my internship with you all. Thank you for that opportunity.

*Rachel Lonberg can be reached at the Church Office by email at [rachel@unityunitarian.org](mailto:rachel@unityunitarian.org) or by phone at 651-228-1456 x129.*

## Jim Foti: 2011-12 Ministerial Intern



Let me begin by saying that this is not a farewell column. Unity is accustomed to bidding its interns adieu every June, and the church is also saying goodbye to some beloved staff members this month. But as a half-time, two-year intern, I get to stick around for all of the next church

year – a fact that makes me very happy.

That’s because this first year has made me very happy, what with the wealth of opportunities I’ve had. I delivered Unity’s first sermon of 2012, led a first-ever workshop for former Catholics, and wrote about everything from authority to transcendence for the newsletter. I’ve told stories at Wednesday worship, laughed and learned with the Elders Group, and taught just about every kind of religious education class that Unity Church has to offer. I had a front-row seat as the congregation made some of its biggest and toughest decisions in a generation, and I’ve seen love in action in so many ways: celebrating new lives and remembering lives lost, standing up for equality, and creating connections across all kinds of borders.

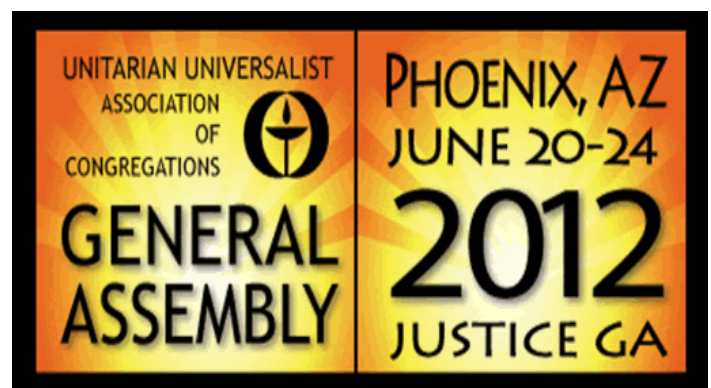
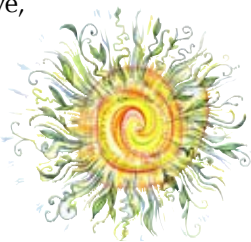
And good heavens, the people! Wondrous, loving, interesting people at every turn – in the kitchen, at the soup suppers, in the receiving line, jumping around the Body room, dabbing tears in the Ames Chapel, singing like angels, and all of them being quite patient with the new guy. I’ve been blessed to spend this year with fantastic staff, a dedicated and supportive lay committee, and a fellow intern I can’t say enough good things about.

And the best part is that, as I’ve already mentioned, this is not a farewell column – our journey together continues for another year. A year of music and meetings, construction and connection, dislocation and discovery, learning and love. Church is just the place to be, and I’m grateful to continue being here with you.

*Jim Foti can be reached at the Church Office by email at [jim@unityunitarian.org](mailto:jim@unityunitarian.org) or by phone at 651-228-1456 x212.*

### Summer Solstice Celebration Wednesday, June 20 • 7:00 p.m. • Sanctuary

Come join us for a contemplative, family-friendly, Celtic-inspired ritual to mark the turning of the year as the light reaches its peak and the seasons continue their cycle. This participatory ritual will include chanting, meditation, joys and sorrows, singing, and something special for the kids. If you would like to participate as a ritual leader or in a facilitating capacity (greeter, set-up, etc.), please contact Katy at [katy@thewingedheart.net](mailto:katy@thewingedheart.net) or (651) 291-8551.



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# BOARD OF TRUSTEES / CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

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## Letter from the Board of Trustees

From Rob Fulton, Trustee

The governance of Unity Church—Unitarian rests with the nine members of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Team. The church operates under a policy governance system where the congregation sets the Ends Statements, the Board seeks to monitor these statements and the Executive Team carries out the Means to fulfill the Ends. Sounds sort of "exotic" doesn't it. Every year, we need to find three members of the congregation to be nominated for election to three-year terms and join the six returning members of the Board.

The Board has focused on facilities improvements and the Unity Tomorrow process for the past three years and will now turn their attention to the Ends Statements. Over the next year, the Board and the congregation will work to review, modify, change, or add to our Ends Statements. This is a lengthy process that should culminate in the adoption of the Ends Statements in November 2013.

So, I am asking members to either come forward and say, "Yes, I want to be on the Board of Trustees," or to suggest to me people who you think would be good leaders to serve Unity Church as trustees. If you suggest someone, we will seek them out. We want to bring a proposed slate of nominations to the Board in October and the the annual meeting in November.

The Board meets monthly, alternating between a two-hour meeting on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. and a four-hour meeting on the second Saturday of the month from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Meetings include readings, focus questions, reports from the Executive Team, monthly budget reviews, contract approval, recommendation of the annual budget to the congregation, and monitoring of the key elements of the Ends Statements. Refreshments are also served at each of the meetings!

