

BLESSING

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, and religious education; and in our community outreach ministries, our literary journal and programs, and many other opportunities. The May theme is blessing.

If you listen carefully, you might find that your everyday life is punctuated with the idea of blessing. You might count your blessings, receive a blessing after a sneeze, be asked to give something your blessing, or discover a blessing in disguise. Blessing is both an activity and a gift.

Theologically, blessing is an expression of our partnership with the holy.

Although we at Unity often sing “call down a blessing,” blessings actually go in all kinds of directions – up, down, and horizontal. Blessing is about relationship and connection. We can receive blessings or give them. In the Hebrew Scriptures, God blesses people, and people bless God. We can bless each other, and bless the world.

In blessing the world, you may find that place, in the words of Frederick Buechner, “where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” Blessing the world is a big job, though, and to take it on, we would do well to remember that we ourselves are blessings and are blessed, and to appreciate the value of blessing in community.

In our Unitarian Universalist tradition, every person is blessed with the capacity to bless. Although we acknowledge wrongdoing and brokenness, we reject the idea of the stain of original sin in favor of the idea of original blessing – the idea that we, and life, are gifts.

But the events of our lives, and

sometimes our lives themselves, may not always feel like blessings. And indeed, terrible, painful things happen to us and to people we love. The challenge is not to try to reframe a loss as a blessing. Rather, it’s to acknowledge the blessing of that which has been lost, and those blessings that follow the loss.

The language of blessing helps us defend against ungratefulness. For you to see a blessing, your eyes have to look through gratitude. And for blessings to come in, we have to accept imperfections and impermanence. In some religious traditions, blessings are received while one is kneeling or while one’s head is bowed, highlighting a sense of humility and leading away from the idea that we can go it alone and always know best.

If I am blessed, does that mean others are cursed? No. This is where we might turn to the Universalist side of our heritage, to the belief that all are worthy of being saved, in this life or the next, because of the limitlessness of love. There is enough blessing to go around.

This month’s worship rituals include Flower Communion, in which we bless the flowers, which are themselves a blessing, and use the flowers to bless each other. The flowers of spring are fleeting symbols of life and love, but the intention of the blessing endures. This tradition points to one of the primary purposes of church – to recognize the blessings that we are to each other, and invite us to bring those gifts to bear in the world. “It’s a blessing we were

born, and it matters what we do,” we regularly sing in chapel, “and we don’t have to do it alone.”

— Compiled by Jim Foti, on behalf of this month’s theme team: Janne Eller-Isaacs, Kerri Meyer, Lisa Friedman, Rob Eller-Isaacs, and Pat Haff

BLESSING RESOURCES

BOOKS

Gilead, a Pulitzer-winning novel by Marilynne Robinson, is the story of a pastor who records his memories for his young son.

Learning to Fall: The Blessings of an Imperfect Life, by Philip Simmons, tells of the author’s life after a diagnosis of ALS.

Listening to Your Life: Daily Meditations with Frederick Buechner.

MOVIES

The Trip to Bountiful is a 1985 drama about a woman’s desire to visit her childhood home.

Pay It Forward is a 2000 drama about a boy’s effort to make the world a better place.

ONLINE

Buddies for Life, by Jim Foti, tells the story of an unlikely friendship during the height of the AIDS epidemic.

www.jimfoti.com/davids-story.html

An archive of past monthly themes including resources is available online at <http://www.unityunitarian.org/monthly-theological-themes.html>

JUST WORDS

Just Words

Linda was my best friend in college. I loved spending time with her. I don't remember ever tiring of her company. She was a great traveling companion as we traveled the world together. She was bright, funny and inquisitive. I knew from intimate conversations with her that she never felt comfortable with her life growing up. As a young child she sometimes wondered if she had been adopted and some day her parents would confess the truth of her real identity. Other days she thought she might actually be an alien, because most days she felt like she came from a different planet than her family. Entering college was a liberating experience for her. While in college, she still attended church most every Sunday. Though I didn't, I still claimed I was a Unitarian Universalist. One day she came home from church and came directly into my dorm room. A guest preacher had delivered a sermon that condemned and damned all those not saved by Jesus. She sat through the service raging at his words and his cool, cruel manner. Sitting in that service all the doubts she had ever harbored came rushing into her mind. She heard his words and simultaneously heard her own questions drowning him out. She realized that she also felt outside this theology just as she felt outside her own family. Though she cared for some of the other young adults in the church, she couldn't abide by their beliefs any longer. She told me she lost her faith that day. She never went back and is unchurched to this day.



In our cultural and religious past, faith has been equated with belief. When searching for a religious community, the creed or beliefs were of primary importance for the seekers. No one could imagine being part of a religious community with whom they disagreed. It was further understood that beliefs led directly to how people behaved. But then as a nation we began to question those beliefs, began to notice that people professing great faith often did not live out the scriptures that guided them. Organized religion began to feel less relevant. Church attendance went down all across the country.

People who watch trends in the religious lives of Americans assert that for decades there has been a traditional triad of values when considering congregational involvement. They describe these as: believing, behaving and belonging. In this scenario, belief is of prime importance, followed by behavior with a sense of belonging being less important. Now these same researchers are discovering that the order of the triad has shifted dramatically over the past decade. Belief is no longer as important as the often inexplicable sense of belonging. As one new visitor to Unity Church said to me recently, "I am not completely sure what you believe here, but I know I feel comfortable here and that means I will stick around long enough to find out what it is you do believe."

I hope that Unity Church is a place that is "owned" by everyone who attends worship and activities here—a place where we carry with us a sense of belonging that we can share with others so that they feel invited into our caring community.

As we process all the feedback the Board received from the *Charting Our Course Together* conversations, I think we will find the theme of belonging emerging over and over again. It is important to think about and important to find ways to act upon the feedback we receive. I look forward to many more conversations about our hopes and dreams for our future and the kind of community we hope to become.

— Janne Eller-Isaacs

The Wheel of Life

In Celebration

Harriet Carole Davis

born one more redeemer
on April 5, 2013,
to parents

Lauren Dee and Andy Davis

In Memoriam

Dennis Michael Kreuser

September 23, 1952 – April 4, 2013

Heritage Society

Friday, May 3 • Parish Hall

Rev. Jen Crow



The 2013 Heritage Society program will be held on the evening of May 3. The Reverend Jen Crow, Minister of Program Life at First Universalist Church of Minneapolis, will be our guest speaker.

If you are interested in making a planned gift to the church and becoming a member of the Heritage Society, contact Barbara Hubbard at the Church Office.



MAY SUNDAY WORSHIP & OFFERING RECIPIENTS

Sunday Worship Calendar

Sunday services are held at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m., and 4:30 p.m. except where noted. Sermon podcasts and archives are available online at www.unityunitarian.org. The summer worship schedule of one service at 10:00 a.m. begins on May 26.

