January 2015

Sunday, January 4

Visible Signs of Inward Grace
Jody McCormick (fabric artist) and Mark Kotz (photographer) speaking on the intersection of spirit and art
Christopher Williams and Jennie Lahlum, featured musicians
Special Collection for Habitat for Humanity (see below)

Sunday, January 11

No Room for Dinosaurs
Victoria Safford
Music from Virginia Podobinski, soprano and Mary Duncan, piano

Sunday, January 18

Reverent Unrest
Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer and Victoria Safford
Music from the Adult Choir with Sophia Cruz singing Up To The Mountain
with Soren Schwendeman, guitar; Jerry Montie, drums; Steve Goranson, bass; Carol Caouette, piano
Special Collection for Pilgrimage to Selma Scholarships (see below)

Wednesday, January 25

Before God Existed, There Were Prayers
Victoria Safford
Music from Carol Caouette

Special Collections

Twice a month, our Sunday collection goes to support the work of various justice causes and organizations which we support and with whom we partner. By your generosity, we extend the values of this church beyond our walls.

January 4: Habitat for Humanity
This nonprofit recruits volunteers to build affordable houses to sell, interest free, to people who would otherwise not be able to purchase one. Each summer, friends and members of WBUUC donate 1-2 weeks of their time to build a house in this area. However, in order to participate in this building project, WBUUC must commit a cash pledge for every week we work. Our donation pays for a screening process, home management training, insurance, site supervisors, and tools and building material. We need to raise $3,000 to meet our two-week commitment. Checks can be made out to WBUUC with “Habitat” in the memo line.

January 18 (MLK Sunday):

Pilgrimage to Selma Scholarships
Our church community is invited to join other Unitarian Universalists from across the country, including our Association’s President and Board of Trustees, on a pilgrimage to Selma on March 6-8th, 2015. This 50th commemoration of the march in Selma will feature guest speakers, conversation, and visiting historic sites, culminating with a march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Funds collected today will help to support members of our church to attend. Find out more information at www.uulivinglegacy.org. Checks can be made out to WBUUC with “Selma” in the memo line.
FROM VICTORIA

Victoria Safford

i am running into a new year / and the old years blow back / like a wind
that i catch in my hair / like strong fingers like / all my old promises and
it will be hard to let go / of what i said to myself / about myself / when i was sixteen and / twenty-
six and thirty-six / even forty-six but / i am running into a new year / and i beg what i love and / i
leave to forgive me

—Lucille Clifton, African American poet

525,600 minutes… How do you measure a year in a life? How about love?
—Jonathan Larson, from Rent

It is, in some ways, an artificial construction, the concept of a “year,” roughly but not quite perfectly describing one journey of our planet round the sun. Where have you traveled over the course of the past 365 days? As the great wheel turns once more, what do you leave behind as the revolution starts again? What travels with you always, what dream, what conviction, what love?

We are running into a new year, a new revolution. As January opens, we are setting our tables (and alarm clocks) for our Sixth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast on Monday morning, January 19, joining communities all over the nation in this proud tradition of recognition and resistance. Join us—bring your friends, bring your children, as we watch the live broadcast from Minneapolis with keynote speaker Vernon Jordan, and also experience, in our sanctuary, the powerful in-person voice of Professor Nekima Levy-Pounds, speaking on race and criminal justice in our country and community. Later this month, on Sunday evening, January 25, join filmmaker Mick Caouette for a showing here of his latest documentary, Mr. Civil Rights, on Justice Thurgood Marshall. Mick will be joined by nationally-acclaimed artist and poet Mary Moore Easter, reading poems that tie hard-won racial justice victories of the past to the mighty challenges of our present moment. (Spoiler alert: our own WBUUC choir is featured near the end of this film!)

Our theme this month is Reverence: the practice of giving things their proper due. As the new year opens, may we find new strength to set our hands to the constant struggle for more justice and more peace, for this is the work of reverence, the work of open eyes and open hearts. And as deep winter settles on the land, may we find new ways to wonder at the beauty of this world—for this is reverence, too. 525,600 minutes are an eye-blink, really, but within a year there’s more than ample time for work and wonder both, in equal measure.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Nancy Ver Steegh

Have you been on the WBUUC website lately, just to browse? If you’re like me you probably access the website for specific purposes, like checking on the time of an event or making your annual pledge. Instead I invite you to take some time to explore our online home.

If you missed an event or want to relive one—like Standing on the Side of Love, the Earth Day Celebration, or the Blessing of the Animals—you can watch our uplifting videos. The Multi-Media Bar also features members and friends explaining what they love about our church and why they support it.

Did you miss a sermon, want to hear one again, or want to share one with someone else? Just click into “Worship” and you can also learn more about monthly themes and take a look at the Ministers’ Blog.

Our website offers plenty more to watch, hear, read, and discover. Try pretending that you are a potential visitor looking for a church and see what you find compelling. I think that our engaging website tells our story—who we are and who we are called to be. It’s a heartwarming place where you may want to linger on a cold winter day.

www.wbuuc.org

In need of a new year’s resolution? How about joining the WBUUC choir? Let’s sing together for stress reduction, sinus clearing, improved posture and longevity of life. Here are some other reasons to join:

- Absolutely no audition required.
- Short rehearsal (6:00 to 7:15pm) with dinner served afterward.
- Incredible variety of music.

Here’s the best reason to join. I hope you’ll take the time to read this speech at this link: [http://docs.google.com/View?id=dcd92mm_26cmmkw7fb](http://docs.google.com/View?id=dcd92mm_26cmmkw7fb)

Our first rehearsal of 2015 is on January 7. More info at the choir’s website: [https://sites.google.com/site/wbuuchoir/wbuu-choir](https://sites.google.com/site/wbuuchoir/wbuu-choir)

Music for January

Sunday, January 4: Christopher Williams & Jennie Lahlum, featured musicians
Sunday, January 11: Virginia Podobinski, soprano and Mary Duncan, piano
Sunday, January 18: Adult Choir with Sophia Cruz singing Up To The Mountain with Soren Schwendeman, guitar; Jerry Montie, drums; Steve Goranson, bass; Carol Caouette, piano
Sunday, January 25: Carol Caouette, featured musician

Terms that are used in faith communities can also be found in secular organizations. For instance, when I directed several LGBT organizations we referred to those who had the primary responsibility of the database as GODs (givers of data)! I don’t want to be accused of creating false idols, but I must say that when an organization has an effective database with accurate and comprehensive information it can serve as a real bedrock. Every program here will be improved when we have a record of your interests and engagement with the church. Pastoral care will provided more readily when we can easily reach members when they are in a time of need.

We begin our great data migration in the New Year. We are going from a database called Church Management System (CMS) to ACS Technologies. The new database was selected by a team of lay leaders and staff. There is an active local user group, outstanding customer service, and many modules that are already constructed and ready to support the work of the church.

I recall my first meeting with Rev. Victoria when she asked if I would lead a new photo directory process. I replied, “Realistically, we can get a new directory or a new database this year.” Actually— I was wrong. Our new database will serve as both a place where protected information is stored and it will provide an avenue for us to upload current pictures and create a directory. New members’ photographs will be added in real time versus every 4-5 years!

This spring, the staff will be learning how to utilize the new database and discovering its potential. It will take some time to populate the database with valuable information (such as past involvement with the church and areas of interest) and we are confident will have a powerful tool that is more user-friendly and much-needed central place for data.

I look forward to the day when we can tell stories of who we are in a more concise way. We will be able to easily answer questions such as, “What percentage of members participate in social justice through the church?” or, “How many members from St Paul?” Stay tuned, we will keep you updated and are excited by this transition.
The Youth Community spent December well. Thank you to the many people who went to the shelter, brought items for families moving into apartments, baked and sold cookies for Doctors Without Borders and Boston Bound, took part in the OWL parent/teen conversation, or worked with PeaceJam.

Coming of Age: January 11th through May Teens in grade 9 and up: Explore your identity, beliefs, and commitments. Partners from the congregation will help as we take part in discussion, service work, games, interviews, centering disciplines, art studio trips, day camp, journals, and more. To register, email youth@wbuuc.org.

Worship Planning On Friday the 9th, grades 9-12 will hold an overnight to plan the youth service. RSVP to youth@wbuuc.org. See details in the weekly bulletin.

The Youth of Unity Church Unitarian invites teens in grades 9-12 for a con January 17th—one night only. See weekly bulletin.

Got You Covered Collection The 7th-8th graders are collecting undergarments for child guests of Project Home. Any time now through February, please bring items—new only, please—to the youth office. Our goal: 300 boxers, briefs, bras, or undershirts for kids ages 3-16.

Crafting a Vision of Racial Justice At youth group this month, we will Skype with teens at a UU church near Ferguson. On the 19th, everyone is urged to be part of the interfaith breakfast hosted at WBUUC in honor of Dr. King. On the 25th, our own Mick Caouette will show his new film, Mr. Civil Rights, at WBUUC. When the PeaceJammers are at the Nobel festival featuring President Jimmy Carter in early March, others from WBUUC will be at the 50th anniversary of the march in Selma. Watch the newsletter for details. Teens: Be sure to be at youth group January 14th for a discussion with Rev. Luke about ways the congregation is engaging around racial justice, especially in the wake of movements for positive change.

JANUARY CALENDAR To RSVP & receive weekly updates e-mail youth@wbuuc.org.

Sun. 4th Youth Group and Grades 7-8 reconvene. Luke joins the youth group at 11:00.
Wed. 7th Youth/Adult Committee meeting, 5:45-6:30 and Boston Bound meeting, 6:45-8:00.
Fri. 9th Youth Service overnight, 7:00 p.m. - Sat. 8 a.m. RSVP and P-Slip required.
Sun. 11th Coming of Age opens, 9:00. Note this is a new date. To register e-mail youth@wbuuc.org.
Got You Covered collection opens. Bring donations of new kids’ underclothes ages 3-16.
Wed. 14th Boston Bound, 5:45-6:30; Youth Service workshop, 6:45-8:00; Song & Story vespers, 7:30.
Sat. 17th Unity Church Youth Con. See weekly notice and website for details.
Wed. 21st Youth Service workshop, 5:45-8:00.
Sun. 25th Chalice-making field trip for Coming of Age youth, 8:45-10:30. P-Slip required.
Showing of Mr. Civil Rights Film, 7:00 p.m.
Wed. 28th Chalice Lighter Program begins, 7:00-9:00, ages 8-14. See RE page for description.

February Dates: Youth Service (22nd), planning workshop (18th), and rehearsal (21st - 6:00-10:00).
REVERENCE: The Practice of Giving Things Their Proper Due

At the very center of reverence is not just respect, but also awe; taking the time to bow to a moment, to allow wonder and amazement to fill our hearts. Reverence, just like Silence, takes attention and practice. This month, invite childlike awe and wonder into small moments; sit in nature and invite ritual into everyday routines. Where will you feel reverence?

CHALICE LIGHTER TRAINING FOR KIDS

Fourth Wednesday Evenings,
January- May; 7-8pm

Children and youth ages 8-14 are invited join us on the fourth Wednesday evening of each month to learn how to tend the flame of our sacred chalice. We’ll create rituals for home, discover the history of our symbol and create a chalice to bring home. Children and youth who complete this program will be eligible to light the chalice during worship services.

January 28th, 2015: What’s in a Symbol?
February 25, 2015: Discovering Sacred Moments
March 25, 2015: A Spark, A Flame
April 22, 2015: Creating Home Rituals
May 27, 2015: Carry the Flame

JANUARY AT-A-GLANCE

Sunday, January 4, 2015: RE for children and youth 9am &11am
Sunday, January 11, 2015: Social Action Sunday for K-6th grades
Wednesday, January 14, 2015: “Story and Song” multigenerational worship; 7:30-8pm
Sunday, January 18, 2015: RE for children and youth 9am &11am
Wednesday, January 21, 2015: Religious Education Committee Meeting; 7:00pm
Sunday, January 25, 2015: RE for children and youth 9am &11am
Wednesday, January 28, 2015: UU Parenting Circle Meets 7-8pm
Chalice Lighters class for children ages 8-13 7-8pm

Religious Education Registration is available online and takes just a few minutes!
Click www.wbuuc.org/re-registration

Monthly Theological Theme

Each month, our church gathers around a common theme and practice to guide our reflection in worship, education, justice, and small groups. You can find a packet with these questions and readings in the Welcome Center in the lobby. Questions for reflection for adults, along with recommended resources for children and families will also be offered on the Living the Questions page at www.wbuuc.org.

Theme for January— Reverence: the practice of giving things their proper due

How have you experienced reverence and awe in your life?

What helps to make a space or experience worthy of awe?

Have you experienced reverence as something that can be cultivated, spontaneous, or both?

In what ways is the feeling of reverence, awe, or humility beneficial for an individual or a community?
Among Ourselves

We send love and well wishes to these members and friends:

Susan Anderson, as she continues cancer treatment;
Kate O’Reilly, living with a new and difficult diagnosis;
Maureen McKiernan, whose brother died suddenly in late December; Maureen is also recovering from surgery;
Mary Rogers, whose brother died suddenly in November;
Terri Ellison, whose son is recovering from major surgery;
David Heath, whose stepfather died in December.

Congratulations to DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP LAURA SMIDZIK!
A graduate of United Theological Seminary, Laura is a candidate for Unitarian Universalist ministry. On December 5, in Boston, the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association met with Laura and granted her Preliminary Fellowship.