We are looking for trustee candidates who care for the church, who wish to see it flourish, who are wise to the role of Unitarian Universalists in our beloved community, and who are willing to be the trustees of our church community.

If you are interested or have a suggestion for another member of the congregation, please send a note to me at [robfulton@gmail.com](mailto:robfulton@gmail.com). We seek to interview all candidates in September.

## Wanted!

Nominations for the Unity Church Board of Trustees

Contact Rob Fulton, trustee, at [robfulton@gmail.com](mailto:robfulton@gmail.com).

## 10:00 a.m. Sunday Services begin May 27!

Beginning May 27, and continuing through September 2, Sunday services will be held each week at 10:00 a.m.

## June 3: Grand Old Day Parking Alert!

Congregants should be aware that street parking will be limited due to the Grand Old Day street festival. The parking lots will be managed by Unity youth and adults so that worshippers can park while fair-goers contribute money toward our youth and community outreach ministries.

## Wellspring Wednesday is on Summer Vacation!

Creative planning for next fall and how we will eat, learn, and spend time together on Wednesdays during construction is already underway. Keep your eyes peeled for information about a Wellspring Wednesday "Wagon" and other exciting opportunities.

## Save the Date!

**Saturday, October 13, 2012**

## Fall Canvass Gala

Our fall Operating Canvass is just a few short months away and we are planning a gala event with very special guest, Kevin Kling. There will be dinner, dancing and fun! It's a time for gratitude, humor and celebration.

## Heart to Heart

### A Couples' Enrichment Weekend

**Beginning on Friday, November 2, at 7:45 p.m. and continuing through Sunday, November 4, at 4:00 p.m.**

**Koinonia Retreat Center • Annandale, MN**

Heart to Heart is a program led by three experienced couples and is designed to enrich communication and intimacy in your relationship. All committed couples are welcome — same-sex and opposite-sex, married and unmarried. The cost is \$410 per couple and includes two nights lodging and meals Saturday and Sunday. Financial assistance is available. Space is limited to 15 couples. Sponsored by Unity Church. More information is available at <http://heart.mn.cx> or by calling 651-227-0486.

## Merging of Waters

Be sure to collect water from your journeys (or backyard!) this summer. The annual Merging of Waters service will be held on Sunday, September 9.

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# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

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## Gathering and Fellowship During Construction

If you've ever undertaken a remodeling project at home, you probably didn't invite too many people over while the work was going on. But it's different for churches — renovation or not, our community exists to gather. Getting together will be more challenging over the summer and well into the fall, but we're finding spaces and ways to be in community while our church home is updated.

To stay informed about opportunities for gathering, be sure to visit the church website, [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org), where summer events will be posted on the home page. Activities also will be listed in *This Week at Unity*, the insert that appears in the order of worship. (Sunday worship in the sanctuary will continue uninterrupted throughout the seven-month project.) The church will periodically send out e-mail updates as well.

When the new church year begins, we'll be a congregation without a kitchen, meaning that our traditional Wellspring Wednesday meals and worship will not happen in the usual way until January. So come September, keep an eye out for the Wellspring Wednesday Wagon, your key to midweek fellowship.

As we often pray, "We give thanks for being. We give thanks for being here. We give thanks for being here together." So while the "here" might change, we'll still find grateful ways of being and growing together.

## Ongoing Groups at Unity Church

*With few exceptions, all Unity Church groups have been asked to find alternative meeting spaces (or discontinue meeting) beginning May 20 and continuing throughout the Unity Tomorrow summer construction schedule. If you are a group leader and are holding meetings off-site, please contact the Church Office with the date, time, and location of the meeting. If you are looking to connect with a group, please visit the church website at [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org) for meeting information or call the church office at 651-228-1456.*

*Please contact the person listed for more information or contact the Church Office by phone at 651-228-1456 or by email at [unity@unityunitarian.org](mailto:unity@unityunitarian.org)*

**A New Look at the Bible:** Second Thursday of the month (June 14 and July 12) at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528 for meeting locations during summer construction.

**Afterthoughts:** Sundays after the 10:00 a.m. service. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528 for meeting locations during summer construction.

**Caregivers Group:** An informal support group for caregivers. Third Thursday of the month (June 21 and July 19) from Noon–2:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at [janne@unityunitarian.org](mailto:janne@unityunitarian.org). Watch for details about meeting locations.

**Evergreen Quilters:** Second Tuesday of the month (June 12 and July 10) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and fourth Saturday of the month (June 23 and July 28) from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Contact: Peggy Wright at 651-698-2760 to find out where meetings locations during summer construction.

**Grandparent Unitots!:** This group will not meet during summer construction.

**Lectio Divina or Spiritual Reading:** Sundays after the 10:00 a.m. service. Watch for details about meeting location.

**Living With Grief Group:** A group for people living with grief and loss. Third Tuesday of the month (June 18 and July 17) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at [janne@unityunitarian.org](mailto:janne@unityunitarian.org). Watch for details about meeting locations.

