



White  
Bear  
Unitarian  
Universalist  
Church

# The MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

328 Maple Street | Mahtomedi, MN 55115 | Phone: 651.426.2369 | [wbuuc.org](http://wbuuc.org)

January 2017

## Salvation: the practice of healing

Find resources for spiritual practice at [wbuuc.org/themes](http://wbuuc.org/themes).



To see this month's issue of *Show Your Soul*, visit [wbuuc.org/show-your-soul](http://wbuuc.org/show-your-soul).

You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read. Or you see. Or you weep. Or you pray. Or you speak. Or you write. Or you fight so that one day everyone will be able to walk the earth as though they have a right to be here. When that day of jubilee finally arrives, my children, all of us will be there with you, heads held high.

- Edwidge Danticat, based on James Baldwin

"I've been a Christian all my life," said one man, who said he was a Baptist, "but if my church can't say yes to this, I'm not sure what my church is for." One woman, a Roman Catholic, stood to say, "*The Church can't exist just to give me the sacrament once a week and make me feel good about myself.*" Three people at our table, all members of a synagogue in the western suburbs, nodded their assent.

We were at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in St. Paul, a small group from WBUUC on an icy, late November night. We

**"Our congregation stands in a long tradition of radical hospitality."**

joined 200 others from many congregations, at a quickly-convened meeting, to which organizers had hoped 30 might show up. Alarmed by pre-election rhetoric now frighteningly real, interfaith leaders, clergy and lay, came out to say *no* to threats of massive deportations in a new Administration. In the midst of holiday planning and terrible weather, we came to say *no* to racism and fear. We came to say *yes* to neighbors, friends, students, colleagues, the undocumented people we know and the many we don't; we came to say *yes* to our principles, as

Americans and (in our case) as Unitarian Universalists.

Organizers asked if our congregations would consider offering **sanctuary** (housing and support) to undocumented people who might be faced with deportation. One by one, clergy and laity in that church basement said *yes*.

More members have attended more meetings, and your Board (along with lead staff) has signaled its unanimous support. "How could we say no, and still be true to our UU Principles?" asked one member of the Board. Questions abound: *Will anyone be assigned to us? How long will they stay? What country will they be from, and what religion? Could there be a backlash from our local community? What are the legal implications, and what might be the costs?*

We are learning as we go, but it's clear that this must be, at least in part, a leap of faith: a brave and principled religious response to an unprecedented threat of oppression and exclusion. Already, I'm amazed at members and friends who have stepped up to help, and at others from beyond our own walls.

The choice to help with Sanctuary is both a personal decision, and a congregational decision. The timing last month was urgent as this work began, and while we went forward with a clear

public statement, that can yet be amended. Over the next few weeks the Board will host a number of open meetings to hear your questions, responses, concerns and ideas. Please attend, and speak with me, with Luke, or with Laurie Kigner, congregational President, if you have questions that can't wait or if you'd like to help.

Questions abound, but some things are very clear: All people are beloved and all have dignity and worth, including those caught within and imperiled by a broken immigration system. Our congregation stands in a long tradition of radical hospitality. From the underground railroad to the founding of our UU Service Committee during the Holocaust, we have welcomed the stranger, sheltered the refugee, offered safe home, and resisted racism, fear and exclusion. That's what our church is about—and our theme this month, *salvation, the practice of healing*, couldn't be more fitting. In our tradition, we are saved by love.

We'll hold congregational conversations on these January dates:

Sunday, **Jan. 8** at 7pm  
Wednesday, **Jan. 11** at 7:30pm  
Sunday, **Jan. 15** at 12:30pm  
Wednesday, **Jan. 18** at 7:30pm  
Sunday, **Jan. 22** at 12:30pm  
Wednesday, **Jan. 25** at 7:30pm  
Sunday, **Jan. 29** at 12:30pm



Laurie Kigner  
2016-2017 President  
[president@wbuuc.org](mailto:president@wbuuc.org)

Salvation, the practice of healing: has there been a more appropriate time in our recent church history to explore this theme? During these days when hateful words and actions flow freely:

“There is still the need for love, for love to move into the public spaces. There is still the need for that love to be called justice when it is public, and for that same love to be tenderness when it moves inward.” -Omid Safi

