

Unity

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 Wednesday evening programming; and in our community outreach ministries, our literary journal and programs, and many other opportunities. The September theme is Unity.

“Wait a minute,” you might be saying. “Isn’t unity *always* the theme at Unity Church?”

In a sense, yes. But unity can have many interpretations, and no one alive today is certain why our congregation’s founders decided to call it Unity Church. (The “Unitarian” was added to the name later, to avoid confusion with other kinds of churches with “unity” in their names.)

Our congregation was born in the 1870s, and the best guess is that our name is related to a group of Unitarian leaders who called themselves “Unity Men.” Based in what is now called the Midwest and frequently at odds with their New England counterparts, the Unity Men were a radically modernist element in Unitarianism in the latter half of the 19th century. William Channing Gannett, one of Unity Church’s earliest ministers, was among the Unity Men, and the group opposed basing Unitarian fellowship upon any doctrine, aspiring instead to find unity in common efforts to improve human life. The group’s periodical, called *Unity* and published for decades, had as its motto “Freedom, Fellowship, and Character.”

Freedom might seem to be a good rallying call to achieve unity, and indeed, educated, progressive people tend to believe everyone wants freedom. But educated, progressive people in our current culture often have their basic needs met, and if they had to choose between freedom and, say, food, they might soon discover a lack of unity around the primacy of freedom.

Such is the danger of universalizing when pursuing unity. Can we find unity without believing that all people want

the same things? Without believing that all people want what we want? Without believing that we are more the same than actually may be the case? Universalizing about the human family can deny its complexity. (Universalizing is not the same thing as Universalism, which is the belief that all are saved.)

Perhaps unity is less about aspirations than it is about the unity of the human condition: we are all born, live, and die, and each of us frames our existence around these realities.

Unity can also be about the unity of God, an idea that set Unitarianism apart from its predecessor religions. Embracing the idea that God is one, not the three-in-one being of the Trinity consisting of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Unitarianism came to affirm the humanity of Jesus, and we may celebrate the “divine spark” that appears to animate each human.

Unity can be seen as one of the distinguishing factors between being spiritual and being religious. Many of us come to church because we wish to do our seeking in communion with others, because we long to be affirmed in our unity with other spiritual beings. In our theologically pluralistic faith, we come together to be reminded of our common humanity and our common divinity. “The religious community has the saving vision. It is the ancient prophetic vision of human unity, now become an urgent pragmatic necessity,” said William Sloane Coffin, the Presbyterian minister known for his civil rights and anti-war activism.

“The first drive is to belong,” according to Jeremy Rifkin, the author and activist, and a sense of unity in a religious community can help fill that desire

– the desire to, in Raymond Carver’s words, “feel beloved on this earth.” And Tolstoy, long before the 20th century’s fears of global nuclear war or the 21st century reality of global climate change, was among those who perceived the full breadth of human connection: “I now understand that my welfare is only possible if I acknowledge my unity with all the people of the world.”

– By Jim Foti, Mae Gibson Wall, and this month’s cover article “theme team”

Unity Resources

Amazing Grace and Chuck. In this 1987 feature film, a 12-year-old boy protests nuclear weapons by refusing to play with his Little League team, and an NBA player joins the effort.

Infinite in All Directions. This book by Freeman Dyson, a world-renowned physicist, looks at the unity and diversity of the universe and of life on earth.

Invictus. This 2009 dramatic film starring Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon depicts how Nelson Mandela used a rugby team to unite the apartheid-torn land.

The Singing Revolution, a 2006 documentary, tells the story of Estonia’s non-violent opposition to Soviet control.

Whose Is This Song? This 2003 documentary from the Balkans explores how different ethnic groups all claim the same melody as their own.

Just Words

*Peace shall walk softly through these rooms
Touching our lips with holy wine
'Til every casual corner blooms into a shrine*

From *Prayer for This House* — Louis Untermeyer

Every time we have been in town during our vacation time, we have driven past the church v-e-r-y s-l-o-w-l-y. So curious, so anxious to see inside, so wanting to know about every little twist and turn of the project. We have driven slowly by, round and round the church. I think some of the regular crew got to know the small blue car that would occasionally show up and drive by at least a couple of times. We felt well informed by email updates and the newsletter, though we felt as if we were devouring the weekly construction updates as if we were starving. (Thank you, Martha Tilton, for all your efforts to keep us well informed about the ongoing developments of the project!)

Finally back from vacation and moved into our offices in the duplex, we scheduled a tour of the building. We were led through the entire building by a team of McGough Construction staff, our architects, and our able and amazing Owner's Representative, Lorelee Wederstrom. I know you won't be surprised that it was a religious experience for Rob and me. It probably won't surprise you either that we cried as we walked the halls. We toured the building with the team as our Scott, the site superintendant, explained the surprises, changes, and challenges the crew has faced. You could see the pride in his face as he described the solutions to each one. You could feel his investment in the building and the project as he told us how he felt about each surprise. He and the team went on to explain their efforts to unify the building visually and mechanically. Scott explained that McGough was also working on a much larger project but that everyone agreed, ours was much more challenging and complex. Again, pride of accomplishment shown in their faces.

We saw huge air handling systems and new electrical equipment. We saw miles of new piping and rooms they didn't know existed in the basement. We saw the promise of the new structure taking shape. We saw the light pouring in where the stairs will come down to the Religious Education lobby. We saw the new nursery taking shape. We saw workers spraying insulation foam in the upper level. We saw a crew hard at work that included women and people of color. We saw workers in every sector of the building obviously working diligently and intently. Through the loud noises, you could also hear conversation and laughter as the crew talked with one another as they worked.

As I was leaving the chapel, Liz, the project manager, took me aside and said, "You know that this project was slated to have another site supervisor assigned. But that didn't happen and you got Scott, who is amazing and clearly the right person for this complex project. I am convinced that God had a hand in the switch." Now, I must admit that I don't see God operating in quite the same way as Liz, but we are in complete agreement that the construction crew understands that they are part of renewing and revitalizing a holy shrine.

The crew will ably do what they have contracted to do. They will do so with pride and competence. When they are done, it will be our job to reinvest in this holy place which possesses such a rich heritage and such a promising future. I can't wait!

In September, tours for members and friends of the congregation will be available. I encourage you to take the opportunity to see all the emerging changes. I encourage you to feel apart of the ongoing process of turning casual corners into holy shrines. When we do so we honor the past, present, and future.

— Janne

The Wheel of Life

In Celebration

Emil Theodor Shearer-Frazier

Born one more redeemer

July 31, 2012

to parents

Janis Shearer and Johannes Frazier

Enter here for Sunday worship.



During *Unity Tomorrow* construction, access to the Sanctuary is available each Sunday through the entrance located at the southeast corner of the Sanctuary on Portland Avenue (see photo above) and through the accessible entrance in the parking lot on the east side of the Eliot wing. Weather permitting, coffee hour will be held on the front porch and lawn of the church-owned duplex located at 722 Holly Avenue.

commUNITY is the newsletter of Unity Church—Unitarian. It is published monthly, except the month of July. Deadlines are the 14th 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
732 Holly Avenue
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104
phone: 651-228-1456
www.unityunitarian.org
unity@unityunitarian.org

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY WORSHIP CALENDAR

Worship Calendar

Sunday worship 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.