**Men's Retirement Group:** Monday, June 4, June 19, July 9, and July 23, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact: Phil Morton at 952-934-3578 for meeting locations during summer construction.

**Unitots!:** A playgroup for families with kids through preschool age. Unitots will not meet during summer construction.

**Unity Book Club:** Second Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Contact Jack Hawthorne at [jack.hawthorne@comcast.net](mailto:jack.hawthorne@comcast.net) for meeting locations during summer construction.

**Unity Bridge Club:** Friday, June 1, and July 6, at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Priscilla Swartz at 651-454-3209 for meeting locations during summer construction.

**Zen Meditation:** Find renewal and grounding in the practice of Zen meditation. Tuesdays from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary during construction. Contact Ken Ford at [kford5@comcast.net](mailto:kford5@comcast.net)



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# UNITY TOMORROW

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## Unity Tomorrow Churn Planning

From Lorelee Wederstrom, Unity's Owner Representative

The *Unity Tomorrow* project is taking off! Thanks to all the visionaries of Unity Church and those who have kept us grounded, we are ready and able to launch this exciting project for the future of Unity Church-Unitarian. When we move back in – partially in the fall and totally by December – we will have realized the first phase of our new church home. One that embraces our values, our vision and the hopes and dreams of many, many people.

I wish to extend a personal note of gratitude to the Executive Team, to the Board of Trustees of Unity Church, and to the members for their confidence in me and the process that we have designed to deliver the *Unity Tomorrow* project. This project creates a wonderful personal and professional alignment for me as someone who has always tried to bring *integrity, service and joy* to all corners of my professional life. But the *Unity Tomorrow* project is extra special because of the work that **you** all do – as members, as staff and as lay leaders. Therefore, I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to be an integral part of it and to use my skills in a way that can benefit so many. The delivery team—Miller Dunwiddie Architecture, McGough Construction and I—are all very committed to the success of this project.

McGough's project progress meetings are being held weekly with all contractors on site. These meetings are used to clarify and coordinate work between subs and with the architect. We will also use these meetings to coordinate construction activities with remaining church programs and occupants, including church in the Sanctuary on Sundays and the re-entry to some fall programming in September. McGough and their sub-contractors will work with us on a weekly basis, or daily as necessary, to maintain essential access to the church for scheduled events and activities.

During construction, McGough Project Superintendent Scott Steinberger will be on-site full time and will interface daily with our Facilities Manager Bill Lowell.

### Here is an "look ahead" schedule:

#### From mid-May – June 1

- Lower level has been entirely vacated.
- All Unity works of art have been packed, and crated and stored in tempered secured storage for safekeeping.
- All pianos have been moved to tempered and secured storage for safekeeping
- The organ will be wrapped to protect it from dust. Even though we are not doing any work in the sanctuary at this time, the organ will be protected from demolition dust adjacent and below the sanctuary.
- The libraries will be packed and materials sent to tempered storage.
- Since the upper level of the Eliot wing will get new ceilings, lighting, sprinklers and insulation, all furniture will be removed for storage also.
- The kitchen will be packed by the end of May as well.
- All abatement of the lower level in all building sections and of the Grotto side stair/entry to R.E. will be completed prior to June 1.

#### Month of June

- Administrative offices will relocate to the church-owned duplex at 722 Holly Avenue and now referred to as "A Summer Place"
- Actual construction begins on Friday, June 1. Fencing will go up first. Please watch for signage directing you to the Portland Avenue entrance for Sunday worship. The first week will be spent on exterior demolition and excavation.

- Crews will also be working on demolition below the sanctuary for construction of the new mechanical spaces.
- Demolition and excavation will be followed by footings and foundations for both the new entry and the restroom additions.
- Abatement is scheduled in the Eliot Wing offices and corridors, main level as well as upper level music storage room and parent's room.

Stay tuned for many more updates to come. Martha Tilton, our Coordinator of Communications, will be taking pictures along the way and we will be posting a more detailed Look Ahead schedule by McGough as the progress team gets underway. We also hope to establish a regular schedule of tours of the construction in progress. As the details become available, we will let everyone know.







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# COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

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## Habitat for Humanity “Green” Build

The Unity Church Affordable Housing Ministry team is recruiting volunteers for this year’s Habitat for Humanity “green” build as a partner in Faith Builders. This year’s project is on the East Side of St. Paul. The work weeks are July 9-13 and July 16-20. Please contact Chuck Griggs at [griggscb@msn.com](mailto:griggscb@msn.com) for more information or to sign up.

## 7th Annual New Orleans Pilgrimage

An information meeting for people interested in participating in the 7th Unity Church November 2012 Pilgrimage to New Orleans will be held on June 17 in the church duplex at 11:15 a.m. Since Hurricane Katrina drowned more than 80 % of New Orleans homes, volunteers are still welcomed as there continues to be an enormous rebuilding job in the city. The need is still overwhelming more than six years since the storm—of not just rebuilding homes, but rebuilding lives. These yearly pilgrimages focus on rebuilding homes along with other volunteer activities but also explore the racial and class structure of New Orleans and the unique cultural makeup of the city. People of all building skill levels and other abilities are encouraged to join this pilgrimage. For more information or questions, contact Pat Haff at the Church Office.