If there are names of loved ones you would like us to include here, or names to include in the Meditation in Sunday services, please send them to Victoria Safford: vsafford@wbuuc.org. Victoria is available by appointment during the week in the daytime or evenings, and on Sunday afternoons.

In addition, our Pastoral Care team consists of trained volunteers who will visit in hospital, care center, or at home; offer rides to appointments; companion members and friends going through a difficult time over coffee or tea; provide support through loss, crisis, loneliness, or difficult transition; and mostly, simply listen and be present. To arrange a meeting (in person, by phone or by email) contact Michele Madigan madigan_michele@hotmail.com or Artis Salemo drgnfly47@mac.com. You can help with this ministry! Contact Mary Bolton mbolton54@yahoo.com, to learn about simple ways to volunteer as a “helping hand.”

Art Show

The Minnesota Contemporary Quilters exhibit will be on display at WBUUC: January 11 to February 15. There will be an artist’s reception after each service on Sunday, January 22.


Thirty-five members of MCQ have created quilts with their own interpretations of Cycles. Look for a cocoon, a bicycle tire, inspiration from Leonardo DaVinci, washing machines, and lots of recycled fabric.

Minnesota Contemporary Quilters is a creative group of amateur and professional quilters and fiber artists. We create wall art, 3D pieces, bed quilts, and more using original designs and/or unusual fabrics. Members’ interests include surface design, textile dying, and embellishments. We meet monthly on the fourth Monday, except December and holidays.

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CIRCLE SUPPERS: casual dinner gatherings at members’ homes.  
Friday, December 12th or Saturday, December 13th  
A great way to meet both new and long-time members and friends of the church, these casual dinner gatherings at members’ homes are offered several times a year. A host holds the meal in their home and provides a main dish, and attendees bring smaller dishes to share.

MEDITATION: a mindfulness practice as taught by Thich Nhat Hanh  
Wednesday Evenings: January 7th – February 4th, 7:30-9:00pm  
Thich Nhat Hanh writes, “The function of a meditation practice is to heal and transform.” We will consider and practice his simple, but not easy, mindfulness teachings. Join us to begin or refresh a meditation practice. It is helpful to attend all of the meetings. Facilitated by Julie Vinar.

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY EATING: Workshops on ethical eating/environmentalism.  
4th Wednesday Classes - Held after dinner at 7pm.  
Food is an area in which we have compete control and we can make a big impact on the environment. Offered by the Green Sanctuary Committee. See more on page 10.

REVERENCE: a monthly theme discussion group  
Tuesdays in January: Daytime session 12-1:30pm OR evening session 6:00-7:30pm  
A discussion group on our monthly theme of Reverence. Participants are invited to use Paul Woodruff’s book Reverence: Renewing a Forgotten Virtue in preparation for this discussion group. Drop-in participation is also welcomed. Facilitated by Leslie Mills, Ministry Intern.

Upcoming classes (Spring)

Conversation circles about race: Selma, Ferguson, and Unitarian Universalism

SPRING: Book Group on “God Revised” Led by Victoria Safford, Minister  
A book exploring “how religion must evolve in a scientific age.”

SPRING: Art & Spirit Led by Leslie Mills, Ministry Intern  
Spiritual practice sessions with Leslie Mills, Hanson Ministry Intern

Exploring Unitarian Universalism’s “six sources” of inspiration and wisdom.

New Member Classes  
A rotating two-session series is offered throughout the year. Go to www.wbuuc.org/newcomers

Session I: Sunday, January 25th OR Wednesday, January 28th

Session II: Sunday, December 14th OR Wednesday, January 7th

ONGOING AND SMALL GROUPS listed on next page...
Classes, Small Groups, Forums, Continued

Ongoing & Small Groups

Sign up at www.wbuuc.org/classes

SHARING CIRCLES
A once-per-month small group, offered many times during the week, focusing on the monthly theological theme with guided questions and short readings. Circles meet October-June.

Contact: Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer (revluke@wbuuc.org or 651.426.2369 x 103)

UU PARENT CIRCLES – 4th Wednesday of each month, 6:30 dinner, 7:00-8:00 circle

Early Childhood Parent Circle (birth-K) or Elementary Parent Circle (1st-6th grade)
A monthly circle of parents to explore spirituality and parenting together.

Contact: Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer (revluke@wbuuc.org), Amy Peterson Derrick (dre@wbuuc.org)

WOMENSPRIT CIRCLE - 4th Monday of each month, 7:00-9:00pm
A group supporting women in exploring their spiritual origins, experiences and beliefs in community with other women. Meetings are open to all women of WBUUC.

Contacts: Becky Myrick, becky.myrick@gmail.com, Carol Marsyla, carol.marsyla@gmail.com

WOMEN’S BOOK GROUP - 2nd Monday of each month, 7:00-9:00pm
A group reading a variety of books throughout the year written by women, chosen by the group, and focusing on books which are affordable and easily available for purchase or from a library.

Contact: Dana Jackson (danaleep@q.com)

MEN’S GROUP
1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 12:30pm, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00pm
A group always open to new members, whose mission is to make connections, deepen friendships and build community, share life’s experiences, learn from each other, give and receive support.

Contact: Steve Kahn (stevekahn@comcast.net)

UU VOICES - 4th Wednesday of each month, 7:30-9:00pm
An open group to discuss various voices from our Unitarian Universalist heritage, with readings regularly provided.

Contact: Dee Smith (newtndonsmith@aol.com)

OPEN MONDAY BOOK GROUP - 2nd Monday of each month, 12:00-2:00pm
An open book group reading various books throughout the year. Readings regularly provided.

Contact: Dee Smith (newtndonsmith@aol.com)

SHAMANIC DRUMMING - 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00-9:00pm
A group exploring the ancient practice of shamanic drumming for meditation.

Contact: Nancy Hauer (nancy@rookhouse.org)

SUNDAY SITTING MEDITATION
Every Sunday morning at 10:15, between services, in the quiet room

Contact: Julie Vinar (Julie.vinar@gmail.com)
SOUL WORK: Racial Justice Action

Opportunities for learning and reflection in racial justice work at White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church. Visit www.wbuuc.org/soulwork. For more info: revluke@wbuuc.org or 651.426.2369.

Sunday, January 18th: “Reverent Unrest”
Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday; Services: 9:00am & 11:00am
This service will offer reflections from our ministers Victoria and Luke about racial justice in our movement, historically and currently, and the work our church is engaging. A collection will be taken for scholarships for a Unitarian Universalist Pilgrimage to Selma this March (see below).

Monday, January 19th: Martin Luther King Breakfast & Program
Breakfast at 7am (ticketed) Program at 7:30am (free, open to public)
This program will feature local keynote speaker Nekima Levy-Pounds, law professor and expert on the intersection of race, public policy, and criminal justice from the University of St. Thomas. Our telecast keynote speaker will be civil rights activist, Vernon Jordan. We are hosting our area site in collaboration with the St. Paul Council of Churches. Contact: mlk@wbuuc.org or visit www.wbuuc.org/mlk

Sunday, January 25th: FILM – Mr. Civil Rights, 6:00pm
Mr. Civil Rights: Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP, a new film from South Hill Films, is introduced this evening by producer Mick Caouette, with a poetry reading by Mary Moore Easter, narrator of the film, which includes the WBUUC Choir!

Conversation Circles: Race & Privilege
Mondays, February 2nd – March 2nd: 7:00-8:30pm
Join these conversation circles, facilitated by our ministers, to explore issues of race and privilege in a practice of deep listening and sharing. Each session will be different, and it is not required to attend all. Please sign up in the Social Hall or at www.wbuuc.org/classes.

Pilgrimage to Selma:
Thursday, March 5th – Sunday, March 8th
Members are invited to join our ministers and lay leaders on a Pilgrimage to Selma, a 3-day conference with the Unitarian Universalist Living Legacy Project including historic sites, guest speakers, conversation, and a march across the Edmund Pettus bridge, honoring the 50th anniversary of the march. Scholarships may be available by application.
GCCC: Global Climate Change Comm.
The WBUUC Global Climate Change Committee (GCCC) will hold its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 7 at 7pm. We will be discussing plans for the February 4th video and discussion program noted below, the plans for the “Community Solar” program in early April, Earth Day plans in April, among other topics. What are the implications for climate-focused legislation from the US Congress after the new year? All those concerned about climate change are invited to join us; we hope to see you at the meeting.  

The GCCC is sponsoring a video and discussion: The Great Challenge: Farming, Food and Climate Change on Wednesday, February 4, at 7pm in the Iowa Sisterhood Room. Michael Pollan, well-known author of The Omnivore’s Dilemma and other books, gave the keynote speech at a New York Times Food for Tomorrow Conference in November 2014 called “The Great Challenge: Farming, Food and Climate Change.” The WBUUCC Climate Change Committee will show a video of this speech and discuss it afterwards. Everyone is invited to attend.  

The Green Sanctuary Comm. Presents: Environmentally Friendly Eating
The Green Sanctuary Committee is hosting a class called Environmentally Friendly Eating. We will cover topics related to how the foods we eat directly affect the environment. We all want to make a difference for the environment—food is an area in which we can make a big impact. Classes will range from presentation/discussion, to hands-on cooking. Please join us once per month from January to May.  

In January, we will be discussing Barbara Kingsolver’s book, Animal Vegetable Miracle. This is a book about the year Kingsolver’s family spent eating only locally grown food. Please get the book and read it if you can. If not, just join us for a discussion of why and how to eat locally. We have 10 copies of the book from the library available. Contact Karen (KWold@barr.com) if you would like one. For more info, contact Stirling Cousins at stirlingcousins@gmail.com.  

4th Wednesday Classes - Held after dinner at 7pm.  
January 27: Book discussion  
February 25: Environmentally friendly foods  
March 25: Cooking a meal together  
April 22: Planning your garden; What to do with summer vegetables  
May 27: Stocking your pantry; How to preserve food  

Serving Lunch at People Incorporated
Monday, January 12
Once a month members of our congregation will serve a warm meal to approximately 25-30 people who are homeless and have mental illnesses. Members meet at the church at 10am to cook together and then drive to People Incorporated’s Outreach Program on York Avenue in St. Paul. For more information, or to sign up, stop by the Standing on the Side of Love table in the Social Hall or contact Kate O’Reilly at katenandronh@q.com or 651.653.6319.  

Thank You
A note handed to the WBUUC group on December 8 while the WBUUC group was serving lunch at People, Inc. in St. Paul:

Thank you for the wonderful and festive meal you brought today. It is such a delight to have you here month after month. We are so lucky to have such dedicated volunteers! We are very blessed!

Signed by Kris Helgeson of the People Inc. staff and 16 of the people served.
Announcements

VSIG Sunday
January 4th is VSIG (Visible Signs of Inward Grace) Sunday. Mark Kotz, photographer/musician, and Jody McCormick, fabric artist/musician, will be presenters at VSIG Sunday services giving some insights into their lives and creative processes. Each of you will have an opportunity to unleash your own inner artist in the upcoming VSIG exhibition in the atrium and corridor galleries of our church Feb. 22-March 29. VSIG encourages art expression from an inner source. Please bring in your work accompanied by a short statement about it. Whether inspired by joy, rage, insight, or something else, all comers are welcome. This year’s theme is drawn from Kendra Ford’s poem, “Be Like Water”. Both two- and three-dimensional work will be accepted. The deadline for registration is February 11. Artwork is due at the church by Feb. 15. Registration forms are available in the Social Hall. The VSIG artists’ reception will be after services on February 22.

Joyful Noise Presents:
Spider John Koerner on February 7
On Thanksgiving weekend, our space was crowded for the wonderful music of Gypsy Mania. Were you there? Here comes another remarkable night of music, in our own space, benefitting our own church.

On Saturday, February 7, we welcome legendary bluesman Spider John Koerner to our fundraising concert series. Spider John got his start playing on the West Bank of Minneapolis with blues trio Koerner, Ray, and Glover, and was an influence on the young Bob Dylan. He has played with Ramblin’ Jack Elliott, with Willie Murphy, and has been a stalwart with Red House Records.

The Boston Globe says, “To someone witnessing Koerner live for the first time, you suddenly understood the magic of a man whose praises have been sung by the likes of Bob Dylan, Bonnie Raitt, and John Lennon.” A review from Red House Records says, “Koerner’s rollicking treatments of traditional folk songs and self-penned classics seem to only get better and more seasoned with age. His influence on generations of musicians proves that he is one of America’s true musical originals.”

Partial discography:
Blues, Rags and Hollers (Koerner, Ray and Glover)
Running, Jumping, Standing Still (with Willie Murphy)
Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Been
Most recently: What’s Left of Spider John (Red House Records 2013)

Tickets $15-$25, available now at: www.wbuuc.eventbrite.com
Sunday morning ticket sales begin on January 18.

2nd Monday Group
Monday, January 12 at noon—Courtyard Room
Back in November, the 2nd Monday Group decided it would devote its January discussion to Elizabeth Kolbert’s The Sixth Extinction – An Unnatural History, In this book, she explains the five massive disasters in world history when much of earth’s living things were wiped out, and argues that the next extinction is now in progress due to human impact on the earth’s environment. She suggests we may be unable to stop it!