May 5

Arthur Foote Music Sunday

Come celebrate the blessings of music with our Children's Choir, Women's Ensemble, Unity Singers, Unity Choir, percussionists and Artaria String Quartet playing 15 minutes before each service!

May 12

Being Blest and Blessing: A Mother's Day Service

Having given us the blessing of life itself our mother then provide us with another very different kind of bless, their imperfection. Rob and Hallman Intern, Mae Gibson Wall will be joined by worship associate, Neil Bray in a Mother's Day celebration.

May 19: No 4:30 Service

Flower Communion Family Sunday

Come celebrate the affirming, uniquely Unitarian Universalist ritual of Flower Communion. Developed by Czech Unitarian minister Norbert Čapek who died a martyr at Dachau, the ritual celebrates the intrinsic beauty of each and every soul. **BRING A FLOWER FOR THE ARCH.** This is a celebration for the entire church family. Each service will include a dedication ceremony for older children (see page 14).



A Service of Rededication • 2:00 p.m.

On Sunday afternoon, May 19, the entire congregation will gather at the corner of Portland and Grotto to rededicate our building and more importantly, ourselves, to the mission of our church. The sermon will be offered by visionary organizer Van Jones who will charge us to live out a ministry worthy of our investment. The ministers will be joined by Mayor Chris Coleman and other dignitaries for this singular celebration.

Following the service we will join partner organization Growth & Justice for a celebration of their 10th anniversary. See the back cover for more information.

May 26 • One Service at 10:00 a.m.

If They Came Back At All — Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs

Once again this year we offer a service of remembrance for those who have served in our armed forces. Rob will be joined by worship associate Terri Burnor. There will be an opportunity to light candles for family members and friends who lost their lives to war or suicide and those who live with moral injury.

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.**

May 5: Arthur Foote Sunday

Arthur Foote was minister at Unity Church from 1945-1970. Upon his death in 1999 the Arthur Foote Music Fund was created as a permanent endowment to provide an annual music Sunday in his memory. Currently the endowment supports a portion of Foote Music Sunday expenses. Your gifts to grow this endowment are gratefully accepted!

May 12: Faith Builders Habitat for Humanity

The Unity Church Affordable Housing Ministry team is cosponsoring a Habitat for Humanity "green" build as a partner in Faith Builders this summer. The other neighborhood churches involved in this partnership are Assumption Catholic Church, the Cathedral of St. Paul, St. Clement's Episcopal and House of Hope Presbyterian. A Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity "green" build integrates building practices that reduce detrimental impacts on the natural environment, promote healthy indoor air quality for occupants and reduce energy costs while increasing the long-term affordability of homes. This offering will go towards Unity Church's share of the cost of renovating a home here in St. Paul.

May 19: Rebuild the Dream

Rebuild the Dream is a 21st century think tank, fighting for an economy that works for everyone and in which everyone can work. It has built a movement with over 500,000 members, 80 institutional partners, prominent celebrity endorsers, major legislative victories and a substantial media platform. They use creative artistic projects, mass media and digital tools to change popular opinion. Rebuild the Dream especially lifts up the voices of the millennial generation in issues they are facing such as college debt, jobs, gun violence, the school-to-prison pipeline, climate chaos and the immigration system. President and co-founder Van Jones is a CNN contributor.

May 26: Veterans for Peace

Veterans for Peace Minnesota works with others to increase public awareness of the cost of war: restrain the government from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations; end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons; seek justice for veterans and victims of war; and to abolish war as an instrument of national policy. To achieve these goals, members of Veterans For Peace pledge to use non-violent means and to maintain an organization that is both democratic and open with the understanding that all members are trusted to act in the best interests of the group for the larger purpose of world peace. Unity Church members Barry Riesch and Michael Orange actively participate in the work of Veterans for Peace Minnesota.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES / ARLT

Board of Trustees

From Steve Harper, Trustee

Through the window I watch a rare April snowstorm obscure the sky, while on my desk two forsythia branches have been prematurely coaxed into a wild yellow bloom. These sure signs of spring (in spite of snow) fill my mind with thoughts of rejuvenation and renewal.



Our church is also leaning into a season of renewal, as we review and renew our governing Ends statements. Over the past several weeks, I participated with many of you in deep, rich conversations about where we want to see our church go, using the guiding question, "How can we be vulnerable and courageous in the world, both as individuals and as a community?"

Speaking of the future, you talked about embodying the openness represented by our church's new entrance. You suggested new and dynamic ways to reach out to our neighbors. You talked of rejuvenation – as if our sometimes cloistered church community were now reawakening, renewing its commitment to the larger community around us.

I also heard how transforming it has been when we partner with those outside our membership. Last fall as many in our church worked to defeat the marriage amendment, we did not do so alone. We worked with the wider community in a powerful way. We were willing to both lead and be led, collaborate, and form partnerships. We stepped out of the shadows of our four-sided building, showing both courage and vulnerability. As part of our Ends renewal process, the Board is continuing these outreach efforts by asking our community partners how we can help create a broader, shared vision of the world, reflecting not only our own church's priorities but also the needs of others.

So, where will this spiritual spring take us?

How do we capitalize on this momentum thoughtfully and bravely?

As the Board crafts a new set of Ends statements over the coming summer and fall, it will be looking at the notes from these conversations carefully. As with all new ventures, we will set new goals and renew some of our existing ones. We will listen, and speak, and listen again. We thank you for your input, caring and trust as we nurture a new and renewed vision for Unity Church and our beloved community.

Contact Steve Harper at 651-324-4843 and Steve.Harper@alumni.macalester.edu.

Anti-Racism Leadership Team (ARLT)

Speak Up Workshop

Wednesday, May 22 • 7:00–8:30 p.m.
Foote Room at Unity Church

Your brother routinely makes anti-Semitic comments. Your neighbor uses the N-word in casual conversation. Your co-worker ribs you about your Italian surname, asking if you're in the Mafia. Your classmate insults something by saying, "That's so gay."

And you stand there, in silence, thinking, "What can I say in response to that?" Or you laugh along, uncomfortably. Or, frustrated or angry, you walk away without saying anything, thinking later, "I should have said something."

So begins the introduction to a workshop curriculum developed by Teaching Tolerance.org. Join us as we look at some common scenarios and learn strategies to respond in these situations with integrity and in a way that is respectful. Contact Mary Morris at mem9@mac.com for more information.

Did You Know?

A recent issue of *Insight News* highlighted the problem of the high cost of prison phone calls. According to the authors, state prisons in Minnesota receive 49% commissions on phone calls made from prisons, generating about \$1.5 million in revenue every year. These high prison phone rates can result in prisoners' families having to pay up to \$20 for a 15-minute collect phone call from a loved one in prison. This affects the 15,000 children in Minnesota who have a parent in jail or prison. Many studies show that prisoners who maintain family connections are much less likely to re-offend. Learn more about the Campaign for Prison Phone Justice at www.phonejustice.org

GENERAL ASSEMBLY JUNE 19-23, 2013 LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS

Represent Unity Church at General Assembly!