September 2: 10:00 a.m. service only

***The Color of Our Labor* — Dane Smith**

The civil rights movement and the labor rights movement are inseparable and in urgent need of renewal in our community and our state. The Twin Cities has the highest disparity in the nation between black and white unemployment, likely a product of one of the nation's widest gaps in education achievement and success. Almost 50 years after Minnesota's Roy Wilkins and Hubert Humphrey helped push through federal Civil Rights legislation, a highly visible color line separates our society and unfairly compensates our labor force in ways we cannot sustain. Many economists now agree that greater equality is the superior model for long-term business health. Musicians: Michael Davis, flute and Kathleen Bartholomay, piano.

September 9: *Merging of Waters*

10:00 a.m. service only • See back cover

Come merge the waters of the world in a service of reunion as we come together as the one congregation we too often forget that we are to celebrate our unity and welcome all the travelers home. The service, held at the park behind Obama Elementary, will begin at 10:00 a.m. with half an hour of music by our beloved friend, singer-songwriter, Peter Mayer. Then the ministers and Kerri Meyer will lead a service for the whole church family.

September 16: 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 4:30 p.m.

***The Danger of Universalizing* — Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs**

At the heart of our liberal faith is the conviction that all people are one. But paradoxically, we all possess multiple identities. How do we hold the reality of our unity without denying the fact of our diversity? Janne and worship associate Terri Burnor will explore the spiritual complexity of holding these seemingly oppositional truths together.

September 23: 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 4:30 p.m.

***Big Wheel Runs by Faith* — Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs**

The High Holy Days are more than a time for reconciliation between individuals. They also offer an opportunity to work toward healing the broken circles of connection in our lives. Rob and worship associate Neil Bray will offer a service intended to help us to restore the sense of unity within, among and beyond us. The service will include an opportunity to forgive ourselves and each other.

September 30: 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 4:30 p.m.

***When the Heart Opens* — Rev. Lisa Friedman**

It has been said that creativity is the greatest human resource that we have. It keeps us flexible, imaginative, joyful. It stretches us to do that which we once thought was impossible. But what is the spiritual gift of creativity? To what truth does it open our hearts?

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.**

September 2: HIRE Minnesota

HIRE Minnesota is a coalition of organizations and activists working together to end employment disparities in Minnesota. HIRE unites people across racial, cultural, geographic and issue boundaries to work toward ending unacceptable racial employment disparities and putting all Minnesotans back to work. Minnesota Unitarian Universalists Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA) works very closely with HIRE Minnesota.

September 9: Got Water?

Water is a human right. Increasingly, people around the world are denied safe, affordable, and adequate water for their basic human needs. This issue is happening here in the United States where 11.5 million people in California do not have safe drinking water and this summer, drought is covering more than 60 percent of the U.S. Join the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee **Got Water?** campaign by supporting the human right to water—internationally, nationally, statewide and locally.

September 16: Center For Victims of Torture (CVT)

CVT exists to heal the wounds of government-sponsored torture of individuals, their families, and communities. They are based in the Twin Cities and have healing centers in St. Paul, Minneapolis, and in refugee camps around the world. Unity Church has supported CVT's efforts to ban our government's use of torture and has also provided coats, art supplies, meeting space, individual work with clients, massage therapy materials, money, and volunteer time gardening and painting at the St. Paul Healing Center.

September 23: The Family Place

The Family Place is a daytime center located in Saint Paul, providing intake and assessment services to homeless families with children. The center opens when the evening overflow church shelter closes and other drop-in shelters for single adults are not appropriate for children. Meals are offered three times a day, seven days a week. The Unity Church Evergreen and Affordable Housing Outreach Ministry teams support the work of Family Place.

September 30: Standing on the Side of Love Minnesota Project

This new project will utilize social media strategies to communicate thoughtful and supportive pastoral responses to the fight for Marriage Equality in Minnesota from the Unitarian Universalist perspective. It will promote Unitarian Universalism as a welcoming and safe haven for people and their families in the LGBTQ community and beyond. The project will include produced videos and daily prayers as well as an interactive element for viewers. The hope is to hold the pain and challenge of this divisive time within the embrace of our faithful response of standing on the side of love and justice.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES / 2013 PLEDGE TEAM

Letter from the Board of Trustees

From Bob Peskin, Chair

At its August meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the nomination of five candidates for the Anti-Racism Leadership team. These five Unity Church members will join those currently serving on the ARLT (Drew Danielson, Pauline Eichten, Alana Howey, and Sarah Pradt) to realize the vision of Unity Church-Unitarian "as an anti-racist community that is actively engaged in dismantling racism both internally and in the wider community in a manner that is accountable to communities of color."

Rob Fulton has been a member of Unity Church for 15 years. He is retired from his work at Saint Paul-Ramsey Public Health. He has been involved in issues of institutional racism throughout his life and most recently during his tenure at Ramsey County. Rob is a father and grandfather of racially diverse children and grandchildren. Most recently he has served on the Board of Trustees.

Brooke Darst Rice was raised Unitarian in Indianapolis and joined Unity Church with her partner, Mark, in 2006. She is the mother of two boys, Wellington (3) and Walker (15 months). Following an initial career in arts marketing she has found her life's work as a physical therapist at Courage Center. Working for the YWCA of Minneapolis since 2000, Brooke has committed her energy to recognizing white privilege in our community and looks forward to continuing that work with Unity Church.

Mary Morris has been a member of Unity Church since the late 80s. She has attended classes, was a leader of the Pizza Wellspring Wednesday team, and has participated in circle suppers. Five years ago she retired from a lengthy career in human resources. Since then Mary has been involved in various volunteer activities, including working with the YWCA supporting their mission of Eliminating Racism. Her interest in anti-racism stems, in part, from a class she took at Unity Church in the early '90s, "Spirituality and Social Justice in a Multi-Cultural World," which was an eye opener for her. Mary also volunteers with different neighborhood groups, enjoys film, jazz and travel.

Avi Viswanathan is a passionate social justice advocate and works in the field of racial and economic justice. As the Coalition Organizer for HIRE Minnesota, he works with organizations, activists, and government agencies to ensure that investments in job creation reduce racial disparities and lift people out of poverty. As a person of color, and having faced economic hardship, Avi came to this work through personal experience. Prior to HIRE, Avi received his Juris Doctorate from Suffolk University Law School and worked for legal aid in disability advocacy and low-income housing issues. Avi also worked for Senator Al Franken's office in Saint Paul before running for State Senator in District 67. Avi lives in Saint Paul with his wife Kara Younkin, and their two sons, Harrison and Bennett.