For the UU Voices Group
Wednesday, January 22 at 7:30pm—Alcove
For our October discussion the UU Voices group changed its focus from individuals who helped shape UUism to more general topics—from biography to history. For January’s meeting we will be working with Harris and Greenwood’s chapter on “Sources of Faith” in their book, An Introduction to the Unitarian and Universalist Traditions. We will have readings available by the 14th on the table by the north wall of the Social Hall. Get a copy, read it, join us for the Wednesday Nite Supper, find us back in the Alcove at 7:30.

Attention Nos Amis du Diner Francaise
The end of February is French Dinner time. This month we are beginning to organize our efforts for this year’s party on Saturday, February 28. For newcomers, this event is a five- or six-course sit-down dinner of French treats prepared by members and friends who love to
Announcements, Continued

cook for those who love to eat. If you enjoy singing French songs, we have a collection prepared for singing around the piano by beloved early member pianist Betty Jo Perlich. The modest cost of the tickets (for sale on the first three Sundays of February) will cover the food with the surplus going to the church funds.

We are having a French Dinner planning meeting at noon on Sunday, January 11, in the Courtyard Room. If you would like to help with the cooking, serving, set up, or clean up, contact Dee Smith at 651.426.3145 (leave a message if there is no answer).

Men’s Programs
Open to all men connected with WBUUC: members, friends or visitors.

Mission Statement: To make connections, deepen friendships and build community. Share life’s experiences and learn from each other. Give and receive support during challenging times. Coordinate opportunities to have fun and do good work.

Men’s Groups: The daytime group meets on the first and third Tuesday at 12:30pm. The evening group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday at 7pm. No meeting on a fifth Tuesday. All Men’s Programs are open to all interested men, no signup required, new members always welcome.

Bowling: Join us on Friday mornings, 9:00, at Sun Ray bowling lanes. For more information, email Bob Meyenburg at bobmeyenburg@msn.com.

Shuttle: Drivers are always needed for the Sunday morning shuttle to and from the District Center. We are also looking for drivers who are able to pick up older church members who no longer drive. Email stevekahn@comcast.net.

Save the Date: Men’s Retreat is May 15 – 17 at the Audubon Center in Sandstone. Always a great time and always open to new men. Even if you haven’t participated in any of our programs yet, please join us for this weekend out of town.

Service Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opportunity</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marketing/Advertising Help</td>
<td>Assist with marketing church events to the wider community. Write copy for social media sites and advertising, post events in online calendars, and coordinate a poster hanging brigade.</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Laura Smidzik, 651.426.2369 x 111, <a href="mailto:lsmidzik@wbuuc.org">lsmidzik@wbuuc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cover Hymnals</td>
<td>Cover paperback hymnals with contact paper to protect them, perform repairs to hymnals with tape. Fine motor skills, attention to detail, and patience required.</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Jody Karlen, <a href="mailto:officeassistant@wbuuc.org">officeassistant@wbuuc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joyful Noise Music Series</td>
<td>Help with ticket sales, ushering at concerts, planning, host a reception, marketing (can be done from home)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Laura Smidzik, 651.426.2369 x 111 <a href="mailto:lsmidzik@wbuuc.org">lsmidzik@wbuuc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide a Ride</td>
<td>Provide a ride to church on Sunday mornings. Drivers can be matched with those living in their area.</td>
<td>Any and/or every Sunday</td>
<td>Leslie Mills, 651.426.5107 x 112, <a href="mailto:lmills@wbuuc.org">lmills@wbuuc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shuttle Driver</td>
<td>Shuttle WBUUC members and friends from the District Ctr. for Sunday services.</td>
<td>1 Sunday/year minimum</td>
<td>John Bauhs, <a href="mailto:bauh0002@umn.edu">bauh0002@umn.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Greeter</td>
<td>We need greeters at the Sanctuary Doors/Welcome Center to pass out programs and answer questions.</td>
<td>Sunday morning services at 9 and/or 11, 15 minutes before and after service.</td>
<td>Miriam Juvette, 651.428.6314, <a href="mailto:mjuvette@comcast.net">mjuvette@comcast.net</a></td>
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# January 2015

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:50am &amp; 10:50am Giving Voice/Spirit</td>
<td>5:45pm Youth/Adult Committee</td>
<td>6:30pm Men’s Group</td>
<td>5:45pm Boston Bound</td>
<td>5:30 Belonging and Community Comm.</td>
<td>5:45pm Yoga/Adult Committee</td>
<td>8:30am Men’s Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9am &amp; 11am Worship Service</td>
<td>6pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>7am Women’s Book Club</td>
<td>6pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>5:30 (Youth) Youth Service Overnight</td>
<td>5:45pm Yoga/Adult Committee</td>
<td>10:30am People Incorporated</td>
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<tr>
<td>10am &amp; 12pm Welcome Gathering for Newcomers and Visitors</td>
<td>6:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner</td>
<td>7pm Women’s Book Club</td>
<td>6:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner</td>
<td>6:45pm Youth Service Workshop</td>
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<td>7pm Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:10am Sunday Meditation</td>
<td>6:45pm Boston Bound</td>
<td>7pm Women’s Book Club</td>
<td>6:45pm Youth Service Workshop</td>
<td>6:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner</td>
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<td>7pm Financial Oversight Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Got You Covered Collection Opens</td>
<td>10am People Incorporated</td>
<td>12pm 2nd Monday Book Discussion</td>
<td>6:30pm Financial Development</td>
<td>6pm NO CHOIR REHEARSAL</td>
<td>6:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner</td>
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<td>6:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner</td>
<td>7pm Financial Oversight Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>10am &amp; 12pm Board Open House</td>
<td>6:30pm Financial Development</td>
<td>7pm Religious Growth &amp; Learning Comm.</td>
<td>5:45pm Yoga/Adult Committee</td>
<td>6:45pm Youth Service Workshop</td>
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<td>6:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner</td>
<td>6:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner</td>
<td>7pm Financial Oversight Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15am Art Committee Meeting</td>
<td>7pm Religious Growth &amp; Learning Comm.</td>
<td>5:45pm Yoga/Adult Committee</td>
<td>6:45pm Youth Service Workshop</td>
<td>6:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner</td>
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<td>6pm New Member Welcome Dinner</td>
<td>7pm Religious Growth &amp; Learning Comm.</td>
<td>5:45pm Yoga/Adult Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:50am &amp; 10:50am Giving Voice/Spirit 9am &amp; 11am Worship Service</td>
<td>7am MLK Breakfast</td>
<td>12:30pm Men’s Group</td>
<td>5:45pm Youth Service Workshop</td>
<td>6pm NO CHOIR REHEARSAL</td>
<td>6:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>10am &amp; 12pm Welcome Gathering for Newcomers and Visitors</td>
<td>Office Closed</td>
<td>7pm Shamanic Drumming</td>
<td>6pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>6:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:50am &amp; 10:50am Giving Voice/Spirit 9am &amp; 11am Worship Service</td>
<td>7pm Executive Committee Meeting</td>
<td>6:30pm HVAC Comm.</td>
<td>6pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>6pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>6pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>6pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>9am &amp; 11am Worship Service</td>
<td>7pm Executive Committee Meeting</td>
<td>7pm Women’s Spirituality Group</td>
<td>6:30pm HVAC Comm.</td>
<td>6:30pm HVAC Comm.</td>
<td>6:30pm HVAC Comm.</td>
<td>6:30pm HVAC Comm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:10am Sunday Meditation—Quiet Room</td>
<td>7pm Executive Committee Meeting</td>
<td>7pm Women’s Spirituality Group</td>
<td>6:30pm HVAC Comm.</td>
<td>6:30pm HVAC Comm.</td>
<td>6:30pm HVAC Comm.</td>
<td>6:30pm HVAC Comm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30pm New Member Class - Session I</td>
<td>7pm Executive Committee Meeting</td>
<td>7pm Women’s Spirituality Group</td>
<td>6:30pm HVAC Comm.</td>
<td>6:30pm HVAC Comm.</td>
<td>6:30pm HVAC Comm.</td>
<td>6:30pm HVAC Comm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7pm Mr. Civil Rights Screening</td>
<td>7pm Executive Committee Meeting</td>
<td>7pm Women’s Spirituality Group</td>
<td>6:30pm HVAC Comm.</td>
<td>6:30pm HVAC Comm.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Art Shows:** Northstar Watermedia: 11-30 to 1-3; Minnesota Contemporary Quilters: 1-11 to 2-15

For more detailed calendar information, visit: [www.wbuuc.org/calendar](http://www.wbuuc.org/calendar)
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Breakfast
at White Bear UU Church

Monday, Jan. 19, 2015
7-9:30am

7:00 Breakfast—ticket required
7:30 Program—free & open to the public

Tickets are $5 for the hot breakfast at 7am and must be purchased by January 16. Children 12 and under are free but need a ticket reservation for breakfast. Visit the MLK table at church or go to www.wbuuc.org/mlk.
### February 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Service Title</th>
<th>Minister</th>
<th>Special Collection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, Feb 1</td>
<td>Not So Secret Agents</td>
<td>Rev. Victoria Safford</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Music from the Choir, directed by Thaxter Cunio and from Carol Caouette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, Feb 8</td>
<td>Gonna Keep on Moving Forward</td>
<td>Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer</td>
<td>Special Collection for Hope for the Journey Home Shelter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, Feb 15</td>
<td>The World Speaks</td>
<td>Rev. Victoria Safford</td>
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<td>Music from Peter Mayer, and from Mary Duncan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, Feb 22</td>
<td>Faith in the Midst of Bewilderment</td>
<td>Reflections and music from the WBUUC Youth</td>
<td>Special Collection for White Bear &amp; Mahtomedi Food Shelves</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Monthly Theological Theme—Living the Questions

Each month, our church gathers around a theme and practice to guide our congregational life. To sign up for a small group, contact revluke@wbuuc.org, 651.426.2369 x 103, or visit wbuuc.org/classes.

**Theme for February—Faith: the practice of devotion to the possible**

What do you have faith in?

What practices do/could you engage in to devote yourself to ‘the possible’?

What restores you when you lose faith in the world, in others, or yourself?

What helps you greet each day in faith, hope, and love?
FROM VICTORIA

Victoria Safford

Note: These words were written just after the terrorist attacks in Paris, but since then we have heard terrible news of hate-fueled violence in Nigeria, leaving towns razed and thousands of people dead. Wherever fundamentalism erupts into murder, eclipsing the imagination, mutilating life, our hearts break and our souls cry out. – Victoria

From across the ocean, from across the land,
we send prayers of solidarity and compassion to all people,
for all people,
alive in a beautiful and very dangerous world.

We pray for writers and artists and for the radical ideal of freedom of expression, freedom of conscience, freedom of the press and freedom of speech, this radical ideal of liberté, which has defined our own identity as a people no less than that of France.

We pray for all who have been the victims of violence, especially terrorist violence, which nothing can justify and nothing can redeem.

We pray for those in France, in our own country and in every country, who live daily under the deadening and sometimes deadly shadow of constant humiliation, hatred, xenophobia, Islamophobia, mockery, intolerance, racism.

We pray for the space within each of us, that holy ground, where the longing for freedom, the necessity of it, meets commitment to compassion, the holy ground of reverence and respect and restraint – the necessity of these in any society and within any single person.

It is a complicated space in each of us and all of us dwell there together.

Further, we pray for that place, that crossroads, that moment, at which a human person may stand (who knows how they came there?) and in his freedom, or hers, chooses evil over courage, ignorance over openness, ideology over humanity, chooses fear over love and violence over every other power.

We pray for those places of discernment, where in their shining freedom shining human beings make irrevocable and monstrous choices, and all our trust is shattered.

At times like these we pray as we have prayed before for the restoration of our own trust in humanity, and our hope; we pray for the strength it takes to keep the borders open, the borders of our hearts.

In this moment when simplistic slogans choke the air, we pray for complexity, for the complexity of wisdom. We pray for the complicated peace that arises only out of justice, which arises only out of love: the wildest, most courageous love that anyone, anywhere, imagines. It is the love out of which our only future on this planet, our shared future, can arise.

In the face of terror, we pray for less fear. In the face of fear, we pray for more love. Our prayer is for the living and the dead.
Belonging and Community

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

From left: Cynthia Tomlinson, Joan Teppen, Jo Ford, Kate and Bill McCarthy; Liz Anderson, Gage and Katelyn Donisch Matthews, Janis Horwath, Linda Schoelerman, and Robert Secor

DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP

Laura Smidzik

Outward Orientation

I stumbled upon a list titled, 28 Ways That YOU Can Practice an Outward Orientation, by Art Brewer of First Unitarian Congregation in Toronto, Canada. This is just one of many resources available on the Unitarian Universalist web site (www.uua.org). I selected (and adjusted) twelve statements from the list. Try using this list as a quiz and see how you score in terms of “outward orientation”:

1. Invite a nonmember to a service, small group, or adult program within your congregation.
2. Practice your response to the question, “What is Unitarian Universalism?”
3. Wear your name tag at every Sunday service.
4. Attend a UU church when you’re on vacation.
5. Talk with someone you don’t know during coffee hour.
6. Tell someone about a meaningful or provocative thought you heard at church.
7. Participate in a community or witness event that reflects UU principles and wear a yellow Standing on the Side of Love shirt.
8. Intentionally sit beside a visitor at a Sunday service and introduce yourself.
9. Talk to nonmembers about your church.
10. Attend a regional UUA meeting or our General Assembly in June.
11. Let nonmembers know about the wonderful religious education programs we have for children and adults.
12. Read the UU World magazine (offered free for WBUUC members) and discuss interesting articles with friends and relatives.