Represent Unity Church at the upcoming General Assembly from June 19-23 in Louisville, Kentucky! Imagine gathering with other UUs from around the world to help move our faith "From Promise to Commitment." If you are interested or have questions, email Hallman Intern Mae Gibson Wall at mae@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x129.

MINISTERIAL INTERNS

Mae Gibson Wall

2012-13 Hallman Ministerial Intern

One day, during a particularly painful time in my life, I found myself a few blocks from my home, gazing out the window of a bus. The scene before me was stunning. The day was an ideal representation of the blossoming spring season, and the view offered the perfect snapshot of a happy life: a bustling family, old lovers sitting on a park bench, sunlight shimmering on the river flowing by.

Looking through the glass, I could almost crop the image and see it on the cover of one of my favorite magazines; I need only cut away my unhappiness and pain from the periphery, and there was periodical perfection.

I was always thumbing through these magazines, seeking the ideal life. “That looks like the perfect town,” I would think to myself. “If I could only live *there*, everything would be right with my life.”

Well, there I was, looking at that very scene in real life, and I was miserable. I found myself living in the pages of a magazine, and everything was *not* right with my life. On the outside, it was lovely, but on the inside, it was turmoil.

A friend told me once that desire and happiness are located in two distinct and separate parts of our brain, such that even if we perfectly fulfill our desires, our happiness might remain unaffected. That flies in the face of everything I’ve ever thought, but it affirms much of what I’ve lived. And what it teaches me is that happiness can only be cultivated from within and is not a thing to be hunted or an image to be projected onto our lives.

Often the pictures we paint for others reflect only an ideal scene, even as we struggle. One need only scroll through Facebook to discover that every person we’ve ever known is leading a perfectly fulfilled life, and one need only post a carefully-worded status update or tweet to assure the world that we are, too. But what good does it do to hide our brokenness behind images of perfection, to crop away that which is less-than-beautiful in service of creating the ideal picture? We create separateness where we long for union, false envy where we long for empathic understanding.

On the cusp of my 34th birthday, I pray for the strength and wisdom to embrace the whole picture that is my life. May I be brave enough to include the brokenness rather than cut it away, and may I be humble enough to share it with others, making room for their truths and for mine.

Mae Gibson Wall can be reached by email at mae@unityunitarian.org and by phone at 651-228-1456 x129.



Jim Foti

2012-13 Ministerial Intern

One of the things I’ll be doing during the next church year is traveling to Boston to appear before the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. When I tell people this, they’re curious to hear more, so allow me to explain this unique and crucial step in ministerial formation.

To become a credentialed Unitarian Universalist minister and eligible for ordination by a congregation, I must pass an interview with the MFC, and the preparations are extensive. The required reading list includes dozens of books, reports, and articles, which, according to a ministerial candidate I know, add up to 8,400 pages. I haven’t checked his math, but I’m fortunate to already have read some of the books in seminary.

I also must give the MFC a “packet,” which can run to 100 pages or more and includes transcripts, evaluations from internships, five letters of recommendation, three essays, and evidence that I’m competent in 16 areas of ministry. These “competencies,” as they’re called, are grouped into three areas – academic, professional, and Unitarian Universalist – and include such things as worship, leadership, administration, church history, sexual ethics/boundaries, and theology.

The interview itself begins with a 10-minute sermon, after which the committee has the rest of the hour to ask questions based on what’s in the packet. The questions could be anything from how I deal with my emotions to details of early Christian history to what I would say to a disruptive congregant.

Most candidates make it through the MFC on the first try, while some are asked to do more work and return, and a small percentage are discouraged from pursuing ministry.

Prior to seeing the MFC, there’s much studying, both solo and with fellow ministerial candidates. And there’s the “mock MFC,” in which ministers and others form a “mock” committee, listen to the candidate’s sermon, and ask questions based on the packet. I’ve sat in on a few “mocks” at Unity, and they’re intense and very instructive – one of the many ways that this church helps prepare the ministers of the future.

Jim Foti can be reached by email at jim@unityunitarian.org and by phone at 651-228-1456 x109.



Rides Ministry
See page 9



PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP

Welcome Words

The theme for this month is blessing. It only seems fitting to reflect that in May of last year, I was just beginning my time here at Unity, just beginning to meet you and to get to know your names. What a year of blessings it has been! The blessings of new friendship and hospitality, of creativity and resourcefulness, of patience and encouragement, of growth and challenge – thank you for all that you have shared with me as we have created this ministry of congregational life together. It is a joy to be with you and I look forward to the blessings of the year ahead!

Lisa Friedman

Director of Congregational Life

Pathway to Membership Classes

Unity Church offers three classes for visitors who are exploring Unity as a spiritual home. Sign up at the Welcome Table on Sundays or contact Laney Ohmans at 651-228-1456 or laney@unityunitarian.org.

Welcome to Unity:

Our Class for Newcomers

Wednesday, May 8 • 7:15–8:30 p.m.
~ also offered ~

Sunday, June 2 • 12:15-1:30 p.m.

Find out more about Unitarian Universalism and Unity Church.

Finding Yourself at Unity:

A Deeper Exploration

Saturday, May 4 • 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
In this class, we will have an opportunity to share part of our religious journey, to discuss the expectations and benefits of membership, and get to know the programs and ministries of the congregation.

Committing to Unity:

Joining Unity Church

Saturday, June 8 • 9:30–11:30 a.m.
This class explores the deeper meanings and expectations of membership and shared ministry and includes a ceremony as participants sign the membership book. A New Member ceremony will be held on Sunday, June 9.

Welcome New Members!



Front Row (left to right): Marty Prentice, Aleks Kinclara, Trintsha Weir
Back Row (left to right): Sara Bucher, Marty Rarig, Henry Mott, Kathleen Heinlen, Peter Heinlen, Bridget Peterson, Maia Hendel-Paterson, Brett Hendel-Paterson

Marty Rarig: As a lifetime learner Marty has travelled a road of many experiences: marriage, divorce, teaching in the U.S. and Africa, returning to Minnesota to teach at an elementary school while raising two children and getting a Master's degree. Presently she loves to cook for friends and family, play bridge, read and exercise every day. Life is good.

Kathleen and Peter Heinlen: Kathleen and Peter are glad to have found an open-minded, compassionate congregation here at Unity Church. They look forward to continuing to grow here along their spiritual path, as individuals and as a couple.

Trintsha Weir: Trintsha was raised Unitarian and her father, the Rev. Bill Weir, was a Unitarian minister. She has been a part of Unity Church for many years and is excited to officially join and to become more involved.

Sara and Noah Bucher: Sara and Noah live in St Paul and have been married for four years. Eight years ago, they met at Dunn Bros coffee shop on Grand and Snelling. In January, they had their first baby- Francis Robert. They are very excited to join Unity Church! (Noah Bucher is not pictured.)