## Unity's Pilgrimage to India

*If you have come to help me you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.*

— Aboriginal Activists Group, Queensland

This past March, five people from Unity Church traveled to India to explore the connections that could be made with Vidhayak Sansad, an organization working with tribal people, and Dalits, the Hindu caste formerly known as untouchables. The goal was to see their work in action and to see how we might work together. On two occasions in the past we have been visited by those leading and working in their organization. On two occasions young women from our congregation have visited their campus to teach English to young girls in their school. Now it was time to see how we might further our common goals.

In September please watch for a presentation of our pilgrimage and what we learned. Learn about possible opportunities to create another outreach team at Unity Church and help us explore how our liberation is indeed bound up with theirs. Contact Pat Haff at the Church Office for more information.

## Whole Farm Coop

Whole Farm orders and deliveries will resume in January 2013, when construction on Unity Church is complete. Visit [www.wholefarmcoop.com](http://www.wholefarmcoop.com) for alternate pick-up locations.

## Barriers to Voter Registration: Why?

**By Martha Eaves, Unity Church member and legal aid attorney**

I have been reading with interest the editorials and letters to the editor about the proposed state constitutional amendment to require a picture ID at Minnesota state polling places. Some suggest that this is a needed step to give “security” to our voting system. I see it from another perspective, derived from my 36 years of working with those living in poverty in Ramsey County.

A picture ID is not a small thing to get, when it requires that you show a birth certificate. Many of the homeless who come to the Homeless Connect events or to the welfare agency do not have certified copies of the birth certificate and every state requires payment in order to get them or replace them. People who have to worry about where their next meal will come from and if they will have a place to sleep at night will easily be excluded from exercising their voting rights under this constitutional amendment.

But it is not just the homeless who will be impacted. Who might not have a driver’s license, a passport, a military ID, or a Minnesota ID card with a current address? Lots of people... renters who had moved several times in one year, seniors who no longer drive or have the resources to travel out of the country, and others who have neither the resources or knowledge to get needed documents in advance of election day.

So are there droves of non-residents coming into Minnesota to vote here? NO. In fact, the state legislators who pushed this bill through did not provide any evidence of voter fraud other than a few resident former felons who did not realize that when they did their time, they still had no right to vote. Only about 15-20% of people who do register to vote on election day bring in the necessary pix ID anyway. The vast majority of people voting can meet the requirements of current law without a constitutional amendment like this. Then who will this amendment really affect? It will affect that very small percentage of people who come to the polls with another registered voter who will “vouch” for them as being who they say that they are. Only a registered voter can “vouch” for someone. If there was a big problem with voter fraud, there would be the person who “vouched” for the others who could easily be dealt with under current law.

The fact is that this law is meant to intimidate people from even trying to vote—like the Southern poll taxes only maybe a little bit more devious in its intent but with same intended outcome. *So why would we want to intimidate people in Minnesota from voting?* That is really the question. We do not need a constitutional amendment like this; the harm of its likely reach is significantly greater than any good that it might bring. Please consider a NO vote on this amendment.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

## Unitarian Universalist Service Committee News Put Your Unitarian Values into Action through UUSC!

What UUSC Does: UUSC advances human rights and social justice nationally and internationally. Their work is conducted with partners who confront unjust power structures and mobilize to challenge oppressive policies.

**UUSC Mission and Vision:** UUSC is guided by the 1948 United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and the seven Unitarian-Universalist Principles. UUSC affirms inherent worth and dignity of every person.

**Financial support for UUSC:** UUSC is an associate member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, but receives no general financial support from the UUA. However, the two organizations collaborate on major outreach work, such as work team in Haiti. Most of UUSC's support comes from individual members.

### Focus areas for UUSC:

1. Rights in Humanitarian Crises – All people affected by humanitarian crises have an equal right to aid and assistance with dignity. UUSC's experience with the Indian Ocean tsunami, Hurricane Katrina and the earthquake in Haiti taught that this right is one of the first casualties of a crisis.
2. Economic Justice – This is essential for securing basic human rights, alleviating local and global poverty and achieving a more peaceful and just world. UUSC embraces worker's rights as human rights. (See "Hot" issue below)
3. Civil liberties – UUSC works to protect individuals from abuse by government power. The focus is on strengthening democratic processes, for example, helping UUSC's Egyptian partners to create comic-book-style information about democracies.
4. Environmental Justice – A current UUSC emphasis is on helping everyone to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, affordable and physically accessible water for personal and domestic use.

### A "Hot" UUSC Project: \$2.13 Is Unfair. Raise the Tipped Minimum Wage!

Women make up 70 percent of the restaurant workforce serving us. More than a quarter of women receiving the tipped minimum wage are mothers. The national minimum wage for tipped workers is \$2.13 an hour — and it hasn't been raised since 1991!