Through that love, that reaching out for justice, and that compassion within, it is possible

that healing can occur. In Karen Hering’s poem “Here,” she speaks of moving toward healing “in a time between—living on a threshold between the no longer and the not yet.” An excerpt:

*Now,  
letting go  
of attachments  
and assumptions,  
may you release  
what you’ve clutched  
in your fear,  
making room  
for the stranger  
knocking,  
who is always you.*

*Now,  
may you discover  
what you’ve carried within  
all along  
but not known, named or  
needed...*

*Now,  
may you listen,  
one ear turned inward  
tuned to your heart*

*and the body’s knowing.  
One ear turned outward  
to the suffering—  
and the joy—  
that will teach us.*

Listening, within and without, I am discovering compassion deeper than I knew and courage to move outside my normal range of motion. I am finding a form of salvation as I participate in WBUUC’s commitment to be a Sanctuary Church, to serve as a refuge for people in immediate danger of being deported. I am recognizing that, using the words of Barbara Kingsolver, “Politeness is no substitute for morality.” I can “no longer politely stand by watching families, lands, and liberties get slashed beyond repair.” I can trust that there may be “safety in collective rebellion” (Courtney Martin). Through that courage, that compassion, that action, and in the work with our WBUUC community as we reach out with love called justice, healing is beginning.



## A Congregation of Generous People

*This church is sustained by the generosity, service and vision of its members and friends. Learn more about our history, and about opportunities for giving and service, at [wbuuc.org/donate](http://wbuuc.org/donate) or contact us at [office@wbuuc.org](mailto:office@wbuuc.org).*

Each Sunday, we gather to nourish our souls – individually and communally. We gather to remind ourselves of our highest common calling for lives of hope, peace, compassion, love, and justice. We gather, with radical hospitality and open doors and minds for learning, hearts for loving, bodies for serving.

Twice a month, our offering goes out of those doors to the community – to local organizations, to special funds, to

people and communities doing amazing work on homelessness, mental health, LGBTQI equality, environmental justice, education empowerment, racial justice, reproductive justice, and literally for the building of homes.

Together, we discern, and discover, that truth is our common calling – the truth that comes from building relationships, noticing and naming the brokenness and the beauty of the world, and

finding our own voice and agency in the arc of justice.

So through our giving, we share our values, our dreams, our hopes for a more just and equitable world – each dollar given is a testimony to the world as we hope it to be. And however we give – money, strength, heart, love, time, presence – we discover together that discerning the hard questions of truth and meaning becomes tangible through our generosity.

DATE	ORGANIZATION	AMOUNT
1/17/2016	Minneapolis Chapter of the NAACP	2,458.75
1/18/2016	Kwanzaa Community Church – Northside Women’s Space	1,027.00
2/7/2016	Hope for the Journey Home	1,898.00
2/21/2016	Food Shelves (Mahtomedi, Century College, White Bear Lake)	1,900.35
4/10/2016	Century College Foundation	2,447.82
4/24/2016	St. Croix River Association	1,378.00
5/8/2016	Nonviolent Peaceforce	1,404.00
6/12/2016	MUUSJA	1,339.00
7/10/2016	Black Lives of UU	3,075.74
7/24/2016	Century College Bag Lunches	1,058.50
8/7/2016	Church of the Larger Fellowship	693.50
8/21/2016	Revival Tour	958.00
9/11/2016	Project Home	3,365.35
9/18/2016	Solid Ground	1,374.01
10/2/2016	NorthStar Youth Outreach Center	1,668.10
10/16/2016	UUSC Haiti Collection	3,663.00
11/6/2016	People, Inc.	2,050.34
11/20/2016	Protect MN	2,356.11
12/4/2016	Ministerial Discretionary Fund	2,819.00

*UU = Unitarian Universalist*

*UUSC = Unitarian Universalist Service Committee*

*UUA = Unitarian Universalist Association*

## Lifespan Spiritual Development | Theme Circles



*Jennifer Carroll*  
WBUUC Member  
Visit [wbuuc.org/classes](http://wbuuc.org/classes) for more info.