Marty Prentice and Henry Mott: Marty and Henry relocated to St. Paul in August 2012, and have since been regularly attending Unity. Marty is a Macalester grad, formerly a physical therapist, and currently a high-school math teacher. Henry has just recently retired from his environmental engineering faculty position with the SD School of Mines and is seeking the next set of professional challenges. They are delighted to have found a home at Unity Church.

Brett and Maia Hendel-Paterson: Brett, Maia, Quinn (7) and Wes (5) have been coming to Unity for three years. Brett works as a physician at Regions Hospital, doing internal medicine and palliative, tropical medicine, and teaches in global health at the University of Minnesota. Maia is a stay-at-home mom (who is rarely at home). As a family, they enjoy reading, the outdoors, and playing together.

Aleks Kinclara: Aleks earned an M.A. in Anthropology, then zigzagged from teaching to urban planning to food coop semi-driver and open hiring advocate, medical records specialist, and more. Aleks favors cats, forages wild edibles, ferments sauerkraut, and pledges to the ACLU, Center for Victims of Torture, Southern Poverty Law Center, TPT, and Unity Church.

Bridget Peterson: Bridget was born and raised in this church, and she has so many wonderful memories here. She has two children, Kate (5) and Duncan (19 months). They are a busy family! They enjoy spending time together going places, taking walks, reading and cooking. Unity feels like home to her. She is thrilled to finally be making this commitment to herself, to her kids and to the church.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Unity Church Welcomes Winnie Gordon!

Greetings Unity Church! My name is Winnie Gordon and I am very happy to be visiting with you, in my second home Minnesota where I lived for nearly 10 years. I had a variety of jobs while living in Minnesota, and earned a Bachelor of Arts at Metropolitan State University. My last employers were the State's Correctional Department, and as an Account Clerk at Hennepin Technical College.



Born and raised as a Catholic in Birmingham England, I would describe myself as a theist, more familiar with Christianity, but with respect for all faiths. I am drawn to practicing a spirituality developed from a mixture of ancient and contemporary expressions of religion. Hopefully, I will be able to learn more on Native American spirituality while visiting.

I discovered Unitarianism in 2006 through reading the book *A Chosen Faith* by John Buehrens and Forest Church. Three weeks later I was calling Unitarianism my spiritual home. Within 6 months of joining, I was leading services; and within the year, I was branching out to conduct services within the Midlands District. I have served Ministerial Placements at Kingwood Unitarian Meeting House, Birmingham; and I am presently serving Shrewsbury Unitarian Church in a Pastorate. In June, I will graduate from Unitarian College Manchester (UCM), and have my Valediction Service. However, in the meantime, I am in the process of candidating.

I am looking forward to talking with you, exploring the differences and the commonalities between British and American Unitarianism, and strengthen our relationships. Maybe together, with a sharing and fusing of ideas and practices, we can enrich our ministry and communities.

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

Unity Church–Unitarian
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Ongoing Groups at Unity Church

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

A New Look at the Bible: Second Thursday of the month (May 9) at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528.

Afterthoughts: Sundays after the 9:00 a.m. service. This group will meet after the 10:00 a.m. service during the summer. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528 for more information.

Caregivers Group: An informal support group for caregivers. Third Thursday of the month (May 16) from Noon–2:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at janne@unityunitarian.org for more information.

Evergreen Quilters: Second Tuesday of the month (May 14) from 7:00–9:00 p.m. and fourth Saturday of the month (May 25) from 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Contact: Peggy Wright at 651-698-2760 for more information.

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

Living With Grief Group: A group for people living with grief and loss. Third Tuesday of the month (May 21) from 7:00–9:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at janne@unityunitarian.org for more information.

Men's Retirement Group: Monday, May 6 and 20, from 1:00–3:00 p.m. Contact: Phil Morton at 952-934-3578 for more information.

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

Unity Book Club: Second Tuesday of the month (May 14) from 7:00–8:30 p.m. The book they will be discussing is *Haunted Ground* by Erin Heart. Contact Jack Hawthorne at jack.hawthorne@comcast.net for more information.

Unity Bridge Club: Friday, May 3, at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Priscilla Swartz at 651-454-3209.

Women's Retirement Group: Second and Fourth Thursday of the month (May 9 and 23) from 1:00–3:00 p.m. Contact Leah Doherty at doher001@umn.edu.

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

CHALICE CAMP

Friends
Fun

Crafts
WATER



Singing
GAMES

Chalice Camp Week 1: June 24-28
Chalice Camp Week 2: July 8-12

Share in summer fun and Unitarian
Universalist values with Unity
friends entering grades 1-6.

Our camps run Monday-Friday,
from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily.

Payment

Early-bird tuition is \$200/week
per child if paid by May 1.
After May 1 tuition is \$250/week

Registration, payment, and
applications for junior and senior
counselor positions are available
online at www.unityunitarian.org.

Evergreen Quilters Pre-Mother's Day Boutique

May 5 • After morning services

Any mother, grandmother, or favorite mother figure, would love to receive a one-of-a-kind hand crafted gift fashioned by the talented members of Evergreen Quilters. You'll find items designed to fit every gift giving budget... or allowance. The boutique will be open Sunday, May 5, after both morning services. Mothers and grandmothers will be available to help young children find the perfect gift.

All proceeds from Evergreen Quilters "pop-up" boutiques got to support Unity's outreach programs. Your generosity at the Valentine boutique in February produced \$600 for Sharing Korner Foodshelf.

Take advantage of this opportunity to present your mother with a thoughtful gift knowing that another mother will also benefit.

Elders Gathering: End-of-the-church-year lunch!

Thursday, May 23 • noon to 2:00 p.m. • Parish Hall

Ministerial Intern Jim Foti is no chef, but when he wants to show people how much he appreciates them, he cooks them a tasty meatloaf. And because he has very much appreciated the Unity Elders Group these past two years, it's time for a meatloaf farewell lunch! We'll gather at noon in the Parish Hall, and if it's nice out, we may try to move the party outside. Jim will provide the main course; please bring something to share. All are welcome at Unity's Elders gatherings. For more information, or to offer a ride or inquire about receiving one, please contact Jim at jim@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x109.

Call for Art

Unity Church-Unitarian is accepting applications for exhibits during the exhibit calendar year 2013 / 2014. Exhibits run monthly from September 2013 through July of 2014. Exhibit guidelines and applications can be found online at the church website: <http://www.unityunitarian.org/parish-hall-artists.html>. **Application deadline is May 24, 2013.** Please contact Cynthia Starkweather-Nelson by email if you have any questions: starkweathernelson@cstarnel.com.

What are you doing for G.O.D.?