UUSC has partnered with the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United. Their reports state these wages are a legalized form of gender pay inequity.

UUSC encourages us to make a difference in the lives of working mothers by asking our representatives to raise the tipped minimum wage by cosponsoring and then voting for the Working for Adequate Gains for Employment in Services (WAGES) Act (H.R. 631), introduced by Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards. The WAGES Act would raise the tipped minimum wage, which hasn't increased for the last 20 years, to at least \$5.50 over the next two years.

**Getting involved in:** UUSC is an individual membership organization. As a member, you'll join 40,000+ supporters who share your ideals. You'll stay up-to-date on human rights issues through regular mailings, action alerts and a subscription to Rights Now. Membership costs are: \$40 Individual; \$75 Couple; \$10 Student/Youth; \$20 Senior; \$40 Senior Couple. Sign up on the UUSC web site. When you become a member you'll be putting your Unitarian values to work toward justice, equity and compassion in human relations.



## Men... the Math of being a PenFriend. From Ray Wiedmeyer, Restorative Justice Ministry Team

I figured it out the other day. I'm not a math whiz but I wanted to know how much time I had spent being a PenFriend. I took the 18 hours a day I spend not sleeping and I multiplied them times the 30 days in a month. I came up with 480 waking hours.

I know I have written only 10 letters to my PenFriend in the past year, I keep copies on the computer to remind me of what I have written in the past. And I know it takes me less than an hour to write a letter to my PenFriend, Fred.

I am not a math whiz, but I was shocked at my investment in this friendship. Even when I figured in the two-hour training session to become a PenFriend I had spent far less than 1% of my waking hours. And yet the dividends of this friendship keep rolling in.

It got me thinking about friendships. It got me thinking about stepping out of one's comfort zone to become friends with others not in our "normal" circle of friends. It reminded me of the final catch phrase....If not me, then who?

## The PenFriends program at Unity Church needs more men.

PenFriends is a joint initiative between the Unity Restorative Justice Outreach Team and Amicus, reaching out to men and women in prison. Be the friend on the **outside** that can change a life on the **inside**. For more information please contact Ray Wiedmeyer at 651-699-5590.

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# COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

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## Unity Church House Party for Marriage Equality

Sunday, June 10 • 3:00-5:00 p.m.

1665 Ashland Avenue, St. Paul

Please join us in the big and beautiful backyard garden of Mary Baremore and Bobbi Cordano and show your support for the statewide effort to block the anti-marriage amendment. Enjoy summer-themed appetizers, lemonade, and good company as we celebrate love, marriage, equality, and hope. Suggested donation is \$50, more if you can, less if you can't. All donations will go to Minnesotans United for All Families for its incredible work in St. Paul and all over the state. For more information, contact Ministerial Intern Jim Foti at [jim@unityunitarian.org](mailto:jim@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x212.

## Unity United for All Families: Calling All Members!

Unity's team working to defeat the anti-marriage amendment this November will be calling each member of the congregation between now and the end of July, initiating the strategy of one-to-one conversations about the amendment with people we know.

Because of the resolution passed by the congregation in April, the team has the support of the Executive Team in this effort.

The strategy of one-to-one conversations is suggested by Minnesotans United for All Families because they believe that such conversations are the most effective way of getting people to vote no. If 90% percent of the Minnesota affirming faith groups were to vote "no" in November, the amendment would be defeated.

So, if you haven't already done so, ask yourself two things:

1. *What connects me to this issue of marriage equality?*
2. *Who am I willing to talk with about it?*

Let the conversations begin!

## Who Are Those People Selling Rainbow Flags?

Every two weeks for the last month or so, members of the Rainbow Chalice Alliance (RCA) have waved little rainbow flags at a table in the Parish Hall at Unity Church on Sundays. Who are we and why are we doing this? And why might you want to know?

The Rainbow Chalice Alliance is Unity's newest Community Outreach ministry team. We were formally commissioned in October 2011. Our purpose is to actively support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) youth and their allies. We partner with the Minnesota School OUTreach Coalition (MNSOC), a coalition of many groups working with LGBTQ youth in Minnesota and with Out for Equity (OFE), which is part of the St. Paul Public Schools, supporting their Gay/Straight Alliance groups within the schools.

In our first year up on our feet and working, we have faced the challenge of the time, money and energy of many of our allies being diverted to the marriage amendment fight. While we support their efforts, and have committed to help support youth in their struggles to overcome the language of alienation and division that accompanies this political battle, we remain committed to our separate work of supporting GLBTQ youth apart from the current amendment struggle. We recently helped to chaperone Q-Quest, a conference and celebration for GLBTQ teens hosted by the Minneapolis Public Schools and assisted with a metro-area Queer Prom in May.