Some of these actions will grow your own connection to Unitarian Universalism and give you a broader sense of our denomination. Other actions on this list might just be the invitation that someone visiting or wondering about the church is waiting for!

I believe we have a life-saving faith—one that can heal personal and societal wounds, encourage us to explore meaning, hold each other in life’s inevitable transitions, deepen our connection with what we deem as sacred, and help transform the world. Choose a few ways you can practice an “outward orientation” and see if you feel an increased connection within your own spirit, among others at WBUUC and beyond our walls.
Faith is a commitment to live as if certain things are true, and thereby help to make them so. Faith is a commitment to live as if life is a wondrous mystery, as if life is good, as if love is divine, as if we are responsible for the well-being of those around us...Faith is a leap of the moral imagination that connects the world as it is to the world as it might become.

- Galen Guengrich, UU Minister

In uncertain times, how can we have hope? What do we stand for, believe in, find ourselves changed by? How can our faith create a more peaceful and just world? The youth spent a retreat focused on these questions. On the 22nd, they will lead worship. Teens in grades 9-12: See the calendar below to play a role, big or small.

Emergency Food It is humbling to package meals for people in dire need. It’s spirit-lifting to pack tens of thousands in an evening! Teens, adults, kids—come with us to Feed My Starving Children on the 4th. We will meet at church at 6:00pm and return by 10:00. Registration and guidelines at www.fmsc.org; Use Join Code 621708.

Former President Jimmy Carter will be featured at the Nobel Peace Prize Youth Festival in March, along with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. WBUUC’s PeaceJam will be there, and will have a table on homeless teens and on KIVA microloans. To get involved in PeaceJam, write youth@wbuuc.org.

Got You Covered Collection Grades 7-8 are collecting underclothes for Project Home guests ages 3-16. The goal: 250 items—a lot! Please bring items (new only) to the youth office.

Selma Next month it will be 50 years since the march that culminated in the Voting Rights Act. Many WBUUCers will be in Selma for activism and a commemorative march. See Revs. Victoria or Luke to learn more.

Conversation Circles Your presence is requested Mondays Feb. 2nd through Mar. 2nd. Facilitated by our ministers, the circles explore race and privilege in a practice of deep listening and sharing. Each week will be different; It is not required to attend all. Sign up in the Social Hall or www.wbuuc.org/classes.
**DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**  
Amy Peterson Derrick

**Chalice Lighter Training for Kids**

**Ages 8-14 | Fourth Wednesday Evenings | 7-8pm**

Children and youth ages 8-14 are invited join us on the fourth Wednesday evening of each month to learn how to tend the flame of our sacred chalice. We’ll create rituals for home, discover the history of our symbol and create a chalice to bring home. Children and youth who complete this program will be eligible to light the chalice during worship services.

- **February 25, 2015:** Discovering Sacred Moments
- **March 25, 2015:** A Spark, A Flame
- **April 22, 2015:** Creating Home Rituals
- **May 27, 2015:** Carry the Flame

**Spiritual Practice Workshop**

**Ages 4-7 | Fourth Wednesday Evenings | 7-8 pm**

For children ages 4-7; each week we will experience a new spiritual practice, from drumming to yoga to prayer and meditation. Participants will also have the opportunity to create tools for building a center for spiritual practice at home.

- **February 25, 2015:** Sending Peace
- **March 25, 2015:** Stretching and Breathing
- **April 22, 2015:** Finding the Center
- **May 27, 2015:** Connecting through Music

Find out more and Sign up for Wednesday Evening Programs online:  
https://religionseducationforchildren.wordpress.com/wednesday-evening-programs/

**February at a Glance**

- **Sun, Feb 1:** RE for children and youth 9am & 11am
- **Sun, Feb 8:** Social Action Sunday for K-6th grades
- **Wed, Feb 11:** “Story and Song” multigenerational worship; 7:30-8pm
- **Sun, Feb 15:** RE for children and youth 9am & 11am
- **Wed, Feb 18:** Religious Education Committee Meeting; 7:00pm
- **Sun, Feb 22:** RE for children and youth 9am & 11am
- **Wed, Feb 25:** UU Parenting Circle Meets 7-8pm

Chalice Lighter & Spiritual Practice Workshop for children ages 8-13 7-8pm

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**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

Thaxter Cunio

*Because I’m happy*
*Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof*
*Because I’m happy*
*Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth*
*Because I’m happy*
*Clap along if you know what happiness is to you*
*Because I’m happy*
*Clap along if you feel like that’s what you wanna do*

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!**

**The Happy Music House Concert**

**When:** Saturday, March 28, 2015, 7:30 pm

**Where:** WBUUC Sanctuary

**Description:** WBUUC House Concert featuring in-house talent and the WBUUC Choir;  
Steve Goranson, host.

www.wbuuc.org
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Nancy Ver Steegh

This year the Board has been hosting a series of “open houses” between services. Although the meetings are brief, they provide a regularly scheduled forum for exchanging information and ideas about the operation and wellbeing of our church. So far, topics have included annual board goals, long-range planning, the budgeting process, the aging HVAC system, and our congregation’s history of generosity.

Please join us for the next open house scheduled on Sunday, February 8, at 10:00am in the Sanctuary. Board members are interested in your questions and concerns. We also plan to discuss our young adult ministry and our racial justice and youth homelessness activities.

We hope to see you there!

Grow Your Soul | Classes, Forums & Groups

Sign up in the Social Hall, online at wbuuc.org/classes, or contact:
Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer at revluke@wbuuc.org or 651.426.2369

RACE & PRIVILEGE: Conversation Circles
Mondays in February (2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd): 7:00-8:30pm
A facilitated conversation circle on issues of race and privilege, with a focus on Unitarian Universalism, as well as historic and modern forms of racial injustice. Each session will be different, and it is not required to attend them all. Facilitated by Victoria Safford and Luke Stevens-Royer. PLEASE REGISTER (see top of page).

FIVE WISHES: Writing Your Health Care Directive
Sunday, February 22, 12:15-2:15pm & Sunday, March 22, 12:15-2:15pm
A facilitated session for writing your health care directive using the Five Wishes model. In session I (Feb. 22), the form and the information that you need to complete will be provided. Session II (Mar. 22) is designed to witness your completed form. Both sessions include time for discussion and questions. Facilitated by WBUUC members Rev. Ann Galloway-Egge, hospice chaplain, and Bryan Cole, LMFT. PLEASE REGISTER (see top of page).

ART & SOUL: Community Circle of Crafters
Sundays Feb.22nd, March 22nd, April 26th, May 10th, 1:00-3:00pm
This monthly circle is open to anyone who is looking for a community of crafters—knitting, crocheting, sewing, cross-stitch, jewelry design and beadwork, or any other portable art. We will gather in the Social Hall and open with a chalice lighting and check-in, followed by free-flowing discussion based around the monthly theme, while crafting on whatever projects we bring. REGISTER online at wbuuc.org/classes or contact ministry intern Leslie Mills with any questions (lmills@wbuuc.org).

- Upcoming Classes -

APRIL: The Story from Selma – reflections from Selma Pilgrimage participants.
SPRING: Book Group on God Revised Led by Victoria Safford, Minister
A book exploring “How religion must evolve in a scientific age.”
APRIL-MAY: Spirit Play Led by Leslie Mills, Ministry Intern
Spiritual practice sessions, Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00, April 22nd – May 27th
Classes, Small Groups, Forums, Continued

- Ongoing & Small Groups -
  Sign up at wbuuc.org/classes

SHARING CIRCLES
A once-per-month small group, offered many times during the week, focusing on the monthly theological theme with guided questions and short readings. Circles meet October-June.

Contact: Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer (revluke@wbuuc.org or 651.426.2369 x 103)

UU PARENT CIRCLES – 4th Wednesday of each month, 6:30 Dinner, 7:00-8:00 circle
A monthly circle of parents to explore spirituality and parenting together.

Contact: Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer (revluke@wbuuc.org), Amy Peterson Derrick (dre@wbuuc.org)

WOMENSPRIT CIRCLE - 4th Monday of each month, 7:00-9:00pm
A group supporting women in exploring their spiritual origins, experiences and beliefs in community with other women. Meetings are open to all women of WBUUC.

Contacts: Becky Myrick, becky.myrick@gmail.com, 612.760.6168 ; Carol Marsyla, carol.marsyla@gmail.com, 651.253.4200

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - 2nd Monday of each month, 7:00-9:00pm
A group reading a variety of books throughout the year written by women, chosen by the group, and focusing on books which are affordable and easily available for purchase or from a library. Newcomers always welcome.

Contact: Dana Jackson (danaleep@q.com)

MEN'S GROUP
1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 12:30pm, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00pm
A group always open to new members, whose mission is to make connections, deepen friendships and build community, share life’s experiences, learn from each other, give and receive support.

Contact: Steve Kahn (stevekahn@comcast.net)

UU VOICES - 4th Wednesday of each month, 7:30-9:00pm
An open group to discuss various voices from our Unitarian Universalist heritage, with readings regularly provided.

Contact: Dee Smith (newtondsmith@aol.com)

2nd MONDAY BOOK GROUP - 2nd Monday of each month, 12:00-2:00pm
An open book group reading various books throughout the year. Readings regularly provided.

Contact: Dee Smith (newtondsmith@aol.com)

SHAMANIC DRUMMING - 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00pm
A group participating in the ancient practice of shamanic drumming for meditation and spiritual exploration.

Contact: Nancy Hauer (nancy@rookhouse.org)

SUNDAY SITTING MEDITATION
Every Sunday morning at 10:15, between services, in the quiet room

Contact: Julie Vinar (Julie.vinar@gmail.com)
Thank You!

Thank you for pledging and adding a leaf to our tree last year!
With sincere gratitude for your generosity and support,
The WBUUC 2014–15 Pledge Committee

We want to hear from YOU.
Please tell us why you pledge at wbuuc.org/why-i-pledge

ONE MORE WEEK TO BUY TICKETS TO SPIDER JOHN KOERNER!

We’re coming up fast on Saturday, February 7, when your Joyful Noise committee presents the legendary Spider John Koerner in a solo concert; another remarkable night of music, in our own space, benefitting our own church.

*The Boston Globe:* “To someone witnessing Koerner live for the first time, you suddenly understood the magic of a man whose praises have been sung by the likes of Bob Dylan, Bonnie Raitt, and John Lennon.”

*Red House Records:* “Koerner’s rollicking treatments of traditional folk songs and self-penned classics seem to only get better and more seasoned with age. His influence on generations of musicians proves that he is one of America’s true musical originals.”

Koerner got his start playing on the West Bank of Minneapolis with trio Koerner, Ray and Glover, and was an influence on the young Bob Dylan. He has played with Ramblin’ Jack Elliott, Willie Murphy, and has been a stalwart with Red House Records. Appearances in 2014 include the Blues by the Sea festival, the Ashland Folk Festival, as a tour opener for Bonnie Raitt, and in November as a headliner at the sold-out Dave Ray Tribute Concert.

Don’t miss this hot music on a cold night!

Tickets $15 to $25, available now at www.wbuuc.eventbrite.com

Saturday, February 7, 7:30 pm.

White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church

Buy in advance or take a chance; please call the church office 651.426.2369 Monday through Thursday from 10am-4pm to ask if tickets will be available at the door.
Global Climate Change Committee

Wednesday, February 4, the Global Climate Change Committee (GCCC) will present the video *The Great Challenge: Farming, Food and Climate Change* by Michael Pollan, well-known author of *The Omnivore’s Dilemma*. Pollan gave the keynote speech at the *New York Times* “Food for Tomorrow” conference in November 2014. Come watch the video and discuss. Much “food for thought” for all participants.

The GCCC is collaborating with other organizations in the area to sponsor a “Community Solar” program. Planning continues during February and March, for the April 9 program which is scheduled to feature (former WCCO anchor newsman) Don Shelby as the moderator for the program. Put April 9 on your calendar for this important program.

Volunteers Needed

Hope for the Journey needs volunteers. The dates are March 1 - March 7. We are not using “Signmeup,” but instead the system that Hope for the Journey uses. Visit: [www.mysignup.com/wbuuc_2015](http://www.mysignup.com/wbuuc_2015)

Serving Lunch at People Incorporated

Monday, February 9

Once a month members of our congregation will serve a warm meal to approximately 25-30 people who are homeless and have mental illnesses. Members meet at the church at 10am to cook together and then drive to People Incorporated’s Outreach Program on York Avenue in St. Paul. For more information, or to sign up, stop by the Standing on the Side of Love table in the Social Hall or contact Kate O’Reilly at katenandronh@q.com or 651.653.6319.

The Green Sanctuary Comm. Presents: Environmentally Friendly Eating

The Green Sanctuary Committee is hosting a class called Environmentally Friendly Eating. We will cover topics related to how the foods we eat directly affect the environment. We all want to make a difference for the environment—food is an area in which we can make a big impact. Classes will range from presentation/discussion, to hands-on cooking. Please join us once per month through May.

This month, we will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 25 for a discussion about how different foods affect the environment. We will explore the effects on land use, water, and waste disposal, as well as health implications. Come to learn and to share your knowledge, too. If you have questions, email Stirling at stirlingcousins@gmail.com.

4th Wednesday Classes - Held after dinner at 7pm.