In this case, G.O.D. refers to Grand Old Day, the only day of the year when hundreds of pedestrians pass by Unity, offering us a rare chance to reach out to people who may not have any idea what a Unitarian Universalist is. This year's Grand Old Day is Sunday, June 2, and Ministerial Intern Jim Foti is gathering ideas and volunteers for doing something special outside our new front door. Handing out paper fans with our website printed on them? Sidewalk chalk art with inspiring quotes from Unitarians? A station to refill water bottles? Contact Jim if you're interested in taking part, jim@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x109.

Boston Pilgrimage: October 11-16, 2013

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

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

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Summer Worship

From Memorial Day through the Sunday after Labor Day, there is just one service each week at 10:00 a.m. Lay-led worship services begin July 7. Religious Education ends on May 12, but starting May 26 Summer Sundays in the garden (an outdoor program for children and youth) will be offered during the 10:00 a.m. summer service.

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 Martha at the Church Office at martha@unityunitarian.org. The available dates are June 3 through August 25. The flowers need to be arranged in a vase and placed in the chancel by 9:15 a.m. on the Sunday you select.

Young Adults Group at Unity Church

Dear young adults: do you enjoy coming to Unity for the sermons but then feel adrift at coffee hour? Would you love to have someone to discuss the sermon with over a cold beverage or a basket of tater tots? Would you like to help design the programming that you want to see here at Unity Church? Yes? Are you also between the ages of 21 and 35? If so, please email laney@unityunitarian.org for more information about our nascent Young Adults Group.

Join Unity Gardeners

We have big plans for spring and summer! As the snow melts, we will discover exciting new garden spaces around the new entrances. We will be designing, planting and maintaining these new spaces as well as revitalizing the old gardens along Grotto and Portland which suffered from construction and drought last summer. There is much to do and we welcome all levels of experience! If you enjoy working with flowers and foundation plantings, contact Ethel Griggs at c.griggs@comcast.net or 651-429-0064 to learn more about the Unity Gardeners team.

Job Transitions Group

The Job Transitions Group meets each Monday morning from 9:00-11:00 a.m., in the Anderson Library.

If you are newly without employment, retired, contemplating retirement, between jobs, or discerning an employment or vocational change, you will benefit from the conversations, resource sharing, exercises and camaraderie this group supplies. For more information contact Janne at janne@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x106.

Women's Retirement Group

There is a new Women's Retirement Group forming here at Unity Church, and all are welcome. You are warmly invited attend upcoming meetings which will be held on Thursday, May 9 and 23, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. The group plans to meet twice a month on the second and fourth Thursdays. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Leah Doherty at doher001@umn.edu.

Rides Ministry



Unity's Rides Ministry helps people get to Sunday worship. If you don't drive or don't have a car and could use a lift, please contact the main church number, 651-228-1456, and the volunteer or staff member who answers the phone can check to see whether any of our more than 60 volunteer drivers might be able to help out. And we can always use more volunteer drivers – for more information or to sign up as a regular or occasional driver, contact Jim Foti at jim@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x109.



**UNITY
TOMORROW
IS TODAY!**

*Share the Enthusiasm
Share the Goal*

We have \$2.3 million to raise.
How will we do it?
As a congregation, we will
commit to purchasing
920 shares at \$2,500 each.
(Payable immediately or through 2015.)

Fill out a form online at
www.unitytomorrow.org
or stop by the Unity Tomorrow
table in the Parish Hall
on Sundays.

Scan the codes below with your smart phone to find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!



WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY

Wellspring Wednesday is a multi-generational opportunity to gather together midweek at church for food, fellowship, and fun. Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m., followed by worship at 6:45 p.m., and an evening of rich programming beginning at 7:10 p.m. All are welcome. Childcare is available and you do not have to sign up in advance.

Dinner: The cost for dinner is: \$7/adult, \$4/child ages 5 to 12, \$2/child ages 2 to 4, and \$20/family, and can be paid by cash or check. (Children under the age of 24 months are free.) Reservations for dinner are not required. Financial assistance is available to cover the cost of dinners; contact Lisa Friedman by e-mail at lisa@unityunitarian.org or by phone at 651-228-1456 x107.

May 1

Dinner menu: Mediterranean five-lentil and chard stew with walnut (or nut free) gremolata, salad, dessert

From Choice to Justice: Our Spiritual Work 40 Years After Roe with Rev. Kelli Clement

Labels are polarizing and do not help us strengthen our movement for reproductive health, rights and justice. Come learn about the UUA's Congregational Study Action Issue (CSAI) and how we can increase our conversational capacity in this ongoing work that is pastoral, prophetic, and progressive.

Rev. Kelli Clement is the Executive Director of the MN Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. A Unitarian Universalist community minister in affiliation with First Universalist Church, she is a part of the national speakers bureau of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project. Kelli lives with husband Mike (whom she met at a pro-choice rally!), daughter Fia, and poodle Memphis, near Lake Nokomis in Minneapolis.

Open Writing Page Session with Rev. Karen Hering

A blessing, according to John O'Donohue, "is a circle of light drawn around a person to protect, heal, and strengthen. . . . A blessing awakens future wholeness." Join in a May Day writing session exploring the wholeness and the healing found in blessing and being blessed. Free; RSVP karen@unityunitarian.org. More information about Open Page Writing Sessions can be found on page 11.

Healing Arts 101 with Christine Huff

Have you heard of Acupuncture? Homeopathy? Ear Candling? Chiropractic care? Many people have heard of these different holistic health options, and wonder what they are and how they can help. In this session, we'll talk about alternative/holistic medicine in general, and we'll cover specific practices as well. Feel free to bring questions!

Religious Education Orientation for New Families

May 8

Dinner menu: local bratwurst and Polish sausage, baked beans, coleslaw, and brownies

Autism Awareness

Join Kerri Meyer and Unity parents to reflect on the blessings that families receive through their children who have special needs. This session will share information about autism, and include a panel of Unity families who are raising children who are diagnosed on the autism spectrum.

May 8 continued...

Exploring Soul's Uncertain Ground with Bonnie Ploger

Like spiritual journeys, travels in potent places in the natural world involve difficult challenges, which, if overcome, bring new strength and understanding. Such journeys within the soul and through the wilderness inspire the artwork of Bonnie Ploger, a lifelong Unitarian. Join Bonnie for a multimedia presentation about the creation of her Parish Hall exhibition, "Soul's Uncertain Ground," which involved artistic investigations of her personal experiences exploring caves with inward investigation of the psyche. After the presentation, all are invited to stay for a discussion.

Bonnie Ploger is an Artist in Residence at the Center for Global Environmental Education and Professor of Biology at Hamline University. Her teaching integrates art-making with environmental awareness.

Beyond Third World Tourism with Andrea Bond and Charles Skrief

Meet Bolivians who, working with Mano a Mano, have built health clinics, classrooms, teacher housing, roads, and reservoirs in rural Bolivia. In 2012, Andrea and Charles, with Mano a Mano Bolivia staff, visited seven villages where they interviewed and filmed dozens of teachers, medical clinic staff, and community members who have benefitted from Mano a Mano projects. Like other visitors to Bolivia—other "third world tourists"—they returned from their experience with a new appreciation for the difference between the poverty they observed and their own relative affluence. Andrea and Charles will talk about their experience and show films featuring the people they met.