Mary-Margaret Zindren, her husband Sean, and their two girls Olivia (11) and Anna (8) became members of Unity Church about two years ago. During her nearly 15 years on staff at the League of Minnesota Cities, Mary-Margaret led their "Building Inclusive Communities" effort, working with city governments to foster communities that welcome and support new immigrants. In her new position as executive director of the Hennepin County Bar Association, she aims to build upon a strong history of providing access to justice and growing the number of attorneys of color and LGBT attorneys who attain positions of leadership. In August, Mary-Margaret completed her Master of Public Affairs degree at the U of M's Humphrey School, with a focus in public and nonprofit leadership. With her new-found free time she hopes to complete a screenplay, grow her agate collection, and spend more time truly relaxing with family and friends.

Carry It Forward

2013 Pledge Drive Gala Evening
Saturday, October 13, 2012

A gala evening at Steppingstone Theater including fabulous food, music, and special guest Kevin Kling!

Join us for an evening to celebrate the vibrancy of our church, a place that challenges us to grow *within* and share *among* in a spiritually vital, welcoming community, and reach *beyond* our church home.

The Annual Pledge Drive maintains and sustains this vital work. While we witness the changes to our beloved building, funded by the Capital Campaign, it is your operating pledge that keeps the lights on, programs humming, and provides us with our incredible staff. For those of you who have made a sustaining pledge, join us on October 13 so we can share our gratitude for your generous commitment. For those of you needing to make a 2013 operating pledge, this evening will be a time to do so.

*"We have a future yet unseen,
but so full of promise."*

Unity Church-Unitarian,
our church, our home:

Carry It Forward

Steppingstone Theater is located just a few blocks from Unity Church on Victoria Street and Holly Avenue. Parking will be available at the William Mitchell College of Law lot. Childcare will be provided.



Kevin Kling is best known for his popular commentaries on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*.

Kling's autobiographical tales are as enchanting as they are true to life: hopping freight trains, getting hit by lightning, performing his banned play in Czechoslovakia, growing up in Minnesota, and eating things before knowing what they are.

MINISTERIAL INTERNS

Mae Gibson Wall

2012-13 Hallman Ministerial Intern



Greetings, Unity! I am Mae Gibson Wall, your new Hallman Ministerial Intern. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to learn from and with you all as I begin to understand the dynamics of large-church ministry. I come to you having already completed two part-time internships (with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth and the Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church in Virginia, MN), as well as an internship as a hospice chaplain. I received my Master of Divinity degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School in May.

Here are some things I love: new beginnings, the anticipation of autumn, lively liberal churches, and my darling two-year-old daughter, Maisy. You can imagine my excitement these past few weeks at moving into a new home, starting a new internship that has me immersed in church life, and exploring my new city hand-in-hand with Maisy – all with that energizing feeling of fall on the horizon.

My path to St. Paul originated with my upbringing in central Florida and has included time in Chicago and Seattle as well as six years in New York City, where I attended the Atlantic Theater Company acting conservatory and co-founded a theater company with my now-husband, Matt. For me, the transition from theater to ministry is a very natural one, and the reason for that has to do with this month's theme of unity. We humans have an instinctual need to tell stories – and to hear stories – in community. The theater and the sanctuary both serve this need. When we go to the theater, we gather together to share wisdom about life and to give each other the courage to keep going. We speak for those who sometimes cannot otherwise be heard. We inspire one another to live more boldly and to love more freely. We sit elbow to elbow, eyes and ears transfixed on the scene in front of us, so that we might leave better people than we arrived. Sounds a lot like church, doesn't it?

It is a wonderful thing to know that we are not alone on our journeys, and wherever we go to feel this meaningful sense of unity, we are blessed to find ourselves there. Thank you all for being warm and welcoming to me and my family as we come to walk alongside each other on our own unique journeys. We look forward to being a part of your loving, living community.

Happy autumn!

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



My summer was full of conversations – with family members and old friends, with congregants at summer services, with UUs at General Assembly and Camp Unistar. Two conversations that particularly stood out were with people whose names I did not know, and our time together lasted less than five minutes. These were not the easiest of conversations, crossing as they did social, political, and theological divides, taking place as they did in the middle of a street festival, but they were respectful and important, and I'd like you to know about them.

As a volunteer at an interfaith table at Grand Old Day, my job was to engage passers-by on the topic of the anti-marriage amendment. Handing out stickers to the diverse range of committed “no” voters was fun and uplifting, but the task of engaging likely “yes” voters was equally rewarding.

While standing on the pavement with a woman who was planning to vote “yes” because she saw heterosexual procreation as the purpose of marriage, I shared with her that I didn't view the marriages of infertile or elderly opposite-sex couples as being any less worthy than marriages of people who had children. I could see something shift behind her eyes – she hadn't quite thought of it that way before.

In the second conversation, a young husband and wife told me that they were planning to vote “yes” because their church urged them to. I assured them that their church's practice of its sacraments would not change one bit if they voted “no” or left the question blank (which counts as a “no”), and I told them that many Minnesotans' lives would be made more difficult if they voted “yes.” As we said cordial goodbyes, I congratulated them on their upcoming one-year wedding anniversary, and they smiled. If those of us who believe in love and equality continue to be involved in these kinds of conversations, the day will come when all couples have anniversaries to smile about.

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

Church Calendar Update

The Church Office will be closed Monday, September 3, in observance of Labor Day.

On September 16 we will return to our three-service Sunday schedule with services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Welcome Words

At the Unitarian Universalist congregation of my childhood, seven words greeted me every time I walked into the church. "Here let no one be a stranger." The message was clear – you are welcome here, just as you are. You are welcome in this community, in this faith, in this humble house of the Holy, where all are equal in our humanity. You are welcome, wherever you are on your journey, and we are glad to walk with you. I have already felt the warmth and power of Unity's welcome in my short time with you. As we begin a new church year together, I invite you to help me extend the welcoming spirit of Unity Church to all who enter our doors, whether they are entering for the first time or returning home. See you in church!

Blessings, Lisa

Welcome to Unity: A Class for Newcomers

Sunday, September 23 • 12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

If you would like to find out more about Unitarian Universalism and Unity Church, we invite you to join us for a *Welcome to Unity* class led by Rev. Lisa Friedman, Unity's Director of Congregational Life. Together, we will explore the mission and vision of this church, as well as historical and contemporary Unitarian Universalism. We will also have time to reflect on our own faith journeys and religious questions. To sign up, email julieh@unityunitarian.org. Childcare is available by contacting Christy Randall at christy@unityunitarian.org at least one-week in advance.

Finding Yourself at Unity: A Deeper Exploration

Saturday, October 6 • 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Finding Yourself at Unity is the follow-up class to *Welcome to Unity*, led by Rev. Lisa Friedman, Director of Congregational Life. Together, we will have an opportunity to share part of our religious journey, to take a more in depth look at Unitarian Universalism and the history of Unity Church, to discuss the expectations and benefits of membership, and get to know the programs and ministries of the congregation. To sign up, contact Julie Handberg at 651-228-1456 or julieh@unityunitarian.org. Childcare is available by contacting Christy Randall at christy@unityunitarian.org at least one-week in advance.