Why do we do this? We all have our reasons. Some people in the group like to teach the lyrics of songs. Mike asks us to sing, "I see your true colors and that's why I love you, so don't be afraid to let them show your true colors, true colors are beautiful, Like a rainbow." Elizabeth reminds us that "We are a gentle, angry people, and we are singing, singing for our lives." I keep hearing over and over again in my own mind the phrase "It gets better." And I reply, "Not soon enough."

We invite you to join us in our life-affirming, life-saving work. If you are interested, please contact Laura Schlatter at [laurasueschlatter@gmail.com](mailto:laurasueschlatter@gmail.com).

## Evergreen Quilters Donate

Evergreen Quilters had another successful quilt raffle, silent auction and sale in April, thanks to the enthusiastic involvement of Unity Church members and friends. Total proceeds were \$4,297! Donations were sent immediately to the primary Evergreen causes: Sharing Korner Food Shelf, a free food shelf in the Frogtown Community; The Family Place, the only day shelter for families in Ramsey County; Jeremiah Program, help for single mothers to break the cycle of poverty.

Not present for the raffle drawing? Then you are probably wondering who won the beautiful "Sheltering Pines" quilt. Margaret Roser, 92 years young and the mother of Evergreen Quilters member Peggy Wright, won with one of the five tickets she purchased. Margaret, though not a quilter, often attends Evergreen Quilters meetings so she knows the quilt from its beginning concept to the hand quilting completion. She is thrilled and plans to use it on her bed. Margaret has agreed to give the quilt back for a few days, though. The quilt is entered in the Group Quilt category at the Minnesota Quilters Show held in mid-June. The previous raffle quilt won \$300 prize money.

Evergreen Quilters also make One More Redeemer quilts that hang in the Sanctuary on Sundays when new babies are celebrated. Then, each quilt is given to a homeless child at The Family Place. The next One More Redeemer quilt will hang in the Sanctuary on June 3.

Join Evergreen Quilters and share our love of quilting and textiles arts. Meetings include demos of new quilt and fiber techniques, show and tell, fun challenges and lots of fellowship. The group meets twice monthly; 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. and 4th Saturday at 10:00 a.m. **Contact Peggy Wright, 651-698-2760, for meeting sites during the summer.**

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# OFFERING RECIPIENTS

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## Offering Recipients

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

### June 3: MNSOC (Minnesota Schools Outreach Coalition for LGBTQ youth)

MNSOC is a coalition of Minnesota students, families, community members and organizations working within the broad context of schools to address issues of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. MNSOC sponsors the Q Quest Youth Fest (a day-long yearly gathering for Minnesota LGBTQ high school students), facilitates workshops at the annual LGBTQ Lobby Day at the Capitol, offers anti-bullying training for Minnesota educators and is holding a prom for Twin Cities area LGBTQ youth in June, 2012. MNSOC is a community partner of the Unity Church Rainbow Alliance Ministry Team.

### June 10: Ten Thousand Things

Ten Thousand Things brings creative, lively, intelligent theater to people with little access to the wealth of the arts. They primarily perform in prisons, homeless shelters, low income housing and community centers. This remarkable theater group offers a wide variety of plays—ancient tales, classic stories, contemporary plays—incorporating vital open interactions between many of the most talented actors in the Twin Cities and non-traditional audiences. Unity Church members Laura and Ron Schlatter and family are loyal attendees and supporters of Ten Thousand Things.

### June 17: Unity United for All Families

The goal of this Unity Church working committee is to help defeat the Minnesota constitutional amendment to ban same sex marriage that will be voted on in the November 2012 election. At a congregational meeting in April, 2012, the Unity Church congregation passed a unanimous resolution stating their opposition to this amendment. Unity United For All Families is composed of over 150 congregants and friends with members Laura Smidzik and Grant Wacker serving as co-chairs. The proceeds from this offering will go towards the campaigns of Unity Church and Minnesotans United For All Families.

### June 24: Catalyst Foundation

The Catalyst Foundation helps build communities in Vietnam to fight human trafficking for 400 families and 300 children that once lived and worked in garbage dumps in the rural parts of Vietnam's Mekong Delta. For children and families living in extreme poverty, Catalyst Foundation is a humanitarian organization that supports community programs to provide basic needs, job opportunities, counseling and education to prevent trafficking of young children. One hundred percent of this offering will be used for an upcoming Vietnam Aid Expedition. Unity Church members, Barb Cederberg, Judy Gundersen, and Kai Gundersen have volunteered with the foundation since 2000 and participated in Vietnam Aid Expeditions.

### July 1: American Refugee Committee (ARC)

ARC's mission is to help refugees around the world through such things as disaster response, micro loans and reproductive health care. This offering will go towards ARC's work in Somalia. ARC's approach to Somalia is quite different from its other programs around the world in that they are working with the Somali community in the Twin Cities to fund raise and organize the work in their home country. There are more Somalians in the Twin Cities than in any other city in the U.S. and they are reaching out to schools and other organizations to contribute to their fundraising program. Unity Church members Phil and Madeleine Lowry have supported ARC for over 10 years.