Being service oriented transforms my natural introverted inclination into an active and open-minded participant in a spiritual and social life. Where simply showing up is half the battle, little mantras like saying “yes” to opportunities instead of “no, thank you” have afforded me clarity, connectedness and gratitude.

As a theme circle facilitator, participating in a small way in the formation of the guiding message of the church, makes me aware of the theme itself as it appears in unexpected places; if I am more attuned to the language of the sermon because I recognize its connection to the monthly theme, won't I therefore be more attuned to the voice of the world and its inhabitants?

Participation in theme circles brings into close view the people around me; there, sitting under a beam of sunlight in the pew across the sanctuary, ushering the offering basket down the aisle, engaging in social activism at a

nearby table in the Social Hall, or greeting their child at RE—they too are showing up, and in their way, practicing the theme.

Theme circles are an encounter of grace in community. We bravely speak the poetry of a simple but powerful word or idea. And in a quiet, querulous reflection we understand how the essence of the theme helps us navigate our personal lives in the darkening November days and as we attend to the bustling and settling of the winter months. We even look ahead to spring where nature's theme of reprieve and renewal will buoy our spirits into action.



## Religious Education for Children & Youth | Anna Lund



*Anna Lund*  
Former Youth Group Member  
New WBUUC Member

I spent my first four years as an educator at an American international school in Busan, South Korea. This year I returned to Minnesota and the United States, and began teaching in

the Minneapolis public schools. Leaving this foreign land that had become my home was much more challenging than I thought.

My international experience remains in full swing here. I teach newcomers in a middle school that is 90% Somali. Some are accessing education and literacy for the first time in their lives. One father took my hand, holding back tears when he said, through a translator, how thankful he was for the work we do to teach their children every day. “You are like a parent too,” he said. “We are all together raising these children.”

When I left Korea I went through a devastating and unexpected end to a relationship. I have struggled with pain as I moved into my new job and life here, but my students are struggling through the biggest upheavals and transitions possible. I do not see myself as savior in any way, but I am part of an incredible process. I hold space for students in the classroom, at small group tables and in individual interactions, where they can be heard, seen, acknowledged, cared for and loved. Together we move ourselves forward; we cannot walk alone through struggle. These are not solo endeavors.

*Reflections from members of our community who joined with the Water Protectors at the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota in November and December 2017.*

**At the River**

*written for the Water Protectors at Standing Rock, 2016*

At the river, the people gathered -  
tending sacred fires  
which have been lit for generations.  
Then the elders processed on horseback  
and all the gathered  
drew the circle wide  
hands clasped in prayer, each to the other.  
The children kept sledding on the hill  
the sacred fire kept burning  
and we prayed  
for generations past and generations  
to come  
and the proclamation  
simple and so sacred,  
was spoken into being:  
Mni Wiconi.  
Water is Life.  
And it was.

**Thoughts from a Trip to Standing Rock, North Dakota**

*by Izabella Listopad, WBUUC Member*

We enter the camp, Oceti Sakowin,  
Banners, signs, flags from many indigenous nations,  
Large camp, organized, protecting what is sacred,  
United, all protecting the water here,  
So peaceful, hopeful, strong.

Dakota Access Pipeline, only money in mind,  
But you cannot drink the oil, or use it to bring life.

We are smudged, we are blessed, over 500, we march,  
Many faiths, many colors, united in this call,  
We stand with the protectors, for the water, for the sacred  
land.  
Planes, helicopters above 24/7 don't silence our call,  
The camp prepares for winter, our van leaves, but others are  
to come.

Dakota Access Pipeline, only money in mind,  
But you cannot drink the oil, or use it to bring life.



Members of our church community: Jenny Henglefeld, and our ministers Rev. Victoria Safford and Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, joined thousands at Oceti Sakowin Camp at Standing Rock reservation in North Dakota in early December for an Interfaith Day of Prayer. Also pictured here: Rev. Justin Schroeder and Rev. Ruth MacKenzie of First Universalist in Minneapolis.

*Reflection by Diane Anderson, WBUUC Member*

I learned about “sacred wounds,” peaceful protest, and decolonization. Protesters, from 3 generations or more, came from across the US... There were so many volunteering opportunities, working together with purpose, in food kitchens, and donation distribution centers, and more.