**February 25:** Environmentally friendly foods

**March 25:** Cooking a meal together

**April 22:** Planning your garden; What to do with summer vegetables

**May 27:** Stocking your pantry; How to preserve food

Standing on the Side of Love Shirts & More: Coming Soon

If you don’t have a Standing on the Side of Love t-shirt, you will be able to order one soon. Wear it on the Selma trip; in solidarity with those going to Selma; at a rally, march or parade; at the State Capitol; whenever you want to proclaim your belief in justice and equality.

In February we will be taking pre-paid orders for SSL shirts and hats. Look for details in the Sunday announcements.

www.wbuuc.org
February 2015

Among Ourselves

We send love and well wishes to these members and friends:

Kate Christopher and Phil Williams, celebrating the birth of their new grandson, Austin, on December 30th.

Tim Nelson and Margo Melting-Nelson: Tim’s mother, Loretta, died peacefully on December 31. She was 80 years of age and lived a good life of hard work and service.

Cappy Erickson, who has been in St. John’s hospital in Maplewood.

If there are names of loved ones you would like us to include here, or names to include in the Meditation in Sunday services, please send them to Victoria Safford: vsafford@wbuuc.org. Victoria is available by appointment during the week in the daytime or evenings, and on Sunday afternoons.

In addition, our Pastoral Care team consists of trained volunteers who will visit in hospital, care center, or at home; offer rides to appointments; companion members and friends going through a difficult time over coffee or tea; provide support through loss, crisis, loneliness, or difficult transition; and mostly, simply listen and be present. To arrange a meeting (in person, by phone or by email) contact Michele Madigan madigan_michele@hotmail.com or Artis Salemo drgnfly47@mac.com. You can help with this ministry! Contact Mary Bolton mbolton54@yahoo.com, to learn about simple ways to volunteer as a “helping hand.”

Special Collections

Twice a month, our Sunday collection goes to support the work of various justice causes and organizations which we support and with whom we partner. By your generosity, we extend the values of this church beyond our walls.

February 8:
Hope for the Journey Home Shelter
Hope for the Journey Home, located at the vacant Guardian Angels Catholic Church rectory, provides overnight transitional housing for homeless families from the Washington County and suburban Ramsey County areas. Opening on Labor Day of 2012, the shelter has an average occupancy rate of over 70%. It is staffed by volunteers from the area churches using the Project Home model. As a partner church, WBUUC will be providing volunteers during the week of March 1-7. Contact Janet Charbonneau at jchr61@gmail.com.

February 22:
White Bear & Mahtomedi Food Shelves
WBUUC has supported the local food shelves for many years by donating food, funds, and time serving on the food shelf boards. March is “Food Shelf Month” when Second Harvest will match the cash donations received to increase the food budget. (Our collection will be held until after March 1 so it will be included in this.) Please continue to put food donations in the grocery cart in the Social Hall, but we hope you will also make a cash donation on February 22 so they can get “a bigger bang for their buck”!

Regional Assembly 2015

It’s time to register for the MidAmerica Regional Assembly, a weekend long gathering of UUs. You’ll hear from great speakers, participate in thought-provoking workshops, and meet and mingle with UUs from all over the Region. Regional Assembly is April 17-19 in Naperville, Illinois—just outside of Chicago. Go to www.midamericauua.org/RA to see all the exciting events and register. Youth are welcome. Childcare is offered. Limited partial scholarships are available. Hotel rooms are available at a group rate, too! Deadline to register at the early bird discount is March 15.

www.wbuuc.org
February Circle Suppers
Want to meet friends and families of WBUUC, outside of the church? Then a Circle Supper is for you! Sign-up to host a group of 6 - 10 (individuals or families), or to be a guest. Then simply meet for an evening of great food & conversation! Next Circle Suppers are February 27th & 28th. Sign-up after Sunday services, or contact Robin Spanier at robinstrax@yahoo.com.

2014/2015 Service Auction Item
Continuing Opportunity!
One of our newer service auction traditions is a house concert given by Carol Caouette & David Heath and performed each February. 40 seats were sold at this year’s auction—a great turnout for this event—but there are 30 more seats available! This house concert has received rave reviews! David & Carol perform an eclectic mix of pop, Broadway, folk, and this year—even some cowboy & country songs!

The house concert will be held on Sunday, February 22nd in the party room at Kellogg Square in downtown St. Paul. Hosts are Peg Guilfoyle and Doc Baillie. Wine and appetizers will be served beginning at 3:30. The concert begins at 4:00. Consider attending this intimate, entertaining winter afternoon concert and help support the great work of your spiritual community.

Purchase a seat beginning Sunday, February 8th between services at an auction table in the social hall! Cost is $35.

French Dinner
Saturday, February 28 at 6:30pm
For almost 35 years, the French Dinner has transformed the Social Hall into a restaurant known as a la Chapelle de l’Ours Blanc. A “fun raiser”—the cost of the $25 tickets covers the food with the “profit” donated to WBUUC. The evening includes hors d’oeuvres, soup, salad, sorbet, entrée, and desserts—our interpretations of fabulous French fare—as well as conversation, and singing French songs around the piano.

A limited number of tickets will be sold after each service on February 8, 15, and 22. We need servers, kitchen and cleanup help. Contact Dee Smith at 651.426.3145. We hope you can join for this special evening.

VSIG
Deadline is February 11
All you creative types, there is still time to participate in the VSIG Show! This year’s theme is Water. It will be on exhibit February 22-March 29 on the Atrium and corridor walls. We’d love to recognize and embrace the large number of artistic people in our midst with this exhibit. Fill out a registration form in the Social Hall on the VSIG table. If you prefer an electronic form, it is available by a request to Karen Dahl (karenfreyadahl@gmail.com). Wednesday, February 11 is the deadline for entries. Include a short statement about your piece. All work is due at church by Friday, February 15. The VSIG reception will be held Sunday, February 22 between services. All artists are to pick up “artist” name tags on the reception table that day.

Men’s Programs
Open to all men connected with WBUUC: members, friends or visitors.

Men’s Groups: The daytime group meets on the first and third Tuesday at 12:30pm. The evening group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday at 7pm. No meeting on a fifth Tuesday. All Men’s Programs are open to all interested men, no sign up required, new members always welcome.

Potluck: It is always a good time and an easy way to get to know other WBUUC men. Email Steve Khan at stevekahn@comcast.net for details.

Bowling: Join us at 9am on Friday mornings at Sun Ray bowling lanes. For more information: email Bob Meyenburg at bobmeyenburg@msn.com.

Shuttle: Drivers are always needed for the Sunday morning shuttle to and from the District Center. We are also looking for drivers who are able to pick up one of our older church members. There are several who would like to be able to come to services but who do not drive any longer. Email stevekahn@comcast.net.

Save the Date: The Men’s Retreat is May 15 – 17 at the Audubon Center in Sandstone. Even if you haven’t participated in any of our programs yet, please join us for this weekend out of town.
# Service Opportunities

## Water Plants at Church

**Opportunity**  
The church staff is looking for a volunteer to water the beautiful plants inside our building.

**Time**  
30-60 mins every 7 to 10 days

**Contact**  
Laura Smidzik, 651.426.2369 x 111, lsmidzik@wbuuc.org

## Marketing/Advertising Help

**Opportunity**  
Assist with marketing church events to the wider community. Write copy for social media sites and advertising, post events in online calendars, and coordinate a poster hanging brigade.

**Time**  
Varies

**Contact**  
Laura Smidzik, 651.426.2369 x 111, lsmidzik@wbuuc.org

## Joyful Noise Music Series

**Opportunity**  
Help with ticket sales, ushering at concerts, planning, host a reception, marketing (can be done from home)

**Time**  
Varies

**Contact**  
Laura Smidzik, 651.426.2369 x 111, lsmidzik@wbuuc.org

## Provide a Ride

**Opportunity**  
Provide a ride to church on Sunday mornings. Drivers are matched with riders in their area.

**Time**  
Any and/or every Sunday

**Contact**  
Leslie Mills, 651.426.2369 x 112, lmills@wbuuc.org

## Shuttle Driver

**Opportunity**  
Shuttle WBUUC members and friends from the District Ctr. for Sunday services.

**Time**  
1 Sunday/year minimum

**Contact**  
John Bauhs, bauh0002@umn.edu

## Sunday Greeter

**Opportunity**  
We need greeters at the Sanctuary Doors/Welcome Center to pass out programs and answer questions.

**Time**  
Sunday morning services at 9 and/or 11, 15 minutes before and after service. Volunteer as often as you choose through SignUpGenius.

**Contact**  
Miriam Juvette, 651.428.6314, mjuvette@comcast.net

## Tablet Needed

**Opportunity**  
Upgrading to a new iPad or Android (Preferably iPad 2 or newer)? WBUUC would love to use your old one at the Welcome Center.

**Time**  
None

**Contact**  
Anna Gehres, 651.426.2369 x 107, agehres@wbuuc.org
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<td>8:50am &amp; 10:50am Giving Voice to the Spirit 9am &amp; 11am Worship Service 10am &amp; 12pm Welcome Gathering 10:10am Sunday Meditation 12pm Welcome Gathering for Newcomers</td>
<td>7pm Conversation Circles: Race and Privilege</td>
<td>12:30pm Men’s Group</td>
<td>6pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 7pm Green Sanctuary 7:30pm Board Meeting 7:30pm Endowment Committee Meeting 7:30pm GCCC Meeting 7:30pm Meditation Class 7:30pm Pledge Team</td>
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<td>7:30pm Joyful Noise Concert: Spider John Koerner</td>
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<td>8:50am &amp; 10:50am Giving Voice to the Spirit 9am &amp; 11am Worship Service 10am Board Open House 10:10am Sunday Meditation 10:15am Art Committee Meeting 12:30pm Winter Leadership Forum</td>
<td>10am People Inc. 12pm 2nd Monday Book Discussion 6:30pm Financial Development 7pm Conversation Circles: Race &amp; Privilege 7pm Women’s Book Group</td>
<td>5pm Building and Operations Meeting 7pm Men’s Group</td>
<td>VSIG Deadline 5:45pm (Youth) Youth/Adult Committee 6pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 7:30pm Song and Story: All Church Event</td>
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<td>9am &amp; 11am Worship Service 10am Board Open House 10:10am Sunday Meditation</td>
<td>7pm Conversation Circles: Race and Privilege</td>
<td>12:30pm Men’s Group 7pm Shamanic Drumming</td>
<td>5:45pm (Youth) Youth Service Workshop 6pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 7pm Land Stewardship Committee 7pm Religious Growth &amp; Learning Comm. 7:30pm Nominations &amp; Leadership Comm. 7:30pm Pledge Team 7:30pm Social Action Committee Meeting 7:30pm Sunday Worship &amp; Celebrations</td>
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<td>8:50am &amp; 10:50am Giving Voice to the Spirit 9am &amp; 11am Worship Service 10am &amp; 12pm Art’s Reception 10am Sunday Meditation 12:15pm Advanced Directive Class 12:30pm New Member Class - Session II 1pm Art and Soul</td>
<td>7pm Conversation Circles: Race and Privilege 7pm Executive Committee Meeting 7pm WomenSpirit Women’s Spirituality Group</td>
<td>6:30pm HVac Comm. 7pm Men’s Group 7:30pm Pledge Comm.</td>
<td>6pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 7pm Environmentally Friendly Eating Class 7pm Financial Oversight Committee 7pm New Member Class - Session II 7pm UU Parent Circle 7:15pm Community Singing Circle 7:30pm UU Voices</td>
<td>5:30pm Belonging and Community Committee</td>
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ONE MORE WEEK TO BUY TICKETS TO SPIDER JOHN KOERNER!

Don’t miss this hot music on a cold night!

Tickets $15 to $25,
available now at

www.wbuuc.eventbrite.com

Saturday, February 7, 7:30 pm.

White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church
White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church

Sunday Services and Religious Education classes at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Coffee and Conversation at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall
Giving Voice to the Spirit: Community Singing at 8:50 and 10:50 in the Sanctuary

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<tr>
<th>March 2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 1</td>
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<td><strong>The Lavish We</strong></td>
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<td>Reverend Victoria Safford</td>
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<td>Music from the Choir, directed by Thaxter Cunio and from Carol Caouette</td>
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<td>Sunday, March 8</td>
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<td><strong>Letters to Our Children</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Guest Preachers Karen Hutt and Ashley Horan</td>
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<td>Music from Ava Harmon, soprano; Carol Caouette, piano</td>
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On this 50th anniversary of the march from Selma, we will look back at the stories of our Unitarian Universalist involvement in the Civil Rights Movement of the past, consider our role in the rising movements for justice unfolding around us in the present, and pause to envision a world worthy of leaving to our children in the future. 50 years from now, how will the next generations remember the work we did to bend the arc of the universe toward justice?

Karen Hutt and Ashley Horan are partners in life and colleagues in Unitarian Universalist ministry. Karen serves as a Clinical Pastoral Education Supervisor and chaplain at the University of MN Medical Center-Fairview, and Ashley is the Executive Director of MUUSJA, the MN Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance. They recently moved back to the Twin Cities (where Ashley grew up) from Chicago, with their two children, Lisa (14 years old) and Aspen (3 months).

| Sunday, March 15 |
| **Adjust Your Own Mask First**  |
| Reverend Victoria Safford  |
| Music from the Choir, directed by Thaxter Cunio and from Carol Caouette  |
| Sunday, March 22  |
| **Beloved. Broken. (repeat)**  |
| Reverend Luke Stevens-Royer  |
| Liz Anderson, Irish Flute and Hans Peterson, piano/guitar  |
| Sunday, March 29  |
| **Being Singular Plural**  |
| Reverend Victoria Safford  |
| Mary Duncan, featured musician and hymn pianist  |

You know we run it very lean. It doesn’t look that way because the building is beautiful and relatively new. It doesn’t look as if we run it on a shoestring, but the fact is that we do. Paid staff work long hours here, committees run budgets to the bone, and the building isn’t paid for yet, so we are carrying a mortgage, and stuff breaks down, wears out, just like in any other house. We run it very lean—but it doesn’t feel that way when you hear our choir sing, or the children’s choir drumming, or listen, with tears pooling in your eyes, as our teenagers lead a Sunday service, telling us what it’s like to be young, what it’s like to be them. It’s like a report from the front, smuggled in.