### July 8: Amicus Neighborhood "Circle of Peace"

Circle of Peace is a neighborhood grassroots organization of peacemakers committed to breaking the cycle of inner city youth violence. This circle was started by Russel Balenger, an employee of Amicus, INC., a Rondo neighborhood resident and a grandfather to youth living in the community. The peace circle is composed of youth in trouble, parents, grandparents, family and community members that work with Totem Town juvenile offenders. The Circle of Peace has great potential for impacting the community by creating different and more positive relationship with parents, youth in trouble and community members. For over two years, the circle has met once a week at Unity Church and provided dinner hour meals and writing materials to all youth participants to develop their plans for success. Through its community partner, Amicus, the Unity Church Restorative Justice Ministry Team participates and supports this important community initiative.

### July 15: MNSOC (see June 3)

### July 23: Ten Thousand Things (see June 10)

### July 29: Unity United for All Families (see June 17)

### August 5: Catalyst Foundation (see June 24)

### August 12: ARC (see July 1)

### August 19: Amicus Circle of Peace (see July 8)

### Nominate an Offering Recipient

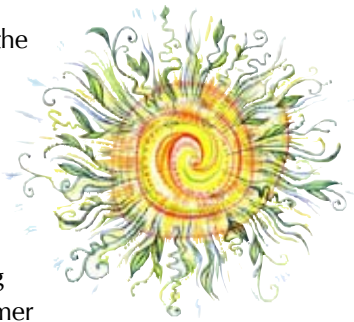
If you would like to nominate a non-profit organization to receive a Sunday offering, please fill out the online nomination form located at:

<http://www.unityunitarian.org/nominate-the-offering.html>

# SUMMER SOLSTICE / LIBRARIES / BOOKSTALL / CALL FOR ART

## Summer Solstice Reflection

Summer Solstice reminds us to notice and celebrate the full return of the light. The daylight hours have been growing since Winter Solstice, each day becoming slightly longer until the Spring Equinox in March, when the day and night were equal in length. Solstice comes from the Latin “sol” or *sun* and “sistere” or to *stand still* because, as seen from the North or South Poles, the sun reaches its highest position in the sky, coming to a stop, before reversing direction. In 2012, the Summer Solstice occurs at 6:09 p.m. Central Time on June 20.



The abundant and radiant light of summertime invites us into the outside world that is glorious, greening, bright, and rich with possibilities. It is often a time of play—and passion—and abandon. That which prepared itself in the mysterious darkness of our earthly bodysouls is now coming into creative expression in the full light of day!

Spiritual teacher and author Dawna Markova suggests in her book *Wide Open*: “If we only experienced passion, we would be bold beyond belief, but we would burn, burn, burn ourselves out in a rapturous relationship with the untamable within us. We also need the dark, the stillness, the quiet of the night for the stars and constellations to appear, the patterns of movement of the whole universe to be visible.”

We are at the peak of the sun’s passion. How can you enjoy your passion for being alive this Summer while remembering the need for the balancing embrace of the quiet and stillness? How do you build both into your days? Is there a way for the passion to lead to the stillness—and the stillness back to the passion? How do you allow both in your life? How does each feed you?

You may want to write in a journal, or try a short ritual alone or with friends that could include the following:

- Light a candle, red or orange in color;
- Name or make a list of all the vibrant, passionate, creative ideas, activities, and heart-journeys that you have or desire in your life.
- Now explore one or two of these and how they are supported by taking time for stillness, quiet, and rest.
- Sit quietly and breathe into your belly and heart, sensing the aliveness, passion, and juiciness there along with a solid, quiet, and restful sense of refuge.
- Continuing to breathe mindfully, allow a movement to arise and move your body in some way, big or small. And then allow that movement to settle back into the quiet stillness.
- When you are ready, say thank you and blow out the candle.

Remember that as this day comes to an end, the days will very slowly become shorter, until at Autumn Equinox, the day and night will be balanced, and by Winter Solstice, we’ll be back to the longest night. Savor and revel in the juicy passion of this summer season! And please join us in a Summer Solstice Celebration in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, June 20, at 7:00 p.m.

—Summer Blessings of the Light  
Katy Taylor, Seasonal Coordinator Worship Associate  
[katy@thewingedheart.net](mailto:katy@thewingedheart.net)



## What’s New in the Library and Bookstall

From Louise Merriam, Library Team

The Unity libraries will be closed all summer for renovation and library materials will be unavailable during that time. People with checked-out books or media should keep them until the fall or watch for a book return box elsewhere in the building (location to be determined).

The Bookstall will also be closed for the summer; look for the grand reopening in the fall. However, you can buy books and almost anything else and benefit Unity libraries at the same time. Simply go to the Unity web site at: <http://www.unityunitarian.org/library-and-bookstall.html> and follow the instructions for accessing Amazon from that page.

## Call for Art Parish Hall Exhibits

Unity Church is accepting applications for Parish Hall exhibits during 2012/2013. Exhibits run monthly from fall 2012 through July of 2013. Major renovation of the church building begins in mid-May. Although we hope to have the first exhibit in October, we need to be flexible about the start date.