I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to be at the right place, with the right people for all the right reasons. “Life is Water! Water is Life”!

## Music & the Arts | Joyful Noise Presents Mu Daiko



*Margo Berg*  
Joyful Noise Committee Co-Chair  
[mberg@mjb.com](mailto:mberg@mjb.com)

Next up in our Joyful Noise Arts and Concert series is Mu Daiko, a St. Paul-based taiko drumming ensemble. Mu Daiko was founded in 1997 by Mu Performing Arts Artistic Director Rick Shiomi. The ensemble performs a variety of traditional and contemporary works, ranging from traditional

taiko repertoire to original pieces composed by its members.

In Japanese, taiko means “big drum,” though the term has also come to refer to the art of Japanese drumming. Taiko has been a part of the Japanese culture for centuries, initially for communication in the military arena. As it evolved, Japanese Buddhist and Shinto religions began to take it on as a sacred instrument. The art of kumi-daiko, performance as an ensemble, originated in 1951.

In this country, taiko has become a rich and varied form of drumming, as idiomatically

North American as jazz or American Indian drumming. Combining driving rhythms and movements inspired by martial arts, taiko is a joyful, expressive way to experience Japanese-American culture. \*

It is often said that the heartbeat of mother earth is expressed in the drum. I can personally attest to the breathtaking beauty, precision and spiritual connection that Mu Daiko creates in concert.

Tickets will be for sale in January at a table in the Social hall after Sunday services and on Eventbrite.

*\* Information about taiko and its history have been synthesized from these websites: [www.muperformingarts.org/mu-daiko](http://www.muperformingarts.org/mu-daiko); [web.stanford.edu/group/stanfordtaiko/cgi-bin/history.php](http://web.stanford.edu/group/stanfordtaiko/cgi-bin/history.php); and [www.taiko.com](http://www.taiko.com).*

## Upcoming Event

# Joyful Noise Presents: **Mu Daiko**



**Saturday, Jan. 28**  
**7:30pm at WBUUC**

Mu Daiko performs a repertoire of traditional, contemporary, and original taiko drumming compositions. Based in Minnesota, Mu Daiko is part of Mu Performing Arts, one of the largest pan-Asian performing arts companies in the United States. [www.muperformingarts.org](http://www.muperformingarts.org)



Tickets available at: [wbuuc.eventbrite.com](http://wbuuc.eventbrite.com)

## Looking Ahead

### MLK Community Breakfast

**Monday, January 16 | 7am Breakfast; 7:30am Program**

Join us in honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through a community breakfast, dynamic speakers, and inspirational music.

### Joyful Noise presents Mu Daiko

**Saturday, January 28 | 7:30pm**

Mu Daiko performs a repertoire of traditional, contemporary, and original Japanese taiko drumming compositions.

### Welcome Table Wednesdays

Every Week | 5:30pm Dinner | 6:30pm Forum

**January 4 | No Forum: Holiday Break**

**January 11 | Advocates for Human Rights – Immigration Forum**

A presentation from guest Michele McKenzie, from *Advocates for Human Rights*, speaking about immigration and justice.

**January 18 | *The Sharps' War* – Session I**

We will watch the PBS documentary by Ken Burns, *Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War*, followed by discussion.

**January 25 | Global Climate Forum – Sustainability**

A presentation from member Kimberly Byrd, a professor at the University of Minnesota, on Environmental Sustainability.

## A Month of Sundays

January 1

**A Swept Threshold**

Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer  
*Music from Carol Caouette.*

January 8

**Are You Saved?**

Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer  
*Music from Margaret Humphrey  
and Mary Duncan.*

January 15

**Saved by Love**

Revs. Luke Stevens Royer  
and Victoria Safford  
*Music from the Choir.*

January 22

**We Rise**

Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer  
*Music from Liz Anderson, Sharon Castle,  
and Chris Bashor.*