Elders Picnic

Friday, September 14 • 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. • Hidden Falls Park

The Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs and new Hallman Ministerial Intern Mae Gibson Wall will be joining us for a potluck picnic of food, fellowship, and fun. We have reserved the picnic shelter at Hidden Falls Park. Please bring a dish to share. Beverages and picnic supplies will be provided. We'll gather rain or shine, and the shelter has electricity and restrooms. For questions or to inquire about receiving or providing a ride, please contact Mae at mae@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x129.

Ongoing Groups at Unity Church

All Unity Church groups have been asked to find alternative meeting spaces throughout the Unity Tomorrow 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 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 (September 13) at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528 for meeting locations during construction.

Afterthoughts: Sundays after the 9:00 a.m. service. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528 for meeting locations.

Caregivers Group: An informal support group for caregivers. Third Thursday of the month (September 20) from Noon–2:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at janne@unityunitarian.org. Watch for details about meeting locations.

Evergreen Quilters: Second Tuesday of the month (September 11) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and fourth Saturday of the month (September 22) from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Contact: Peggy Wright at 651-698-2760 for meeting locations during construction.

Grandparent Unitots!: This group is not meeting during construction.

Lectio Divina (Spiritual Reading): Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

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

Men's Retirement Group: Monday, September 10 and 24, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact: Phil Morton at 952-934-3578 for meeting locations during construction.

Unitots!: A playgroup for families with kids through preschool age. Unitots is not meeting during construction.

Unity Book Club: Second Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Contact Jack Hawthorne at jack.hawthorne@comcast.net for meeting locations during construction. The book they will be discussing on September 11 is *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See.

Unity Bridge Club: Friday, September 7, at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Priscilla Swartz at 651-454-3209 for meeting locations during construction.

Zen Meditation: Find renewal and grounding in the practice of Zen meditation. Tuesdays from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Meetings will resume September 11. Contact Ken Ford at kford5@comcast.net

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Wellspring Wednesday Wagon

Wellspring Wednesday dinners and programming will return in their full schedule on January 9 after the construction is complete. Some classes and opportunities for fellowship will continue to be offered this fall, as we move back into the building.

If you are longing to gather with other Unity Church folk midweek to explore topics of faith and spirituality, you don't need to wait until the new year –

the Wellspring Wednesday Wagon can come to you!

Each month we will be offering a Wellspring Wednesday Wagon box complete with a chalice, a short worship service, and a discussion guide around the monthly worship theme. This September, reflecting on unity, we will focus on those things commonly believed among us (to echo the words of William Channing Gannett). There will be an adult and family-friendly version offered. So consider inviting some Unity Church friends and neighbors over and bringing Wellspring Wednesday to you! Contact Lisa Friedman at lisa@unityunitarian.org to offer to host a Wagon gathering, or to sign up to attend one.

Dine with Nine



*Are you interested in getting to know more people at Unity Church?
Do you enjoy great food and lively conversation?
Would you like to help extend the hospitality of our community?*

Then we invite you to sign up for Dine with Nine (formerly Circle Suppers) this fall. Beginning in September, small groups of Unity members and friends will gather in each other homes once a month for food and fellowship. With our parish hall and kitchen still under construction, this is a wonderful opportunity to still enjoy a fabulous meal with other Unitarian Universalists! If you are interested in signing up or have more questions, email Teresa Wernecke at teresa475@gmail.com or fill out the online form at unityunitarian.org/dine-with-nine. Please include your contact information and let us know if you would like to sign up for a family or adult only group and whether you have particular location or transportation needs.

The Great College Search

Can't tell the SAT from the ACT? Got your Wheatons mixed up? Experiencing FAFSA freak-out? For high school families, finding a college can be a stressful for the whole family. Learn how to optimize the process and become a critical consumer of colleges. The first three weeks will cover these topics:

September 12 • 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.: Getting ready for the quest and conducting a search.

September 19 • 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.: Creating a list of schools and applying.

September 26 • 7:00-8:30 p.m.: Financial aid basics.

Sessions will consist of presentations followed by time for questions. They are designed for high school students and/or parents who are currently in or interested in starting a college search and application process. We'll also try to raise-up topics that might be of special interest to Unitarian Universalist searchers.

Craig Allen is a member of Unity Church and a certified college admissions counselor. He is also a member of the Higher Education Consultants Association (HECA) and the Minnesota Association for College Admission Counseling (MACAC).

Wellspring *A Year of* Spiritual Deepening

New daytime group forming.
Limited to 10 participants.

Do you yearn for deeper connection to your faith and to the people here? Do you wish you had a better grasp of our traditions, history and theology? Do you dream of a day when you have the time to create a daily spiritual practice? Then you might want to know more about Wellspring, a year-long curriculum designed with spiritual deepening as the goal.

Created by the Rev. Jen Crow, a former Hallman ministerial intern, Wellspring responds to the need for spiritual grounding in our own tradition and offers a five-spoke model of spiritual deepening. The five spokes are: daily spiritual practice, regular meetings of the Wellspring group, engagement with Unitarian Universalist history and theology, meeting monthly with a one-on-one spiritual director, and discerning our unique call in life.

Jen writes, "Engaged together, these five spokes create a powerful synergy that has fostered significant transformation in the lives of many of the participants. Most experience a deeper understanding and connection with Unitarian Universalism and their own spiritual lives."

Unity's Wellspring group this church year is designed for members who are available during daytime hours. The group will begin in September with a retreat and will meet two or three times a month through June 2013. Each session will have reading assignments that support our exploration and engagement of the topics and themes. To register, contact Song Thao by e-mail at song@unityunitarian.org or by phone at 651-228-1456 x115.

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

New and Returning Religious Education Families!

If you'd like to enroll your child(ren) or youth in Sunday School 2012-13, please join us on Wednesday, September 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This in-person session will orient families whose children are enrolling in Religious Education for the first time as well as welcome our returning families who need to register their children for the 2012-13 program year. Parents will sign up for the volunteer role of their choice and will sign their child(ren) up for an age-appropriate class. **If you attended one of the four registration sessions in April 2012, your child is already registered – see you on the 16th for the start of Sunday School!**

Please note the following about this registration session:

We're expecting more than 80 families, both new and returning, will attend this R.E. Orientation and Registration session. All families, new and returning, will be oriented to the year and to Unity's routines and policies through a brief presentation.

Childcare will be provided in the 722 Holly Avenue Duplex. Please consider dropping your children off at the blue duplex before arriving in the Sanctuary. Activities and a snack will be provided.

Pledging/voting families will be offered preference in registration, followed by returning 2012 R.E. Teachers. All new and all remaining returning families will then register. Help will be available with questions and problem-solving.

New families (including longtime Unity families whose preschoolers are enrolling in Spirit Play for the first time) will be asked to remain for additional orientation to Unity's Ministry with Children and Youth after signing their families up. Members of the Religious Education Ministry Team will help you review your sign-up and answer questions.

Yes, there are spaces remaining for your child! There is a spot for every child interested in growing up in our community. It's true that some classes are already full at a particular service while other classes have ample space for additional children. No one has been or ever will be turned away from our Religious Education program, but at this moment in the year, families will need to come with a flexible spirit and a willingness to consider service times other than their first choice.