Applications can be found online at: <http://www.unityunitarian.org/parish-hall-artists.html>. Application deadline is August 1, 2012. Contact Cynthia Starkweather-Nelson by email if you have any questions: [starkweathernelson@cstarnel.com](mailto:starkweathernelson@cstarnel.com).

# MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH / MUSIC MINISTRY

## Missed Registration?

### Save the Date: September 5, 2012!

If your family missed our four Spring sessions of registration for Religious Education (R.E.) 2012-13, please plan on joining us for the September session on Wednesday, September 5, at 7:00 p.m. Childcare is provided. Spaces remain in most classes at all three services. R.E. begins on Sunday, September 16, 2012.

## Summer Sundays with Children

Children that come to church on Sundays will explore a naturalist program in the House of Hope park, located directly across from Unity Church on Grotto Street. Nursery care will be provided in the church-owned duplex located at 722 Holly Avenue (just east of the Holly Avenue parking lot). Pagers will be available for parents leaving children in the nursery. On rainy Sundays, activity packets will be provided and children will worship with their families in the Sanctuary.

## High School Bridging

The congregation is invited to celebrate the graduation of Unity's High School youth of the Class of 2012. Please join us on Sunday, June 3, at 9:00 a.m. for coffee and pastries with the youth and their families. During the 10:00 a.m. worship service, the youth will be recognized and the congregation will participate in the Bridging Litany. If you were a COA mentor in 2009, this is your youth's graduation! If you taught Sunday School in 1999, these are your kindergarteners! Come bless them on their way.

## Young UU Families: Summer Potluck Gatherings

All families are invited to gather at the park across Grotto Street immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service on the following Sundays: June 10, July 15 and August 12. Join us for one Sunday or all three — no need to RSVP. Bring a dish to share and anything specific your family may need. There will be games and an opportunity to develop friendships and community with other Unity Church families.



Children in Religious Education walk the labyrinth one last time before construction begins.

## Wanted!

### Summer Musicians

Summer is a great time to share your musical gifts with your Unity family and friends. Summer lay-led services begin on July 1 this year and continue through August 26. If you are interested in participating in the music contact Kathleen Bartholomay at 651-698-2431 or by email at [kathleenbartholomay@yahoo.com](mailto:kathleenbartholomay@yahoo.com).



*One Voice Mixed Chorus presents...*

## Come Fly with Me

One Voice Mixed Chorus—Minnesota's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender (GLBT) and straight allies chorus—concludes its 2011-2012 season with *Come Fly With Me* – a GLBT Romp Around the World. Join us for a spirited trip around the globe where travel songs and indigenous music are woven with stories of GLBT communities worldwide. This musical travelogue includes a fiery Argentinean tango, lush choral favorites from Russia, an encounter with faeries in Ireland, Bulgarian women's vocal delights, heart-pounding African drumming, and sing-along favorites from the USA!

*Come Fly with Me*

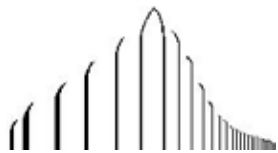
**Friday, June 15 and  
Saturday, June 16**

**7:30 p.m.**

**History Theatre**

30 East Tenth Street, St. Paul MN

To purchase tickets, please visit <http://www.ovmc.org/tickets.html>.



# UNITY CHURCH—UNITARIAN

732 HOLLY AVENUE • SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55104  
651-228-1456 • FAX: 651-228-0927 • WWW.UNITYUNITARIAN.ORG • UNITY@UNITYUNITARIAN.ORG

BOB PESKIN, CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
JANNE ELLER-ISAACS, CO-MINISTER  
ROB ELLER-ISAACS, CO-MINISTER  
BARBARA HUBBARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
LEON DUNKLEY, DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
TWIN CITIES MN  
PERMIT NO. 1141

**TIME SENSITIVE  
MATERIAL**



## 2012 Congregational Survey

Unity's Annual Congregational Survey is the Board's key measurement instrument in evaluating the church. Please take a moment to share how you feel about this religious community, the work we are doing, and its impact on your life.

Watch your email for a link to complete the survey online. Paper copies will be available by contacting the church office at 651-228-1456.

***Our goal is to hear from everyone!***

## Summer Office Hours and Location

Looking for the staff this summer? The church offices will relocate to this church-owned duplex at 722 Holly Avenue (just east of the parking lot) during the week of June 11. The staff have affectionately named it "A Summer Place." Summer office hours will be Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Voicemail left at 651-228-1456 will be checked regularly and email sent to [unity@unityunitarian.org](mailto:unity@unityunitarian.org) will be checked outside of these office hours.

"A Summer Place" will host occasional meetings and an abbreviated coffee hour on the front lawn. All of the necessary supplies needed for Sunday worship in the Sanctuary will also be stored here.

The church office will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

The staff invites you to stop by sometime for a visit, see the offices, and maybe even relax on the front porch for a spell.