January 29

**Let Us Sing Our Own Song**

Shay MacKay  
*Music from Harmonia and Mary Duncan.*



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January 2017



# January

# 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 One Service Only at 11 No RE, No Youth Groups 11am - 12pm Worship Service	02 Church Office Closed	03 12:30pm Men's Groups 7pm Adult Children of Alcoholics 7pm Women Spirituality Group	04 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 6pm Youth Circle 6:15pm Religious Education Committee 6:15pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Wednesday Forum 6:30pm Homework/Soulwork 6:30pm Global Climate Change Committee 7:15pm Youth/Adult Committee	05 1pm Women in Transition: Retirement Group	06 Church Office Closed	07
08 Coming of Age Opens (Youth) 9am & 11am Worship Service 9am & 11am Religious Education 10am Artist Reception 10:10am Sunday Meditation 12:15pm Youth Packing Lunches 12:30pm Membership II	09 10am People, Inc. 12pm Second Monday Discussion Group 7pm Women's Book Group	10 7pm Men's Group 7pm Adult Children of Alcoholics	11 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 6pm Parents of Teens 6pm Youth Circle 6:15pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Parents of Young Children 6:30pm Wednesday Forum 6:30pm Homework/Soulwork 7:30pm Social Action Committee	12	13 Church Office Closed 7pm Youth Service Retreat	14 9am Cookie Bake
15 9am & 11am Worship Service 9am & 11am Religious Education 10:10am Sunday Meditation	16 7am Martin Luther King Breakfast 7:30am MLK Program Church Office Closed	17 12:30pm Men's Group 7pm Adult Children of Alcoholics 7pm Shamanic Drumming	18 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 6:15pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Youth Service Workshop 6:30pm Wednesday Forum 6:30pm Homework/Soulwork	19 11am Third Thursday 60+ Group	20 Church Office Closed	21 1pm Attic Artist's Public Reception 4:30pm K-12 All-Family Skate
22 9am & 11am Worship Service 9am & 11am Religious Education 10:10am Sunday Meditation 12:30pm Racial Justice Conversation	23	24 7pm Men's Group 7pm Adult Children of Alcoholics	25 No Choir Rehearsal 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 6:30pm Wednesday Forum 6:30pm Homework/Soulwork 8pm Young Adult Group	26	27 Church Office Closed	28 7:30pm Joyful Noise: Mu Daiko
29 RE Last Day of Fall Term 9am & 11am Worship Service 9am & 11am Religious Education 10:10am Sunday Meditation	30	31 7pm Adult Children of Alcoholics	<p><b>For more current information visit:</b>  <a href="http://www.wbuuc.org/calendar">www.wbuuc.org/calendar</a></p>			



Join us in honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through an interfaith community breakfast that includes dynamic speakers, inspirational music, & a delicious hot meal (served at 7am).

**TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED TODAY IN THE SOCIAL HALL  
OR ONLINE AT [WBUUC.EVENTBRITE.COM](http://WBUUC.EVENTBRITE.COM).**

The program, which starts at 7:30am, is free and open to the public. Tickets are required for the breakfast (\$5 for adults, children 12 and under are free but need a ticket reservation for the meal). The breakfast is sponsored by White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church in partnership with Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul, and Twin Cities Public Television. Everyone is welcome. If you have questions, email [mlk@wbuuc.org](mailto:mlk@wbuuc.org).

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Volunteers are needed for various roles, from set-up and parking to ushering and serving. Sign up to help at the table in the Social Hall, or email [mlk@wbuuc.org](mailto:mlk@wbuuc.org).



### **GUEST SPEAKERS**

Our guest speaker this year is **Jason Sole**. Jason has been a criminal justice educator at Metropolitan State University for over seven years and at Hamline University for more than a year. He is a national keynote speaker and trainer. Alongside his career, he is the president of the Minneapolis NAACP and is changing key policies that create disparate outcomes for people of color. In addition, Sole was a 2013 Bush Fellow who focused on reducing the recidivism rate among juveniles throughout the state of Minnesota. He is currently traveling the country discussing his memoir, *From Prison to Ph.D.: A Memoir of Hope, Resilience, and Second Chances*.

Attendees also will watch a big screen broadcast of keynote speaker **Myrlie Evers-Williams**, author, civil rights activist and wife of murdered civil rights activist Medgar Evers, speaking from downtown Minneapolis at the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Breakfast, sponsored by UNCF and the General Mills Foundation.