- **This is NOT the orientation for Coming of Age**, the program for our 9th grade youth. **It's also NOT the orientation for Our Whole Lives**, the sexuality education program. See box below for more information.
- If your family is unable to participate in this final registration session on September 5, there will be a table staffed by members of the Religious Education Ministry Team on Sunday, September 9, following the Merging of Waters All-Congregation service. REMT members will help unregistered families to find classes for children and will assign remaining volunteer roles.

7th - 9th Grade Youth

There is still time to register for Coming of Age, our outstanding spiritual growth and enrichment program for 9th graders. To enroll, contact Drew Danielson, Coordinator of Youth and Campus Ministries at drew@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x112. An orientation for parents/guardians and mentors is on Sunday, September 9, from 1:00–2:30 p.m., following the *Merging of the Waters* potluck.

If you are interested in Our Whole Lives, a holistic sexuality and relationship program of the Unitarian Universalist Association designed for 7th–9th grade youth, please attend one of the following information and registration sessions: Thursday, August 30, in the Sanctuary, and Wednesday, September 5, at the duplex, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Meet the Staff

Ministry with Children and Youth

Kerri Meyer begins her 9th year as Unity's Director of Religious Education. Kerri oversees the religious education, fellowship and worship with and for children and youth from birth through college. If you have questions about the ministry, or if you have an exciting idea about how to deepen our connections and our practice as a great family of families, get in touch with her by phone at 651-228-1456 x104 or email at kerri@unityunitarian.org.



Christy Randall is our Program Assistant. For six years she's kept our teachers well equipped and classrooms well organized. Christy also oversees the church nursery and its dedicated staff. If childcare would allow your family to participate more regularly or more meaningfully in the life of the church, contact Christy. Unity Church is committed to providing care so that parents can attend classes, join teams or receive counseling. email: christy@unityunitarian.org phone: 651-228-1456 x127



Drew Danielson is Unity's new Coordinator of Youth and Campus Ministries. Drew succeeds Luke Stevens-Royer as the staff member who oversees the Coming of Age program, the Our Whole Lives program, Tower Club and the Macalester Campus Ministry. Please offer Drew a warm welcome and contact him with questions or needs related to youth from 7th grade through college. email: drew@unityunitarian.org phone: 651-228-1456 x112



MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Families, take NOTE!

- Until the construction on the chapel is complete, our children in grades 1-6 (enrolled in Workshop Rotation) will begin their Sunday in the Sanctuary with their parents at all three services.
- Children will join us for whole-congregation worship at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. They will enjoy the call to worship, opening hymn, embracing meditation, prayer and anthem; we will sing them out to their classes at the offering.

R.E. School Supply Drive for Bolivia!

Keep an eye on those September back-to-school clearance sales! Unity adults and kids will be collecting these school supplies in support of Mano a Mano's work in the rural villages of Bolivia:

- Crayons
- Eraser
- Glue - bottle
- Notebook - normal size
- Notebook paper - three holes
- Paper - heavy - colored (card stock)
- Paper clips
- Pencil Sharpener
- Pencils - black, red, multiple colors
- Pens - red
- Rubber bands - in addition to one wrapping crayons
- Ruler
- Scissors
- White jacket (looks like lab coat)
- Water color paints and brush
- Compass
- Geometric rulers (triangles, etc)



Gently used materials are also welcome! Starting in October or November we'll begin collecting these supplies through our Religious Education program. Watch the Sunday insert, *This Week at Unity*, for more information!

Teachers! Travel to Bolivia in 2013!

Are you a professional educator or one of Unity's amazing, dedicated Religious Education teachers? Join us for an information session on Sunday, September 30th, at 10:15 a.m. to learn about an exciting opportunity to learn and serve the children and teachers of rural Bolivia! We'll meet on the first floor of the Holly Avenue duplex.

In June of 2013, Kerri Meyer, Andrea Bond and Ann Mabbott will lead a team of teachers, loaded with gleaned and donated school supplies, to Japo, Bolivia. In this weaving village of the Bolivian highlands, our teachers will work with local Mano a Mano staff to offer support and training to Bolivian schoolteachers. We'll learn about Bolivian culture and educational practices and initiate friendships that Unity Church hopes to sustain for years to come. If you've been dreaming of witnessing Mano a Mano's work firsthand and sharing in the mission of Unity's partner in South America, this is moment! Questions? Contact kerri@unityunitarian.org.

R.E. Volunteers! Get the stuff you need!

If you've committed to volunteering Religious Education this fall, you'll probably appreciate having your lessons and teacher handbook in advance, right? Teacher Handbooks will be available for pick-up on Sunday, September 9 at Merging of Waters for the following volunteers:

- Spirit Play teachers
- Journey Guides
- Workshop Rotation leaders
- Fall Junior High teachers
- R.E. Welcome Teams

If you can't be at church on September 9 but need your materials immediately, let us know and we'll put them in the mail. Teachers whose responsibilities fall in the second half of the year will be able to pick up materials in January 2013.

Please note that due to the tight turnover between the end of construction, our move-in date, and the start of R.E., we will not be able to offer teacher training sessions prior to the start of R.E. If you have questions or needs, feel free to contact Kerri Meyer (kerri@unityunitarian.org) in the church office. Watch your monthly newsletter for training events on classroom management and faith development later in the year.

*It's going to be an exciting year
in Religious Education!*

Unity's Director of Religious Education Receives Shelter Rock Scholarship

Unity's Director of Religious Education, Kerri Meyer, is honored and grateful to accept a Shelter Rock Fellowship Grant which she will use toward a graduate certificate from Starr King School for the Ministry. The certificate program includes online and intensive residential seminary courses.

UNITY TOMORROW

Unity Tomorrow Update

From Lorelee Wederstrom, Unity's Owner Representative

Construction at Unity Church is clipping along! Hopefully you are able to keep up with the weekly updates sent out that give you an idea of what the workers are doing and what they are getting ready to do. They are very busy trying to move every aspect of the project forward so that we can have facilities ready for our use later this fall. We've had a few surprises again this month including an unstable Parish Hall floor and a buried fuel tank next to the Sanctuary. It's a good feeling to know that we have the right team on board to address these issues. Unity Church is getting scrubbed from the inside out!

As the new entry begins to take form above ground, sheet metal workers, plumbers and electricians abound everywhere within the building. Crews are installing new ductwork, air handlers, a beautiful new chiller, pipes, sprinklers and smoke detection systems. The lower level classrooms in the Eliot Wing will have already been painted and progress is being made on new flooring, lighting and ceilings. This will be the first area completed. Below is a very high level schedule of anticipated completion times

This schedule has been prepared in consultation with Unity Church staff in an effort to try and return as much

of the facility to programming as possible while maintaining an efficient construction effort and safe access for all. These dates are approximate and attempt to include inspection and re-occupancy efforts as well.

Beginning in September, the areas that will be programmable for use during limited hours will be the Sanctuary, the Ames Chapel and, by September 10, the lower level classrooms in the Eliot Wing. While we will be able to use these areas during limited hours, crews will still be on site during the week installing windows, cleaning stone, completing site work, roofing, and commissioning and testing our new mechanical systems—and more! The site will remain an active construction site until the middle of November. And of course, for week-end services, the construction team will ensure safe access and egress to all programmed areas of the building.