Healing Arts 101 with Christine Huff

See May 1 for description.

Welcome to Unity: Our Class for Newcomers

See page 6 for details about *Pathway to Membership* classes.

May 15

Dinner: roasted vegetables and baked potato bar

All Church Talent Show

Have a hobby or a skill you'd like to share with the congregation? Join us for our annual barbeque followed by the Unity Talent Show. We'll enjoy music, dance, jokes, readings and more... it's a VERITABLE TORNADO OF TALENT! Performers of all ages are welcome; acts should be appropriate to a family event. The performance is held in the Sanctuary. Sign up for a slot at the Welcome Table in the Parish Hall or email Kerri@unityunitarian.org.

Open Page Writing Sessions



Led by Consulting Literary Minister Karen Hering, Open Page writing sessions are opportunities to correspond with the "still, small voice within." Using stories, poetry, images and objects as well as wisdom from religious teachings, science and history, participants reflect on the month's theme in their own words and on their own pages. No writing experience is necessary.

Wednesday, May 1

7:00-9:00 p.m. • Unity Church

Reflection Topic: Blessing

Free; RSVP karen@unityunitarian.org

A blessing, according to John O'Donohue, "is a circle of light drawn around a person to protect, heal, and strengthen. . . A blessing awakens future wholeness." Join in a May Day writing session exploring the wholeness and the healing found in blessing and being blessed.

Other Literary Programming

For more information about additional writing programs offered in other locations, visit www.unityunitarian.org/literary-ministry.html, or to receive periodic e-mail notifications of Karen's upcoming literary programs at Unity Church and elsewhere, contact karen@unityunitarian.org.



What's New in the Library and Bookstall!

From Shelley Butler, Library and Bookstall Team

Just in Time for Planting Season

Turn Here Sweet Corn: Organic Farming Works by Atina Diffley is winner this year of the Minnesota Book Award for Memoir and Creative Nonfiction, and my pick for Best Book Title Ever. If you buy from the Whole Farm Co-op, are interested in the progress of Frogtown Farms, are learning much from worship associate Bailey Webster's intelligent enthusiasm, or simply believe in the Unity mission of "acting and investing in environmentally responsible and sustainable ways," then this book is likely for you. Find it in the Anderson Library.



From the description:

In telling her story of working the land, coaxing good food from the fertile soil, Atina Diffley reminds us of an ultimate truth: we live in relationships—with the earth, plants and animals, families and communities.

A memoir of making these essential relationships work in the face of challenges as natural as weather and as unnatural as corporate politics, her book is a firsthand history of getting in at the "ground level" of organic farming.

The Fabulous 5th Annual Café Unity

Unity's own coffeehouse, Café Unity, celebrated its 5th anniversary in April with singers, musicians, writers, storytellers, poets, and cake. In the past five years, 55 unique people have shared their musical talent and/or their original literary work. Thank you to the Unity staff and Unity congregation for supporting this event that features the remarkable gifts and talents of our community. A good time was had by all.

Write. Draw. Paint. Take a Photo. Tell a Story. Read a Story.

Painters, photographers, poets, memoirists, storytellers — oh, let's just say, artists and writers of every kind — please contribute to *Cairns: The Unity Church Journal of the Arts*, Vol. 5, 2013. We need you! For early consideration of your work, send us your art and/or writing by June 3, 2013. Or send us your work anytime over the summer up until the final deadline of October 7, 2013. For more information and to submit online/by email, please visit the "Cairns Arts Journal" page under "Service & Learning" on Unity's website.



Have you ever fancied being on a magazine staff? The *Cairns* Committee is looking for a few good art and literary editors, proofreaders, and helpers to produce the next issue of our beloved literary journal this year. If you are interested, please contact us: cairns@unityunitarian.org.

SUMMER CAMPS / COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

UU Summer Camps

CHALICE CAMP

at Unity Church

See page 8 for details.

Openings at Camp UniStar



Camp UniStar, a camp for UU individuals and families located on Star Island

in Cass Lake, still has openings for this summer! Please visit www.campunistar.org for details. Openings are still available during the following weeks:

June 1–8: Work Week: Barn Raising

June 22–29: Stage Play

July 6–13: Bending the Rules: Jazz and Art

July 13–20: Finding Flow in a Chaotic World

August 17–24: 1 Step, 2 Step, 3/4 Time

August 24–31: Move That Body!

Camp StarTrail

July 28-August 2

At Camp StarTrail in Ashland, Nebraska, UUs of all ages explore nature, share meals, sing songs, worship together, create art and get to know other UUs from the Prairie Star District. Further details and registration information are available at www.psduua.org/Camps/CampStarTrail.

Campers also have the unique opportunity to learn from and interact closely with a nationally acclaimed UU speaker. This year, the speaker is Rev. Meg Riley, Senior Minister, Church of the Larger Fellowship.



Following on *The New Jim Crow*

The Unity Church Restorative Justice and Racial Justice outreach ministry teams are working on steps for further action as a response to discussions of Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness*. At their first joint meeting in March, the teams prioritized responses suggested by participants (about 150 total) in February. An April meeting looked to further prioritization and the development of Unity's relationships with appropriate (present and future) partner organizations.

Dismantling the U.S. system of incarceration is a massive challenge, but it is a goal toward which many of the Beloved Community feel compelled to begin. In that light, the two "RJ" teams are working to provide a plan for action now as well a framework to provide opportunities, in partnership, for service, learning, and advocacy around dismantling the New Jim Crow.

- To view the entire list of suggestions for follow-up generated at the two book discussions, see <http://bit.ly/newjimcrowactionideas>
- Civil rights activist Van Jones will speak on the rededication of Unity Church on Sunday, May 19, at 2:00 p.m. (See back cover for details)
- For more information, contact: Pat Haff at pat@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 or Terri McNeil at tmcneil003@yahoo.com or 651-699-9896

Faith Builders Habitat for Humanity

The Unity Church Affordable Housing Ministry team is cosponsoring a Habitat for Humanity "green" build as a partner in Faith Builders this summer. A Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity "green" build integrates building practices that reduce detrimental impacts on the natural environment, promote healthy indoor air quality for occupants and reduce energy costs while increasing the long-term affordability of homes. Watch for dates, details, and how to sign up to help build with Unity's Affordable Housing Ministry Team!



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

A Moral Voice on Haiti Recovery

One of the important Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) partnerships is located in Haiti. UUSC is currently taking a moral stand in favor of recovery efforts in Haiti that respects both people and the planet. The UUSC stand on earthquake recovery in Haiti is asking the U.S. government to do the following: pay closer attention to what's happening in Haiti and issue a detailed progress report; put the needs of the most vulnerable people first; respect the inherent worth and dignity of the Haitian people; release the U.S. government funds already set aside for recovery in Haiti and invest funds in projects that respect people and the planet—and that actually work in the long term.