We run it lean, but you’d never know it, listening to the music or the children, or the voices raised at the capitol for marriage equality, for voter equality, gun reform, immigrant rights, racial justice, or for a living wage.

Think of the times you have been moved, shaken, inspired, amazed, comforted, or sorely challenged when someone lights the chalice on an ordinary morning, illuminating the whole room by opening their heart.

Why else would you become a member, and come as often as you do on Sunday, if not to see your congregation thrive, and to take part in that thriving? And how else could it thrive, without the support of its own people (there is no other source of income), people who say: “We will give this much money next year, out of our precious, limited household resources, because we believe in this church, in its work in the world, and its value in our daily lives, grounding us in principles, convictions, courage, hope, joy; transforming us, in fact, into better people than we maybe thought we ever could be—more thoughtful, more faithful, more kind, more accountable to the Larger Love, by whatever name you call it. We will pledge this much,” the people say, “so we can plan to pay the salaries, the mortgage and utilities, and plan for music and curricula, paper, markers, candles, computers, coffee, everything.”

It is not the house itself. It’s what the house holds dear, it’s what the house contains, and makes possible within and far beyond its walls. Will you join me, and make a pledge worthy of our shared dreams, our common work, our love of this community?

With gratitude,
Victoria

www.wbuuc.org/pledge

Monthly Theological Theme—Living the Questions

SALVATION: the practice of resilience

What is saving your life right now?
How have you practiced resilience in your life?
How are you reminded that you are beloved with inherent worth and dignity?
How is your own well-being, or salvation, connected to the well-being of all?

Each month, our church gathers around a theme and practice to guide our congregational life. To sign up for a small group, contact revluke@wbuuc.org, 651.426.2369 x 103, or visit wbuuc.org/classes.

www.wbuuc.org
March is a month of transition as winter recedes and spring glimmers just over the horizon. It’s also an important time of transition for our church because it is the month of our annual pledge drive. Our 2015-16 church year is peeping over the horizon and we are about to sow the seeds that we will reap. Together we can plant a plentiful crop—a crop that is rooted in gratitude and will flourish in service to the wider world.

Your generous gifts last year made it possible to restore some of the program, staff, and committee cuts made in prior years. We have consequently been able to take a deep breath and catch a glimpse of what our future could be like.

With this pledge drive the Board seeks to consolidate our growing stability and make moderate progress toward a healthier financial future. A successful pledge drive this year will help lay the foundation for addressing challenges identified during the Board’s long-term planning process.

We are an inspired church community and we recreate our future with every pledge drive. Please renew and increase your commitment—with 100% participation our church community can thrive and serve. Together we are truly “Spreading Seeds and Growing Souls.”

I was reading a blog post about the topic of Salvation which is this month’s worship theme. This quote caught my eye:

At the heart of our Unitarian Universalist faith is a call for universal salvation. In humanist terms this salvation is not contained under the rubrics of “acceptance” or “tolerance” but rather the rubric of “love.” Similarly, this salvation is not inert or predetermined but is instead living and fluid. In other words, for Unitarian Universalists, salvation is lived.

[http://international.blogs.uua.org/2013/04/]

How do we live “love”? It sounds like a simple task yet it involves an engagement and commitment to others in our lives, the community, and the greater world. I believe when our lives are connected to a faith community they are given roots and wings of love. My hope is that if you are actively obligated to love deeply (and daily) through parenting, caregiving, work or relationships you will find this place to be one that nurtures your soul and gives you respite from the headlong tumble of day-to-day care and commitments. We hope you know that through this congregation you are held by a love that will not let you go.

I also hope those of us who are less entwined in daily obligations are able to step up and lean into the part of our sacred covenant which calls us to help one another. May this place feed your soul and give you the strength, support, and courage to lead and serve both within our church community and out in the world.

Let our fluid lives be buoyed by the river of love, care, and commitment at White Bear UU Church. As Director of Membership, I am always available to talk about becoming a member whether you are new to the church or are a long-time friend who wants to enter into the covenant of membership.
Our Whole Lives Parent Meeting
We are excited to announce that we will once again offer the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program at the 6th grade level during the spring trimester. This positive, age-appropriate sexuality education program is 8 sessions and will be offered during the 9am worship service only. Parents who wish to enroll their child in this program must attend a parent orientation meeting, scheduled for Sunday, March 1 at 12:30pm. If you are unable to make this meeting or if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Amy Peterson Derrick at dre@wbuuc.org. More information about the OWL program can be found at www.uua.org/re/OWL.

Chalice Lighter Training for Kids
Ages 8-14 | Fourth Wednesday Evenings | 7-8pm
Children and youth ages 8-14 are invited join us on the fourth Wednesday evening of each month to learn how to tend the flame of our sacred chalice. We’ll create rituals for home, discover the history of our symbol and create a chalice to bring home. Children and youth who complete this program will be eligible to light the chalice during worship services.

Spiritual Practice Workshop
Ages 4-7 | Fourth Wednesday Evenings | 7-8 pm
For children ages 4-7; each week we will experience a new spiritual practice, from drumming to yoga to prayer and meditation. Participants will also have the opportunity to create tools for building a center for spiritual practice at home.

Find out more and Sign up for Wednesday Evening Programs online:
religiouseducationforchildren.wordpress.com/wednesday-evening-programs/

March At-A-Glance

Sun, March 1, 2015: Social Action Sunday for K-6th grades; 6th grade OWL meeting for parents at 12:30pm
Wed, March 4, 2015: All-Skate Event, 6-8pm at Saints North in Maplewood
Sun, March 8, 2015: RE for children and youth 9am &11am
Wed, March 11, 2015: “Story and Song” multigenerational worship; 7:30-8pm
Sun, March 15, 2015: Start of Spring Trimester:
   RE for children and youth 9am &11am
Wed, March 18, 2015: Religious Education Committee Meeting; 7:00pm
Sun, March 22, 2015: RE for children and youth 9am &11am
Wed, March 25, 2015: UU Parenting Circle Meets 7-8pm
   Chalice Lighter & Spiritual Practice Workshop for children ages 8-13 7-8pm
Thinking the Theme: Salvation
Being Present to the Unbearable

Next time you find that a moment is unpleasant and that running away might be the best way—no. It may be a chance. So stay in that moment. Look deeply into the nature of your suffering. You now have to practice mindful breathing, mindful walking – generating the energy of mindfulness.

Let the energy generated by mindfulness help you be strong enough to encounter the pain and embrace it tenderly. You can calm it down and transform it. Understanding and compassion have the power to heal. The practice should not only be individual; it should be collective also. – Thich Nhat Hanh

I Gratefully Recognize winter teachers Kaari Rodriguez, Marianne Rana, Stephen Rosenmeier, Dick Grant, Cathy Dalton, Jen Stow, and Kate Edwards. Many hands empowered recent events including the Hindu mandir visit, Coming of Age breakfast, studio field trip, Unity youth con, worship retreat, service workshops, and Feed My Starving Children outing (25,272 meals for Haiti!) and donated to Boston Bound and Got You Covered, served on the Youth/Adult Committee, and helped behind scenes. This is an engaged, generous community. Thank you, everyone, for blessing one another by being active for youth!

MARCH CALENDAR To RSVP & receive updates write: youth@wbuuc.org

Sun. 1st PeaceJam Meeting, 10:00-10:45.

Tues. 3rd Teacher Training, 6:45-8:30.

Wed. 4th All-Family Roller Skate with RE families. Notice above.

Thu. 5th PeaceJam Meeting, 5:30-7:00.

Fri. 6th Nobel Peace Prize Youth Festival. Details at March meetings.

Sun. 8th Winter 7th-8th grade RE ends; Please thank your teachers!

Sun. 15th Spring 7th-8th grade RE Session opens with Making Allies/Making Friends curriculum.

Wed. 11th Youth/Adult Committee, 5:45 (time change). Boston Bound, 6:45. Vespers, 7:30.

Wed. 18th Boston Bound Meeting, 6:45-8:00.


April Dates: 2-6 – Boston Bound Trip; 12th and 19th (19th TBC) - GLBTQIUU youth circle.
Music and Art

WBUUC PRESENTS

THE HAPPY MUSIC HOUSE CONCERT

SATURDAY • MARCH 28, 2015 • 7:30PM
BRING A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM FOR THE MAHTOMEDI FOOD SHELF

Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth.

The VSIG (Visible Signs of Inward Grace) Art Exhibit will be on display until Sunday, March 29. This show displays the work of WBUUC members and friends. This year’s theme is water.

Service Opportunities

Guardian Angels Shelter
Opportunity: Hope for the Journey Home Shelter needs volunteers. Must have completed background check & Safe Congregations training.
Contact: Janet Charbonneau; jchar61@gmail.com; 651.442.2791

Shuttle Driver
Opportunity: Shuttle WBUUC members and friends from the District Center for Sunday services.
Time: 1 Sunday/year minimum
Contact: John Bauhs, bauh0002@umn.edu

Helping Hands
Opportunity: Mpls member needs help with rides & light housekeeping until early March. Need 4-5 volunteers.
Time: 2-4 hours at a time (including travel)
Contact: Mary Bolton, 651.271.1593; mbolton54@yahoo.com

Water Plants at Church
Opportunity: The church staff is looking for a volunteer to water the plants inside our building.
Time: 30-60 mins every 7 to 10 days
Contact: Laura Smidzik, 651.426.2369 x 111, lsmidzik@wbuuc.org

Provide a Ride
Opportunity: Provide a ride to church on Sunday mornings. Drivers can be matched with riders nearby.
Time: Any and/or every Sunday
Contact: Leslie Mills, 651.426.5107 x 112, lmills@wbuuc.org

Sunday Greeter
Opportunity: Greet and answer questions, pass out orders of service at the Sanctuary Doors.
Time: 15 minutes before and after Sunday services.
Contact: Miriam Juvette, 651.428.6314, mjuvette@comcast.net

Tablet Needed
Opportunity: Upgrading to a new iPad or Android (Preferably iPad 2 or newer)? WBUUC would love to use your old one at the Welcome Center.
Time: None
Contact: Anna Gehres, 651.426.2369 x107, agehres@wbuuc.org
Holy Week is not a moment marked on most Unitarian Universalist calendars, and yet our hearts still beat to ancient, sacred rhythms. In story and song, with candle-lit prayers on one night, a ritual feast on another, and glad celebration on a spring Sunday morning, we will mark the turning of the year with old traditions reinvented, and fresh reverence for old, abiding mysteries: the resurrection of the tender land after winter’s dying, the sacred dance of sorrow and new hope, the miracle (is there any other word?) of restoration when it seems that all is lost.

On Thursday evening, April 2, THE CIRCLE OF LAMENTS will weave the beautiful threads of the ancient Maundy Thursday rite together with the Buddhist practice of tonglen and the wisdom way of the labyrinth path. On Friday, April 3, our PASSOVER SEDER will revisit universal themes of slavery and liberation, memory and hope; and on Sunday morning, April 5, we’ll sing the lovely Easter hymns, share stories old and new and celebrate with joyful music. Come join us – for lo, the winter is past.

**THE CIRCLE OF LAMENTS Thursday, April 2 at 7:30pm**

This evening service calls us to face the sorrows and struggles that weigh us down. Held each year on the evening before Good Friday, the service borrows elements from Buddhist, Christian and other ancient practices to create a uniquely UU experience. As evening shadows darken in the Sanctuary, we sit together in a circle and acknowledge the sufferings that are common to us all, whether these are personal difficulties or concerns for our wider world. The service uses poetry and song, candlelight and music, silence and shared stories to restore life’s balance. Instead of tuning out life’s many challenges, we seek to tune into them by opening our hearts with understanding and compassion. As the service concludes, all are invited for a meditative walk through our labyrinth. [A gentle note: younger children probably won’t enjoy this quiet circle.]

To help with the Circle of Laments (set-up, clean-up, reader) contact Victoria Safford vsafford@wbuuc.org.

**PASSOVER SEDER Friday, April 3 at 6-8pm**

Let all who are hungry come and eat! Children and adults of all ages take part in this retelling of the Passover story. We’ll celebrate Passover and rededicate ourselves to the cause of liberation and justice all over the world, using a beautiful Hagaddah compiled from sources new and old by our former ministry intern, Rev. David Schwartz. A potluck feast for all follows the ceremony. All are welcome—children and adults, with Jewish heritage or without, whether or not you’ve ever been to a Seder before. Tickets are $3.00 for adults, $1.00 for kids (if you have 3 or more children, we cap the family cost at $10.00). No one will be turned away because of cost, but seating is limited to 100, so you must sign up.