Please note that our contractor is expecting to complete their work ONE MONTH EARLY! The original completion date has moved from December 14 to November 15! This is an amazing effort on the part of McGough construction, their subs, and the entire project delivery team! Our hearty thanks to all the *Unity Tomorrow* project workers!!

Thank you to the members and friends of Unity Church—Unitarian who through their generous donations to the *Unity Tomorrow* Capital Campaign are making it possible to update and restore this beloved church building for generations to come.

Help us reach our \$8,000,000 goal!

If you would like to make a new commitment or increase your current commitment to the *Unity Tomorrow* Capital Campaign, please visit unitytomorrow.org or contact the Church office at 651-228-1456.



| Area | Work | Completion Date |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Ames Chapel | Sprinklers/HVAC | August 31 |
| Sanctuary | Fire detection | August 31 |
| Eliot Wing | Lower level classroom | September 10 |
| Restroom Addition | | October 1 |
| Exterior site work | Landscaping | Early October |
| Parish Hall | | October 12 |
| Eliot Wing | Main level offices | October 26 |
| Eliot Wing | Upper level | November 12 |
| New Entrance Addition | | November 15 |
| Kitchen | | November 21 |

UNITY TOMORROW

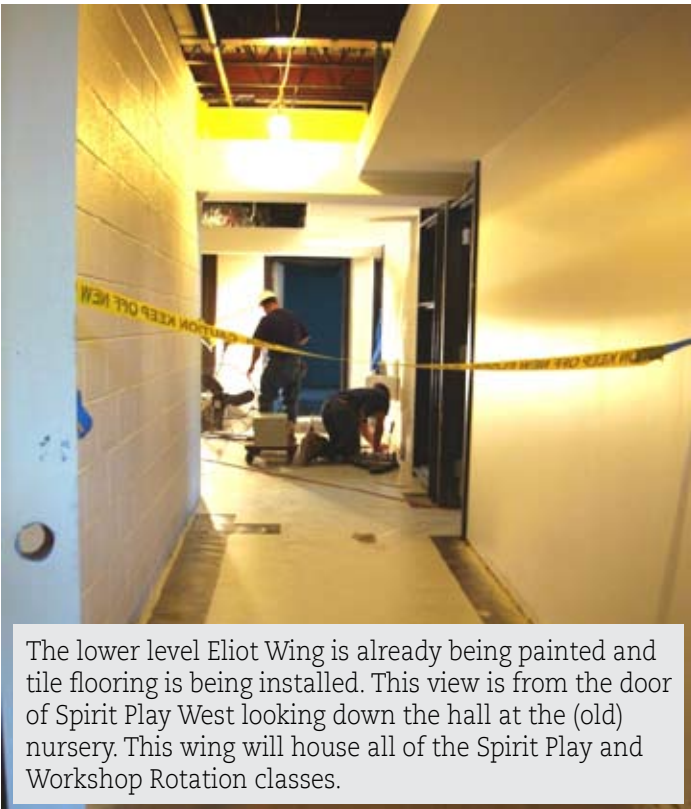
The new entrance as seen from the Ames Chapel. Just below the wall will be the stairs leading to the lower level.



The new fire pump for the new sprinkler system!



The new chiller in its new enclosure located at the north end of the Holly Avenue parking lot.



The lower level Eliot Wing is already being painted and tile flooring is being installed. This view is from the door of Spirit Play West looking down the hall at the (old) nursery. This wing will house all of the Spirit Play and Workshop Rotation classes.



The chiller lines are in and the alley has been blacktopped and reopened.

Help

Unity Church Defeat the Minnesota Marriage Amendment

The campaign to Defeat the Minnesota Marriage Amendment is in full swing at Unity Church. A main focus of the Minnesotans United for All Families campaign is to vote "NO" but also to have conversations about why marriage is important for everyone (a strategy that was not employed in other states that have lost this battle). The Unity Church effort is also encouraging people in the congregation to have these conversations. Over 50 church volunteers have begun calling other Unity

Church members and friends urging them to have these conversations with people they know about why they should vote "NO." These phone calls are a first step in reaching Unity Church's goal of having 4,000 conversations by election day.

Get involved with the campaign before it's too late.

Are you having conversations with friends, family, and acquaintances about the amendment vote?

If so, be sure to keep track of these conversations as there will be many opportunities to report those numbers to the church and the state campaign on a regular basis starting in September. (See box at right.)

Would you like to learn how to have these conversations?

Minnesotans United for All Families is continuing to offer regular trainings at various times and locations in the metro area. For conversation training opportunities and other information about the state campaign visit <http://mnunited.org/faithconversations>.

Would you like to help make calls to other members of Unity Church?

If so (and there are many people in the congregation that still need to be called), there are two calling sessions scheduled at the church: Tuesday, September 18, and Thursday, September 27. These sessions, held from 6:30–8:30 p.m., include a short conversation training and refreshments. If you would prefer to make these calls from your home, a training packet with the names of ten members of Unity Church will be sent to you.

Would you like to participate on the Unity Church planning team or the Greater St. Paul Interfaith United coalition that is meeting regularly to plan ways to defeat the amendment?

For more information about this or to volunteer with any of the above, please call Pat Haff, Coordinator of Community Outreach Ministries by email at pat@unityunitarian.org or by phone at 651-2281–1456 x126.

Defeat the Minnesota Marriage Amendment

CHALLENGE:

Have one conversation per week!

Members of the Unity Church community are being challenged to have one conversation about the Minnesota Marriage Amendment — per week — during the months of September and October. The goal is for the entire congregation to have 4,000 conversations by election day on November 6.

Report Your Conversations

Beginning September 2, share your own weekly conversation total— to be included in the congregational total—in one of the following ways:

- Send an email with your name and conversation count to Emmy or Harold Reppe at conversationscount@gmail.com
- Fill out the online form at: unityunitarian.org/conversations
- Fill out a short form during coffee hour following worship on Sundays
- Leave a voicemail message at 651-228-1456 x126

If you've had or are currently having conversations with friends, family, acquaintances, or coworkers, please report these to Emmy Reppe before Sunday, September 2, in one of the above ways.

All marriage amendment conversations count!

Progress with these conversations will be recorded weekly on a large graph at church (or the duplex temporarily) for all to see. Weekly updates will appear in *This Week At Unity*. Questions? Please contact Emmy Reppe at conversationscount@gmail.com or Pat Haff at 651-228-1456 x126.

65-Plus Against the Marriage Amendment

Minnesotans age 65 and over are the most likely age group to support the proposed constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, and the same age group has high voter turnout. So Minnesotans United for All Families has created a program called Senior-to-Senior, in which Minnesotans of retirement age call their peers during daytime hours to talk about the amendment. Minnesotans United has reported getting good results in moving these voters toward voting "NO."