For a more complete explanation of this effort visit www.uusc.org/haiti and join the more than 900 people who have already signed the statement in favor of putting people and planet first in Haiti.

The UUSC is a non-sectarian organization that advances human rights and social justice in the U.S. and around the world. Through a combination of advocacy, education and partnerships with grassroots organization, UUSC promotes economic rights, advances environmental justice, defends civil liberties and preserves the rights of people in times of humanitarian crisis.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Project Home at Unity Church

Writing the May Project Home *commUNITY* newsletter article in mid-April is always something of a challenging. Meetings have been held. Plans have been made. Recruitment tables have been staffed. Announcements have been read. Volunteers have begun to populate our new Sign-Up Genius spreadsheet. It is possible that by the time you read this, every detail will be resolved; every shift will be filled. It is equally possible, and perhaps more likely, that there will be more open shifts, overnights in particular, than our small committee can manage on our own. In that case, urgent pleas will go out, and you will respond. How can we say this with such confidence? We know this to be true just as we know that spring, which has been so absent up until this point, will also arrive.

Project Home is part of the rhythm of our congregational life. As busy as we all are, we know that many, many of you look forward to this opportunity to spend time with our guests. Project Home gives us that rare chance not just to “do for” but truly to “be with” people who need us. Our church provides more than just a roof over our families’ heads and strong doors to keep out the unknown, at least for a time. We do not simply turn over the keys and say “have a good night; good luck with the rest.” We stay with them. We talk and laugh and play with them. We welcome them when they arrive and let them know how much we hope to see them again when they leave. We give our families the chance to engage, but we are also able to give them a private space to retire to, knowing that this option might better suit their needs on occasion. For that brief volunteer window, we are truly in community with them. We are real to these families, and they are real to us. It is no wonder we have such faith in Unity’s ability and willingness to respond when, and if, we have gaps in our coverage.

Even if you have missed the training sessions, new and experienced volunteers are always welcome and quick walk-through refreshers will be available. (see dates below). Feel free to stop by the Project Home table after each service or go directly to <http://bit.ly/ProjectHomeSignUp> to sign up for any available slots. Your presence is all the gifts and talents we require at either our evening (5:30-8:30 p.m.) or overnight (8:00 p.m.–7:00 a.m., Sunday–Thursday and 8:00 p.m.–9:00 a.m. Friday–Saturday) shifts. We look forward to spending this time with you.

Project Home Volunteer Walk-Through Refreshers

- May 5 • 10:15-10:45 a.m.
- May 12 • 10:15-10:45 a.m.
- May 19 • 10:15-10:45 a.m.

Whole Farm Co-op Deliveries

Whole Farm Co-op deliveries to Unity Church have been suspended. Please contact Pat Haff at 651-228-1456 x126 with questions or visit www.wholefarmcoop.com to learn about other ways to order goods from Whole Farm.



Evergreen Quilters Pre-Mother's Day Boutique

Buy one-of-a-kind gifts at the Evergreen Quilters' Boutique on Sunday, May 5, in the Parish Hall after the morning services. You'll find items for any gifting budget and all proceeds support Unity's outreach programs.

Generosity Ministry

Giving Away the Offering

Each Sunday, 70% of the offering is given to non-profits nominated by Unity Church members and chosen by the Generosity Ministry Team with approval from the Executive Team. Priority is given to local non-profits for whom our collection makes a significant difference. The remaining 30% supports the Community Outreach Ministry at Unity Church.

Giving away the Sunday Offering is one way Unity Church-Unitarian strives to be an agent of transformation within and beyond our church community. This Generosity Ministry is motivated and sustained by our commitment to live out the values of our liberal religious tradition in the world.

Nominate an Offering Recipient

Do you have a favorite non-profit? Would you like it to receive the Sunday offering? Fill out YOUR information below and return this form to Pat Haff, Coordinator of Community Outreach Ministries, at the Church Office. A member of the Generosity Ministry Team will forward a “Nominate the Offering” form to you. Offering nominations are also accepted online at <http://www.unityunitarian.org/generosity-ministry.html>

Your Name

Your Address

Your E-mail

Your Phone

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH

May 15 All Church Talent Show

See page 10 for details and sign up for a slot at the Welcome Table in the Parish Hall or email kerri@unityunitarian.org.

Dedication of Older Children - May 19

Families who would like their children ages 4-12 to participate in our annual Dedication should contact Kerri in the Church Office. This ritual provides the church an opportunity to commit itself to raising up children who have come into our community as "big kids." The children process to the chancel (unaccompanied by a parent), receive a chalice and a certificate and read a responsive litany of dedication with the congregation. This dedication is appropriate for families who have joined Unity as members or who are on the pathway to membership.

Summer Sundays in the Garden begin May 26!

When the church switches to our 10:00 a.m. summer worship schedule, we offer regular nursery care plus a fun garden-centered program for children ages 4-12. No registration is necessary but our drop-in capacity will be limited by the number of adult volunteers present. Regular R.E. resumes September 15. See the box at right for details!

Our Whole Lives and Coming of Age

Registration materials are coming in the mail! Watch your post! (If you need extra copies, contact Drew Danielson in the Church Office.)

Family Ritual Workshop

Saturday, May 18 • 9:00 a.m. – noon • Parish Hall

For parents who have struggled with the absence of family rituals in the Unitarian Universalist tradition, we are offering a workshop on a family ritual that both you and your children can enjoy. Kids will make their own chalices while parents explore the blessing and challenges of parenting as a UU. We will demonstrate the meal ritual we have created and practice it together over lunch. Please contact pamelajohnson@onebeacon.com if your family would like to participate.



Here are the brave youth of Unity Church-Unitarian who spent April 19 on the street in solidarity with the 2500 youth in Minnesota who were homeless that night and truly had nowhere to lay their heads. They also raised several hundred dollars and contributed the funds to Beacon Interfaith Housing. Thanks to stalwart leader Drew Danielson and heroic chaperone Christoph Meyer-Grimberg for taking on the most hard-core church sleepover imaginable.

The Children's Garden returns this spring!

A group of devoted volunteers met in the green space on a Saturday in April to construct garden beds for the Children's Garden. They are now ready to be planted! Our children will be planting, weeding, watering, harvesting and tasting on Sundays all summer long while their parents are in services. We expect to grow plenty of produce to share with neighbors in need too.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer signups will be handled through Signup Genius, just a click away on the church's website!

Summer R.E. Teachers

We are looking for adults and youth to help teach on Sundays in the summer. A willingness to share a love of the out-of-doors in general and gardens and food in particular with children is all that is required.