To help with the Passover Seder (set-up, clean-up, shopping, preparations, tickets) contact Luke Stevens-Royer revluke@wbuuc.org. To reserve seats, contact Luke or click here www.wbuuc.eventbrite.com.
NEW MEMBER CLASSES: For New-Comers and Old-Timers
Session I: Sunday, Mar. 22, 12:30-2:30pm; Session II: Sunday, April 19, 12:30-2:30pm
Are you new to White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church and ready to explore membership? Are you a longtime friend of the church who wants to step fully into membership? We invite you to the new member class Session I with info on WBUUC’s history, mission and vision and an overview of UU history and theology and Session II where you learn about membership and officially join the church. Childcare is available by request for all of the sessions. Contact Laura Smidzik, lsmidzik@wbuuc.org or 651.426.2369 x 111.

ART & SOUL: Community Circle of Crafters
Sundays March 22nd, April 26th, May 10th, 1:00-3:00pm
This monthly circle is open to anyone who is looking for a community of crafters —knitting, crocheting, sewing, cross-stitch, jewelry design and beadwork, or any other portable art. We will gather in the Social Hall and open with a chalice lighting and check-in, followed by free-flowing discussion based around the monthly theme. REGISTER online or contact ministry intern Leslie Mills with any questions (lmills@wbuuc.org).

SPIRIT PLAY: Sessions on Spiritual Practices
Wednesdays, April 22 – May 27, 7:30-9:00pm
Come play with different modes of spiritual practice in this six-session workshop. Participants do not need to attend all sessions, but each week we will experience a few different spiritual practices, with various modes of engaging our senses and our spirits, as well as time for reflection and discussion. REGISTER online or contact ministry intern Leslie Mills with any questions (lmills@wbuuc.org).

GOD REVISED: Book Group
Tuesdays, May 19th, 26th, June 2nd, 7:00-8:30pm
A book group exploring Galen Guenrich’s book, God Revised: How Religion Must Evolve in a Scientific Age. Join the conversation around how religious language and life have been and need to be adapting for our modern world. Led by Victoria Safford, Minister. REGISTER online or contact Victoria (vsafford@wbuuc.org) for more information.

UPCOMING SPECIAL FORUM
SUNDAY, APRIL 19TH: The Story from Selma Presentation and Potluck Dinner
5:30 – Dinner | 6:30 to 8:00 – Presentation
Join us for an evening of reflections, pictures, and a shared dinner as participants of the Pilgrimage to Selma share stories about the trip, and hear visions for the future of our racial justice work here at church. All are welcome!
Classes, Small Groups, Forums, Continued

Sign up in the Social Hall, online at wbuuc.org/classes, or contact: Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer at revluke@wbuuc.org or 651.426.2369

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

SHARING CIRCLES
A once-per-month small group, offered many times during the week, focusing on the monthly theological theme with guided questions and short readings. Circles meet October-June.
Contact: Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer (revluke@wbuuc.org or 651-426-2369x103)

UU PARENT CIRCLES – 4th Wednesday of each month, 6:30 Dinner, 7:00-8:00 circle
A monthly circle of parents to explore spirituality and parenting together.
Contact: Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer (revluke@wbuuc.org), Amy Peterson Derrick (dre@wbuuc.org)

WOMEN'S SPIRIT CIRCLE - 4th Monday of each month, 7:00-9:00pm
A group supporting women in exploring their spiritual origins, experiences and beliefs in community with other women. Meetings are open to all women of WBUUC.
Contacts: Becky Myrick, becky.myrick@gmail.com, 612.760.6168; or Carol Marsyla, carol.marsyla@gmail.com, 651.253.4200

WOMEN’S BOOK GROUP - 2nd Monday of each month, 7:00-9:00pm
A group reading a variety of books throughout the year written by women, chosen by the group, and focusing on books which are affordable and easily available for purchase or from a library.
Contact: Dana Jackson (danaleep@q.com)

MEN’S GROUP
1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 12:30pm, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00pm
A group always open to new members, whose mission is to make connections, deepen friendships and build community, share life’s experiences, learn from each other, give and receive support.
Contact: Steve Kahn (stevekahn@comcast.net)

UU VOICES - 4th Wednesday of each month, 7:30-9:00pm
An open group to discuss various voices from our Unitarian Universalist heritage, with readings regularly provided.
Contact: Dee Smith (newtondsmith@aol.com)

OPEN MONDAY BOOK GROUP - 2nd Monday of each month, 12:00-2:00pm
An open book group reading various books throughout the year. Readings regularly provided.
Contact: Dee Smith (newtondsmith@aol.com)

SHAMANIC DRUMMING - 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00pm
A group participating in the ancient practice of shamanic drumming for meditation and spiritual exploration.
Contact: Nancy Hauer (nancy@rookhouse.org)

SUNDAY SITTING MEDITATION
Every Sunday morning at 10:15, between services, in the quiet room
Contact: Julie Vinar (Julie.vinar@gmail.com)
Among Ourselves

We hold these friends and members in our hearts this month:

Bev Andrews, recovering from a heart attack in December and looking forward to coming home soon.

MJ LaVigne, whose father, Jim LaVigne, is in hospice care.

Dan and Jan Crowley: they are in Texas this winter, and received word that their grandson, here at home, has died.

Charlotte Preston and Mary Kurth, as Charlotte begins treatment for gall bladder cancer.

Solveig Sem, recovering at home from successful shoulder surgery.

Gwynn Carver, whose mother is ill.

Bob Wilmers, doing fine after a successful heart procedure last week.

Sheila Moriarty, whose granddaughter, Marisol (age 5) has had an MRI for a serious condition.

Chris Pikala, whose sister died unexpectedly in February.

We celebrate with Aaron Johnson and Katherine Powers who were married here on February 20, and with Donnie and Amy Lemke on the dedication of daughter Cleo here on February 21.

And we send love and courage to the families of two members who died this past month:

Dora LeTourneau, who died on January 12

Suzanne Linton, who died on January 30

In the rising of the sun, and in its going down, we will remember them.

If you would like our ministers to include in the Sunday meditation the name of a loved one you are holding in sorrow or concern or joy, please contact Victoria Safford vsafford@wbuuc.org (651.426.2369), or leave a note in the bowl by the Sanctuary window.

To send cards to those named in meditations, visit the Pastoral Care table in the Social Hall, where each Sunday you will find a current list with mailing addresses. You may take these with you, or write them here for us to mail for you.

Service of Dedication for Older Children & Their Families

Sunday, May 31 at 5pm
Potluck supper to follow!

Throughout the year, we dedicate babies and young children in Sunday morning services, warmly welcoming these youngest members and their parents into our community with roses and blessings. But most of the children new to our Religious Education program enter when they’re a little older—as toddlers, elementary-aged kids, middle-schoolers, and youth in high school. This special service is for these children, their families, and for all of us. Join us on Sunday evening, May 31 at 5pm for a dedication service for older children and their families, to welcome them warmly and gladly into our congregation, and to mark the occasion with a joyful ritual and celebration. A wonderful potluck supper will follow. All are welcome to attend; we hope our whole congregation will come, smiling and welcoming, just as we come on Sunday mornings. If you would like your child(ren) to be included in the special ceremony, contact Victoria Safford vsafford@wbuuc.org, or sign up in person on her office door.
**Social and Environmental Justice**

**Green Sanctuary Hosts Harmony Learning Center**

**Wednesday, March 4 at 6:30pm—Social Hall**

On March 4 we are inviting folks from the Harmony Learning Center to join us for Wednesday Night Dinner. WBUUC partners with them to support the Harmony Immigrant Garden which provides immigrant farmers the opportunity to grow traditional food from their home country. Please welcome them, and watch for the Harmony Immigrant Garden transplant sale this spring!

**Global Climate Change Committee**

The Global Climate Change Committee (GCCC) will hold its regular monthly meeting on **Wednesday, March 4 at 7pm**. We will be discussing final plans for the “Community Solar” program on **April 9**, and plans for Earth Day later in April, as well as tentative plans for May (possibly a field trip). All those concerned about Climate Change, global warming, and our carbon footprint, are cordially invited to attend. If you have any specific issues you would like to bring to our attention, please contact either Kirk Cobb (kcobb@superiorpt.com) or Dana Jackson (danaleej3@gmail.com).

**Environmentally Friendly Eating**

**Wednesday, March 25**

The second session of the Environmentally Friendly Eating group will be meeting on Wednesday, March 25 at 7pm. We will continue discussing the effect of our diets on the environment, especially the impact of meat and animal products, as well as ways of reducing our personal footprint. For more information contact Stirling at stirlingcousins@gmail.com.

**Serving Lunch at People Incorporated**

**Monday, March 9**

Once a month members of our congregation will serve a warm meal to approximately 25-30 people who are homeless and have mental illnesses. Members meet at the church at 10am to cook together and then drive to People Incorporated’s Outreach Program on York Avenue in St. Paul. For more information, or to sign up, stop by the Standing on the Side of Love table in the Social Hall or contact Kate O’Reilly at katenandronh@q.com or 651.653.6319.

**Lunches for Habitat Volunteer Builders**

Volunteers are needed to provide lunch for 20 at the Habitat build site during the two weeks of the St. Croix Coalition. Lunch will be needed M-F during the week of June 22 and week of July 6. Expenses will be reimbursed. The sooner you put in a request, the more likely you’ll get your first choice. Contact John Velin with your first, second, and third choices of dates so he can bid on them. If you’d like to help, but want a buddy or two, let John know and he can do some arranging. Email johnrvelin@comcast.net.

**MLK Breakfast: Thank You!**

Thank you to more than 60 volunteers who helped make the Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast a resounding success. We sold more than 200 tickets and raised $2,042 for Brotherhood, Inc. A delicious breakfast, and wonderful speakers Professor Nekima Levy-Pounds and telecast keynote speaker Vernon Jordan. Thanks to the various crews doing set up, food preparation, serving, ushering, parking and clean up. Special thanks to Jeannie Inglehart, Jerry Lakso, Carol Caouette and the WBUUC staff for all their work!

~The MLK Breakfast Planning Committee
Regional Assembly 2015
It’s time to register for the MidAmerica Regional Assembly, a weekend long gathering of UUs. You’ll hear from great speakers, participate in thought-provoking workshops, and meet and mingle with UUs from all over the Region. Regional Assembly is April 17-19 in Naperville, Illinois—just outside of Chicago. Go to www.midamericauua.org/RA to see all the exciting events and register. Youth are welcome. Childcare is offered. Limited partial scholarships are available. Hotel rooms are available at a group rate, too! Deadline to register at the early bird discount is March 15.

WBUUC Coffee House
Saturday, April 11, 7pm—Social Hall
Have a cup of coffee, soda, and snacks. Sit back, enjoy, mingle in a smaller informal gathering with church friends. Listen as other church friends of all ages perform for us (several for the first time). You’ll hear some poetry, storytelling, musical entertainment including clarinet, guitar, other instruments along with composer, Cathy Dalton who will share some new compositions. The host for the evening is Gloria Ferguson. Adults and children of all ages welcome. Hope to see you there!

Men’s Programs
Open to all men connected with WBUUC: members, friends or visitors.

Potluck: Sunday, March 1, 4:30-7:30. Always a good time and an easy way to feel connected. Email stevekahn@comcast.net for information.

Shuttle: Drivers are always needed for the Sunday morning shuttle to and from the District Center. Email bauh0002@umn.edu.

Mission Statement: To make connections, deepen friendships and build community. Share life’s experiences and learn from each other. Give and receive support during challenging times. Coordinate opportunities to have fun and do good work.

Men’s Groups: The daytime group meets on the first and third Tuesday at 12:30pm. The evening group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday at 7pm. No meeting on a fifth Tuesday. All Men’s Programs are open to all interested men, no sign up required, new members always welcome.

Bowling: Join us on Friday mornings, 9am, at Sun Ray bowling lanes. For more information: email Bob Meyenburg at bobmeyenburg@msn.com.

Save the Date: The Men’s Retreat is May 15–17 at the Audubon Center in Sandstone, MN. A great time! Open to new men, even if you haven’t participated in any of our programs yet, please join us for this weekend out of town.

Circle Suppers in April!
Friday and Saturday, April 24 and 25
Want to meet friends and families of the WBUUC community, outside of the church in a more intimate setting? Then a Circle Supper is for you!
• Sign-up to Host of a group of 6 - 10 in your home (groups of individuals and couples, or families), OR sign up to be a Guest
• The Host provides the main dish, and the Guests bring the other parts of the meal—the group decides on a time to get started
• Then all that’s left is to get together, and eat and enjoy each other’s company!

Sign-up sheets for the April Circle Suppers will be at the Belonging and Community table in the Social Hall, after both Sunday services, starting at the end of March. You can also contact Robin Spanier to sign up by email (robinstrax@yahoo.com).