A phone bank site has been set up in St. Paul, and training is provided. If you are interested in taking part in this very important work with a group from Unity, please contact Ministerial Intern Jim Foti at jim@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x109.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee News

From Mary Rossman, Unity Church UUSC Representative

Got Water? Is a UUSC campaign to ensure sustainable access to safe, sufficient, affordable water to every person by enshrining the human right to water into law – internationally, nationally, statewide, and locally.



When we gather on September 9 bringing water from places around the globe, our offering will be sent to support the UUSC **Got Water?** campaign.

“What could be more fundamental to human life than access to water? If that is not a human right, nothing is.”

UUSC President William Schulz at the Tom Lantos Commission Hearing

Water is essential for life. Yet, nearly 1 billion people lack access to safe water and 2.5 billion do not have adequate sanitation – more people have access to a cell phone than a toilet. The statistics (from UUSC.org) are staggering:

- 3.575 Million people die each year from a water related disease. That’s equal to the entire city of Los Angeles.
- 884 Million people lack access to clean water. That’s almost 3 times the United States Population.
- Every 20 seconds, a child dies from a water-related illness.
- Women spend 200 million hours a day collecting water.
- People living in slums often pay 5-10 times more per liter of water than wealthy people living in the same city.
- The water and sanitation crisis claims more lives through disease than any war claims through guns.

Do something about it! There’s no shortage of ways to make a difference.

- Go to the UUSC web site, click on **Got Water?** to get a newsletter, to get involved, to give the perfect gift, to join the team and to donate.
- The Reverend William Schulz, President and CEO of the UUSC is coming to Unity Church on December 8 and 9. Currently, only about 20 Unity households are members of UUSC. Many Unitarian congregations achieve more than 75% membership in the UUSC. Let’s welcome Dr. Schulz with a huge increase of household memberships in the UUSC.
- UUSC is an individual membership organization. As a member, you’ll stay up-to-date on human rights issues through mailings, action alerts and a subscription to *Rights Now*. Become a member at UUSC.org.
- Contact Marty Rossmann at rossm001@umn.edu for more information.

Voter ID Amendment

“What touches one affects us all...”

From Sue Conner on behalf of the Racial Justice Outreach Team, Voter ID Task Force: Terri McNeill, Jane Thomson, Carol Bauer, and Steve Lewis

Hymn #134, second verse: *“Our world is one world, the thoughts we think affect us all: the way we build our attitudes, with love or hate, we make a bridge or wall.”*

When we, as a country, take steps to restrict or impede the participation of our citizens in our democracy we betray those who fought for equal rights and equal access to those voting rights.

If I take a step to restrict or impede the participation of another citizen using his or her right to vote, that not only impacts that citizen, it impacts me. It is a step toward a society that excludes. It is another way of creating a society in which some have privilege and some don’t—even if both are citizens. If there is a voter ID requirement, I may stand at the voting booth, my photo ID in my hand, but I will know that there are others, citizens, with just as much of a right to vote as I, but who, for reasons sometimes beyond their control, cannot vote because of the ID requirement. The injustice of this invites us to create false rationales in order that we not see the truth. We will begin to create attributions to place on those who do not have the ID. The truth would be that because I have easy access to such an ID, I suddenly have the privilege of voting... while other citizens, with as much right to vote as I, do not have that privilege. The truth would be that we are continuing to uphold and create a society that wants a sense of privilege, a reality of privilege, rather than a full embracing of equality.

I love voting. I love the way we all can walk in—leaving our buttons and flags outside—and feel suddenly as though we are all neighbors in this world and we are all trying to do our part even if we disagree. The voting experience is one of trust and respect in our fellow citizens. We need to have voting rights made *more* accessible to citizens, not less. Our country needs *all* of us voting in order to be able to create a society that will work for all of us.

I urge all of us to take action steps.

Educate yourself on the Voter ID issue. Notice what is happening in other states on this issue. You will see that this is only a piece of a larger strategy to limit voting rights. Read websites. Ask yourself “Why has this become an issue? Minnesotans used to be able to be proud that registration and voting was so accessible here. What has changed? What forces are working to change our attitudes? What sort of relationship with each other is this step trying to create?”

Please vote "NO" on the Voter ID amendment.

Autumn Equinox Reflection

The Autumn Equinox, or Mabon, occurs midway between the longest day of the year, at Summer Solstice, and the longest night of the year, at Winter Solstice. It is called an Equinox from the Latin “equal” and “night” because (as on the Spring Equinox) the night and day are the same length. In 2012, the Autumn Equinox occurs at 9:49 a.m. on September 22.

Autumn Equinox reminds us not only to be grateful for the fruits of the long Summer—from actual garden harvest to the completion of projects, wishes, and dreams—but also to prepare for the growing darkness. Just as in our daily life, the daytime of work and play is followed by a slowing down in the evening and then restorative sleep, autumn is a part of the natural seasonal cycle. After a time of intense growth and passion comes a time of slowing down and then in winter, a time of rest. This slowing down gives our bodies and souls a chance to integrate all that has been accomplished, so that we have the space to recognize and allow what is most needed next in our growth. It is a time of balance, of honoring both the light and the dark, of witnessing the gifts of the earth and the onset of crops dying as the earth enters dormancy. This seasonal cycle is part of our nature, too, and aligning with it helps us to lead balanced lives.

In what ways are you harvesting the fruits of your labor this year? What are you grateful for? For balance, take some time to reflect on the darker aspects of your soul as well. What has not come to fruition as you had hoped? Are there unfulfilled dreams and regrets? Can you include and be grateful for all of it? You may want to write in a journal, or try a short ritual alone or with friends. A ritual could include:

- Decorating with yellow, gold, or autumn colors;
- Lighting two candles representing the balance of day and night, of light and dark, of harvest and fallowness—they could be black and white or whatever two colors represent this to you.
- Sitting in silence and reflecting on your harvest from the summer, both the things you are grateful for and the regrets or unfulfilled dreams.
- Nourishing yourself with bread, apple cider, nuts, squash, corn, or any local, freshly harvested food;
- Naming or making a list of the things you are grateful for (your harvest);
- Naming or making a list of your regrets and unfulfilled dreams;
- Sitting quietly and breathing into both, knowing that both are needed for you to become whole: “Breathing in, I am breathing in [*specific gratefulness or regret*], Breathing out, I am breathing out [*the same gratefulness or regret*].”
- Saying thank you and blowing out the candle.

After the Autumn Equinox, the days slowly become shorter and shorter, until at Winter Solstice, we’ll be back to the longest night. May you welcome and find grace in this changing of the seasons.

— Autumn Blessings,
Katy Taylor
Seasonal Coordinator Worship Associate
katy@thewingedheart.net



What’s New in the Library and Bookstall

From Louise Merriam, Library Team

“Everything changes,
nothing remains without change.”

This quote from the Buddha tells us that change is a constant. That’s what you will see when the libraries and bookstall reopen in the fall after construction ends. Look for some exciting new ways to access reading material and more for children and adults. And until then, keep on reading!

Submit to the Journal and join the community!

Cairns: The Unity Church
Journal of the Arts, Vol. 4, 2012

“Every day brings us invitations to leap – or to step cautiously, even reluctantly – into our lives. To move forward despite our fears, to let the world bless us with its wind and its waters, to step away from what we have known before and to think a new and full thought as we do.”