Garden Tenders

Do you like to get your hands in the dirt? Or help water, weed and harvest? You can be a Garden Tender! Individuals, friends and households with children of all ages are encouraged to sign up to tend our garden for a week at a time. Garden Tenders choose to come any day during their week. Tasks vary with the weather and will be determined on Sunday afternoons for the following week.

Donations Needed

Do you have extra vegetable seed or plants from planting your own garden? Left-over fencing materials? Lumber? A compost pile you no longer use? Consider donating such items to the Unity Children's Garden! We also need produce containers (what strawberries come in) for packaging our donations. Contact Anna Newton at 651-483-2986 or newtona@comcast.net if you have something to donate, or for more information.

May Parish Hall Artist

Bonnie Ploger

Soul's Uncertain Ground

In my paintings and monotypes I seek to connect inner exploration of the psyche with the emotional experiences evoked by potent places in the earth such as caves, cliffs and canyons. This work began with my exploration of lava tube caves during a scientific expedition in Hawaii shortly after my father died, and just before my mother's passing. My paintings and monotypes represent the arc of feelings that I have experienced in my personal journeys in actual caves and through metaphorical depths from grief through joy.

Seductive, mysterious and frightening, caves nourish both life and decay. Similarly, my paintings may produce primal feelings of shelter or threat. Other work investigates seeing and feeling at a smaller scale, by suggesting the mysterious patterns in the surfaces of stone, where imagined animal and human forms may flow into one-another.

I do not paint specific places from memory or photographs. Instead, I paint the feelings evoked by imagined landscapes of the earth's interior as filtered through my deepest self.

Artist at Coffee Hour

Sunday, May 5, the artist will be available for conversation during coffee hour after the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services.

Artist Reception

Friday, May 10, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. All are invited to come enjoy the art and refreshments.

Wellspring Wednesday: Exploring Soul's Uncertain Ground

May 8, 7:15-8:30. Join Bonnie for a multimedia presentation about the creation of this exhibition, followed by discussion of questions such as "What helps you access your deepest self, your soul?" See page 10 for details.

Music Notes

From Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministry

All art is a terrific bridge. The arts are not just entertainment. Music, paintings, words, they really do speak to the soul, to the heart, to the spirit, to each and every one of us human beings and members of this one tribe. Members of this one planet. — Julia Cameron

Music has so many blessings contained within it and in "the joining" with its expressive output. Joining includes participation in its creation, performance and reception. Music enlarges all that we can articulate and expresses the unsayable, helping us to tap into all corners of our innermost selves. How better to celebrate these blessings than to share some wonderful thoughts about this great art. I, also, encourage you to share with me any of your experiences that speak to this idea.

When you play music you discover a part of yourself that you never knew existed. — Bill Evans, pianist, composer, jazz musician

The sound of the sea, the curve of a horizon, wind in leaves, the cry of a bird leave manifold impressions in us. And suddenly, without our wishing it at all, one of these memories spills from us and finds expression in musical language.....I want to sing my interior landscape with the simple artlessness of a child. — Claude Debussy

Music: breathing of statues. Perhaps: silence of paintings. You language where all language ends. You time standing vertically on the motion of mortal hearts. Feelings for whom? O you the transformation of feelings into what?— into audible landscape. You stranger: music. You heart-space grown out of us. The deepest space in us, which, rising above us, forces its way out,— holy departure: when the innermost point in us stands outside, as the most practiced distance, as the other side of the air: pure, boundless, no longer habitable. — Rainer Maria Rilke

Arthur Foote Music Sunday

Sunday, May 5 • 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 4:30 p.m.

Come celebrate the blessings of music with our Children's Choir, Women's Ensemble, Unity Singers, Unity Choir, percussionists and Artaria String Quartet playing 15 minutes before each service!

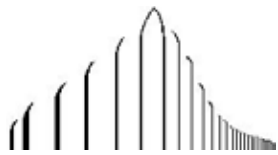
Children's Musical Celebrates 25 Years

We would like to invite people to share their memorabilia, stories, and knowledge of past shows — and help us plan a story for 2014 that honors the 25-year history. If you are interested in helping, have information to share, or own a copy of one of the posters from a musical listed below, please contact Rene Meyer-Grimberg at 651-298-9711.

Missing musical posters:

- 1991 *A Dragons Tale*
- 1992 *Snowbound: a Purimspiel*
- 1993 *Fancy Feat*
- 1994 *The Lot*
- 1995 *The Magic Violin*
- 1996 *Freedom Friends*





UNITY CHURCH-UNITARIAN

Sanctuary Entrance: 733 Portland Avenue • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104
Business Entrance: 732 Holly Avenue • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104
651-228-1456 • fax: 651-228-0927 • www.unityunitarian.org • unity@unityunitarian.org

MARG WALKER, CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REV. JANNE ELLER-ISAACS, CO-MINISTER
REV. ROB ELLER-ISAACS, CO-MINISTER
BARBARA HUBBARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
REV. LISA FRIEDMAN, DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

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PERMIT NO. 1141

**TIME SENSITIVE
MATERIAL**

Building Rededication Ceremony

Unity Church welcomes Van Jones

On Sunday, May 19, at 2:00 p.m., the congregation will gather in the Sanctuary to rededicate our church home. We are thrilled that Van Jones will be the primary preacher at the ceremony. We will also welcome a number of community leaders including Mayor Coleman.

Following the ceremony we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of Growth & Justice. Growth & Justice is a research and advocacy organization that develops innovative public policy proposals based on independent research and civic engagement. Growth & Justice believes that when Minnesota makes smart investments in practical solutions it leads to broader prosperity for all. See the box at right for details.

Church leaders are thrilled that we are able to further our partnership with Growth & Justice in the context of the celebration.



Van Jones is president and co-founder of Rebuild the Dream, a platform for bottom-up, people-powered innovations to help fix the U.S. economy. A Yale-educated attorney, Van has written two New York Times Best Sellers: *The Green Collar Economy*, the definitive book on green jobs, and *Rebuild the Dream*, a roadmap for progressives in 2012 and beyond. Van is currently a CNN contributor. In 2009, Van worked as the green jobs advisor to the Obama White House. There, he helped run the inter-agency process that oversaw \$80 billion in green energy recovery spending. Van is the founder of Green For All, a national organization working to get green jobs to disadvantaged communities. www.vanjoness.net

Growth & Justice and Van Jones

*Rebuild the Dream:
Urban Job Development*

**Sunday, May 19 • 5:00 p.m.
Unity Church-Unitarian**

Van Jones's work and advocacy synchronizes with Growth & Justice's ambitions to broaden prosperity by making smart investments in practical solutions that improve our human capital and physical infrastructure. Van Jones is a great motivational speaker, an antidote to cynicism and political dysfunction, but he's much more than just talk. Rolling Stone named him last year as one of "12 Leaders Who Get Things Done."

Purchase tickets online at
www.growthandjustice.org

Growth & Justice is seeking sponsors from businesses, non-profits, and individuals. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for this event, please contact Dane Smith at dane@growthandjustice.org.