— Karen Hering, “Time to Think a Thought,” *Cairns* Vol. 3, 2011

Have you considered that your own perspective, your questions, your very thoughts are a gift to be shared with our congregation? To be in community, we rely on give and take with one another to stretch our knowledge and points of view, share our joys and sorrows, learn from the past, imagine the future, and to be reminded to see the joy and beauty among us. Please contribute to *Cairns* and share your gifts with Unity Church.



Deadline for ART:
**October 1. Deadline for POETRY
and PROSE: October 8.**

Photo: *Quetico Cairn* by Ann Hite.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Music Notes

From Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministry

“Each morning we must hold out the chalice of our being to receive, to carry, and give back.” — Dag Hammarskjöld

Choir as connection! Over and over I learn that the experience of "choir" is connection. Connection with creativity, with various perspectives of interpretation, with others, with one's own deep self... with joy, humor, pain... life. Ansel Adams says of all art that, "it is the recreation on another plane of the realities of the world, the tragic and wonderful realities of earth and people, and of all the inner relations of these."

When I first came to Unity Church, someone stopped me in Parish Hall with the burning need to ask a question after a service in which Unity Choir sang, "How do you get that many Unitarians to do the same thing at the same time?" Well, I hadn't been here long enough to know how complex a question that was and cannot even remember what my response was! However, thirteen years later the answer is simple. Shared intention. Shared reason. Shared vision. Shared experience. Connection... *within, among and beyond.*

Consider it! Come and sing community!

Sing in a Unity Church Choir

Here at Unity Church we have a vital choral program and invite you to consider joining us this year. Yes, for the adults, it is a huge help to have some musical experience such as music lessons at some time in your life or having sung with a choir. Of course, if that is not in your background but you have a passionate interest and the courage to jump into the flow of things in order to learn a new skill, we invite you to come and sing with us. We have a great time together! Please feel free to contact Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministries, with any of your questions at ruth@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x118.

Beginning in SEPTEMBER:

- **Children's Choir** (grades 1 - 5) watch for information about meeting location: Sunday, September 16, from 10:00–11:00 a.m. Kathleen Radspinner, director
- **Unity Choir** (adult, high school and beyond) meets in the Sanctuary: Thursday, September 6, from 7:30– 9:15 p.m. Ruth Palmer, director
- **Unity Singers** (auditioned membership) meets in the Sanctuary: Tuesday, September 11, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Ruth Palmer, director

Beginning in DECEMBER:

- **Carmina Singers** (adult, high school and above): Specifically, this group will SING AT THE 4:30 SERVICE. Rehearsals will be from 3:30 to 4:15, Sunday afternoons. Please let Ruth know of your interest in the Carmina singers. Check *commUNITY* every month for dates and announcements. Ruth Palmer, director
- **"Walk-in" Choir** (adult, high school and beyond) - An opportunity for those who would love to sing but just cannot make choir rehearsals. Come and meet together for a few rehearsals and combine with other choirs! Specific dates will be announced. It could be a folk song with guitar, a round, an African call and response, etc. Please let Ruth know of your interest in the "Walk-in" Choir. Check *commUNITY* every month for dates and announcements.
- **Women's Ensemble:** This originates with the group of women who worked with Ruth at the Women's Retreat in January 2011. Our hope this year is to rehearse regularly every other week from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., Sunday mornings. Please let Ruth know of your interest in the Women's Ensemble. Check *commUNITY* every month for dates and announcements. Ruth Palmer, director

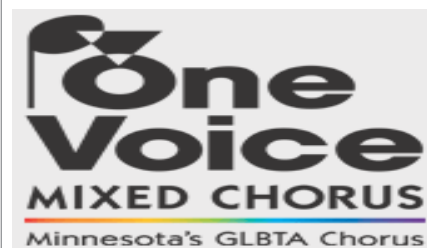


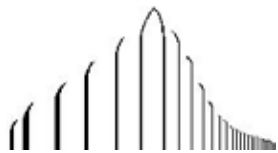
Music Support Team

Please consider joining with us to support the many associated needs for our singers, musicians and entire music program area. We need your help as greeters, Welcome Team, kitchen assistance, music filing, upkeep of musical supplies, and more! Events and areas of need such as the Holiday Carol Sing/Concert/Dessert Buffet, Foote Music Sunday choir receptions and Choir/Storage Room need your unique abilities. And, SPECIAL this year only.... unpacking and organizing music program areas in mid-November. Please feel to contact Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministry, with your interest and questions at ruth@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x118.

Join One Voice Mixed Chorus on Stage!

We are Minnesota's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allies chorus. Auditions for our Fall 2012 season will be held August 27 and September 4. Contact One Voice to schedule your singer-friendly audition! We're especially looking for bass singers so come on out! One Voice rehearses from 7:00-9:30 p.m. on Monday nights. For a complete performance schedule and audition information visit <http://www.ovmc.org/audition-information.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
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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**TIME SENSITIVE
MATERIAL**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

What difference can the Unitarian Universalist Association make in the world?

An invitation to dialogue.

September 19: First Unitarian Society

900 Mount Curve Avenue, Minneapolis, in the Dietrich Room
Light supper at 6:30p.m., session from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

September 20: First Universalist Church

3400 Dupont Avenue South, Minneapolis, in the Cummins Room.
Light supper at 6:30 p.m., session from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

September 23: White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church

328 Maple Street, Mahtomedi, in the Social Hall.
Light lunch at 1:00 p.m., session from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

You're invited to explore, with other Unitarian Universalists in the Twin Cities area, what gives life and strength to our Unitarian Universalist faith. Attend one of the upcoming two hour long Gathered Here sessions to discover our common aspirations as UUs and consider how we might build our strengths for the future.

Gathered Here is a joint initiative of the Unitarian Universalist Board of Trustees and the UUA administration. **This activity involves one-on-one discussions about important topics that identify what makes Unitarian Universalism come alive for us. We will then come together to identify common themes that the UUA Board and Administration will use to shape the direction of the Association.** We also expect to discover ideas and initiatives that we might want to develop across congregations in the Twin Cities area.

Help unleash the power of our faith! No need to RSVP, but if you are bringing a large group, please let us know so that we will have enough food.

For more information contact Laura Park, member, Unity Church-Unitarian, local Gathered Here coordinator and facilitator at 651-271-7666 or laura@laurapark.name.

Merging of Waters

*Worship Service and Picnic
September 9 • 10:00 a.m.*

Bring the water you have collected over the summer and come merge the waters of the world in a service of reunion as we celebrate our unity and welcome all the travelers home. Music by our beloved friend, singer-songwriter, Peter Mayer.

The service and picnic will be held in the park directly north of Barack and Michelle Obama Service Learning Elementary (which is located directly north of Unity Church).

What to bring:

- Water for the ritual
- Blanket or chair
- Picnic lunch for yourself and something to share

Beverages will be provided.

Nursery care for children under age three will be available during the service.

Biking, walking, and carpooling are encouraged!