Piano Wanted
The WBUUC music program would very much like to have a grand piano for use in the balcony, but also for the opportunity to expand our musical programming at church. At this time we are looking for someone who would consider donating a quality grand piano. As the market is quite saturated with those trying to sell pianos due to non-use or downsizing their home, it might be worth considering donating a piano and taking a tax deduction for the full fair market value for doing so. Ideally, WBUUC would like a grand piano that is 5’6” (medium grand) or smaller (baby grand 5’0” to 5’4”) and in good condition. We’d also consider a high quality upright. Regular maintenance is a plus. WBUUC would make all arrangements for moving the piano. Contact Thaxter Cunio at thaxter@wbuuc.org.
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<td>8:50am &amp; 10:50am Giving Voice/Spirit</td>
<td>12:30pm Men's Group</td>
<td>6pm (RE) All-Skate</td>
<td>Pilgrimage to Selma</td>
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<td>9am Cookie Bake</td>
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<td>9am &amp;11am Worship Service</td>
<td>6:45pm (Youth) Teacher Training</td>
<td>6pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>Nobel Peace Prize</td>
<td>Winter RE Session Closes</td>
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<td>10am &amp;12pm Welcome Gathering</td>
<td>7pm Women's Book Group</td>
<td>6:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner</td>
<td>Youth Festival</td>
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<td>10:10am Sunday Meditation</td>
<td>1pm Spring Trimester Teacher Training</td>
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<td>12:30 6th Grade OWL Parent Meeting</td>
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<td>Pilgrimage to Selma Winter RE Session Closes</td>
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<td>5:45pm (Youth) Youth/Adult Committee</td>
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<td>10:15am Art Committee Meeting</td>
<td>1pm Spring Trimester Teacher Training</td>
<td>7pm Song and Story: All Church Event</td>
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<td>12:15pm Advanced Directives Class</td>
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<td>10am &amp;12pm Welcome Gathering</td>
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<td>3pm Spring Trimester Teacher Training</td>
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<td>8:50am &amp; 10:50am Giving Voice/Spirit</td>
<td>7pm Executive Committee Meeting</td>
<td>5:45pm (Youth) Earth Day Meeting</td>
<td>7:30pm Happy Music House Concert</td>
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The goal of 100% participation starts with you, please pledge today.

GROW GIVE together
pledge to support our church

wbuuc.org/pledge
It’s that time of year again; the time when the pledge team asks you to commit to giving to our church for the coming year.

This is your yearly opportunity to reflect on how much WBUUC means to you, your family, and community. It is your commitment to give time, talent, AND treasure that allows our church community to grow and serve the world.

3 ways to pledge:
1. Easy and fast on our website: http://www.wbuuc.org/pledge/
2. Drop your pledge card in the box located outside the church office.
3. Mail your pledge card to WBUUC.

The goal of 100% participation starts with you, please pledge today.

Thank you.
### April 2015

**Thursday, April 2 at 7:30pm**

**The Circle of Laments**
This service borrows elements from ancient practices to create a uniquely UU experience. With poetry and song, candlelight and music, silence and shared stories, we will restore life’s balance, and conclude with a walk through our labyrinth. *A gentle note: younger children probably won’t enjoy this quiet circle.*

**Friday, April 3 at 6pm**

**Passover Seder**
*Please call the office TODAY to reserve your seats!*
We’ll celebrate Passover and rededicate ourselves to the cause of liberation and justice all over the world. A potluck feast for all follows the ceremony. All are welcome—children and adults, with Jewish heritage or without. Tickets are $3.00 for adults, $1.00 for kids (if you have 3 or more children, we cap the family cost at $10.00). No one will be turned away because of cost, but seating is limited to 100, so you must sign up.

**Sunday, April 5**

**The Snow Is Melting into Music**
The winter is past! Celebrate spring and Easter morning with Leslie Mills, Amy Peterson Derrick, Luke Stevens-Royer, and Victoria Safford
Music from the Adult Choir and the Youth Choir

**Sunday, April 12**

**A Little Bit Shattered**
Victoria Safford
Music from Julia Ryan-Holch and Carol Caouette

**Sunday, April 19**

**Good Grief**
Leslie Mills, Hanson Ministry Intern
Music from the Choir, directed by Thaxter Cunio

**Sunday, April 26**

**Dream of Wild Health**
**Guest Speaker for EARTH DAY: Diane Wilson**
Michael Martini, acoustic guitar
Diane Wilson is a Minnesota author and Mdewakanton descendant. Her first book, *Spirit Car: Journey to a Dakota Past*, retraces her family’s Dakota heritage across five generations and won a 2006 Minnesota Book Award. Her second book is *Beloved Child: A Dakota Way of Life*. Wilson is also the executive director of Dream of Wild Health, a Native-owned farm in Hugo, Minn., whose dream is to help American Indian people reclaim their physical, spiritual and mental health.
**FROM VICTORIA**

Victoria Safford

“I look at all of you and I see people committed to small work, which is great work, striving to be human and to dignify the title, giving in over and over to what one long-ago Unitarian clergyman called ‘the temptation to be good,’ the temptation to be hopeful, even in hard times, even on rough days, even though you’ve read the paper and you know the score, you’ve received the diagnosis, or watched the footage from the rubble of the latest bombing or the shooting or the storm – still you yield to the temptation to love this life and shine your light. ‘I see beauty,’ says a person who is very ill, and you know that that’s a choice, that is a moral, religious decision, and it is not easy, to adjust your eyes in the scary dark like that and choose to see the light. I hear the stories of the faithful lives you lead out there and I am overwhelmed with admiration. It breaks my heart. It saves my life.”

— from the sermon on March 1, 2015

To each of you who made a pledge this year to support the vision of our congregation, its services and programs, its work in the world, the building, the staff, the heat and the plumbing, the music, the ministry to children and youth—thank you for your generous participation.

To each of you who returned a pledge card, in person or on line, whether you could give this year or not – thank you for your presence, and your trust.

To everyone—we are very close to our goal of 100% participation. It is not too late for you to make a pledge! Please do. We’re all in this together, holding up our corner of the house.

With gratitude and deep respect,
Victoria

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Nancy Ver Steegh

Our vibrant community inspires us to “be at home” in our beautiful church in the woods. We treasure our time together on Sunday mornings, throughout the week, and at special events. Because we want visitors, long-term members, and everyone in between, to feel welcome, we’ve focused considerable time and energy on mitigating our parking issues.

Did you know that 75 members and friends regularly transform themselves into shuttle drivers? Have you met new people, learned new things, and shared a moment of laughter during a shuttle ride? I think it’s characteristic of us to see a problem, take creative action, and find a silver lining in the solution.

As the board continues its search for parking options, we appreciate your ongoing efforts to increase the number of open spots along Maple and Hallam, as well as in the church lot. Our hope is that someone arriving at the last minute, a visitor coming for the first time, a family with small children, someone with a physical need, or someone who doesn’t yet know about the District Center, will be able to find a spot easily and be at home.

Thank you for using the WBUUC shuttle – and thanks to our many volunteer drivers.
Come in and Sit for Awhile

I was at a panel discussion the other night where three African-Americans shared their memories and stories of their lives in 1965. Two of the men shared reflections on the tight-knit, black community where families lived in the same area, attended the same schools, worked in the same foundry, and worshipped together. They contrasted the life that held them through the tumultuous times of civil unrest in America with today. Today their neighborhoods are divided by highway 94, less cohesive due to gentrification, and impacted by a move toward greater individualism.

I’ve heard speakers who have reflected on the loss of the “front porch” in America. The front porch is the place where neighbors gather, share lives, tell stories, and support one another. I ponder what can replace those sacred, familial places. To some degree, I believe churches can and do fill that void. WBUUC is a multi-aged, spiritual, caring, genuine, supportive, challenging, and holy place. Here we lament and reflect on the pain and despair that can immobilize us, and tap into a greater love, hope, and faith. Here we are brought into sharing circles, new member classes, service in the community, committee meetings, food ministry, witness events, religious education rooms, etc. We are asked to come in—come into this place in a way that is intentional and bigger than our own selves and own lives.

Committing to WBUUC is a sacred and important step in continuing and building a legacy of growing souls and serving the world. I invite you to this place, this house of hope made stronger by our members. Please feel free to contact me or stop by the membership table in the Social Hall to sign up for a membership class. All are welcome.

Laura Smidzik,
Director of Membership

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Grief: The Practice of Breaking Open

“Young children don’t know that sadness isn’t forever. It’s frightening for them to feel that their sadness may overwhelm them and never go away. That ‘the very same people who are sad are sometimes the very same people who are glad sometimes’ is something all parents need to help their children come to understand.”

-Fred Rogers

Our Natural Playground project is underway... but we need your help!
Visit our WBUUC Religious Education Pinterest page to look at some of the design ideas with your child. Then contact Amy Peterson Derrick at dre@wbuuc.org so that you and your child can add your ideas to our collection. What are your favorite natural playground elements?

Keep up with Religious Education at WBUUC on our blog!
From highlights from Sunday mornings to special program announcements to resources for parents; make sure you add the Religious Education Blog to your Favorites!
https://religiouseducationforchildren.wordpress.com/

April At-A-Glance

Fri., April 3: Passover Seder Dinner 6-9pm
Sun, April 5: Interactive Easter multigenerational worship 9am & 11am
Wed, April 8: “Story and Song” multigenerational worship 7:30-8pm
Sun, April 12: RE for children and youth 9am & 11am
Wed, April 15: Religious Education Committee Meeting 7pm
Sun, April 19: RE for children and youth 9am & 11am
Wed, April 22: UU Parenting Circle Meets 7-8pm
  Chalice Lighter & Spiritual Practice Workshop for children ages 8-13; 7-8pm
Sun, April 26: Earth Day Social Action Sunday for children K-5;
  Helpers needed; sign up with RE Assistants on Sunday mornings
Tuesday, April 28: Parents as Sexuality Educators family forum 6:30pm

Monthly Theological Theme for April

Grief: The Practice of Breaking Open

What grief have you experienced in life?

How has grief been supported or discouraged by the people and culture around you?

How do you find ways to have your heart break open without breaking apart?

How has grief broken your heart open to deeper compassion, healing, or love?

Each month, our church gathers around a theme and practice to guide our congregational life. To sign up for a small group, contact revluke@wbuuc.org, 651.426.2369 x 103, or visit wbuuc.org/classes.

To join a Sharing Circle, contact revluke@wbuuc.org, 651.426.2369 x. 103, or visit wbuuc.org/classes.

www.wbuuc.org
WHERE IN THE WORLD … Over Easter weekend, much of our youth group will be in Boston. We will be exploring the birthplace of Unitarian Universalism. Thank you, dear congregants, for supporting our fundraising for this pilgrimage. Please keep us in your hearts now, as you will be in ours.

**Elder Wisdom & Young Hope** WBUUC was well represented among the six hundred people at the Nobel Peace Prize Youth Festival in March.

The day included dialogue, music, dance, visual and performance art, service work, letter-writing, workshops on Ferguson and equity in schools, bagging of toys for ebola-impacted families, and an update on youth development research.

Former President Jimmy Carter decried the world-wide plague of violence against women. He said that 1.6 million females are missing due to gender-selection and infanticide – four times the number of World War II casualties. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons’ Ahmet Uzumcu talked about the difficulties and successes of this work. He urged youth to be science-literate and take leadership in pursuit of peace. “Elders are the keepers of memory,” said one speaker. “Young people are the keepers of the dream.”

**Parents as Sexuality Educators** Children and youth receive important messages about sexuality from their parents. Parents: Join us on the 28th for an evening with Gloria Ferguson, Program Director for Health Start School-Based Health Clinics. Long-time advocate for GLBTQ+ youth and positive sexuality, Gloria is a WBUUC member and former board president.

**APRIL CALENDAR**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Th. 2nd</td>
<td><strong>Boston Bound trip</strong>, discovering our UU roots in America!</td>
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<td>Wed. 8th</td>
<td><strong>Youth/Adult Committee meeting</strong>, 5:45-6:30. <strong>PeaceJam meeting</strong>, 6:45-8:00.</td>
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<td>Sun. 12th</td>
<td><strong>GLBTQ+ youth circle</strong>, 12:30-2:00. RSVP required.</td>
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<td>Wed. 15th</td>
<td><strong>Earth Day meeting</strong>, 5:45-6:30; <strong>PeaceJam meeting</strong>, 6:45-8:00; <strong>Song and Story Vespers</strong>, 7:30.</td>
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<td>Sun. 19th</td>
<td><strong>Chalice field trip</strong>, Coming of Age, 9:00-11:30. <strong>GLBTQ+ circle</strong>, 12:30-2:00. RSVP required.</td>
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<td>Wed. 22nd</td>
<td><strong>Earth Day meeting</strong>, 5:45-6:30; <strong>PeaceJam meeting</strong>, 6:45-8:00.</td>
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<td>Sun. 26th</td>
<td><strong>Earth Day celebration</strong>, during regular classtimes – and continues for all until 1:00.</td>
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<td>Tues. 28th</td>
<td><strong>Family Forum</strong>, Parents as Sexuality Educators, 6:30-8:00. RSVP.</td>
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<td>Wed. 29th</td>
<td><strong>PeaceJam meeting</strong>, 6:45-8:00.</td>
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**Coming of Age Dates in May Dates:** 3rd – Camp St. Croix Day; 17th - Celebration with Parents.
Grow Your Soul | Classes, Forums & Groups

Sign up in the Social Hall, online at wbuuc.org/classes, or contact:
Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer at revluke@wbuuc.org or 651.426.2369

SPECIAL FORUM: SUNDAY, APRIL 19TH: THE STORY FROM SELMA
5:30 – Potluck Dinner | 6:30-8:00 - Presentation
An evening of reflections, pictures, and dinner as participants of the Pilgrimage share about the trip. Come share visions for the future of our racial justice work here at church. All are welcome!

ART & SOUL: Community Circle of Crafters
Sundays - April 26th, 1:30-3:30pm, May 10th, 1pm-3pm
This monthly circle is open to anyone who is looking for a community of crafters —knitting, crocheting, sewing, cross-stitch, jewelry design and beadwork, or any other portable art. We’ll craft as we share a free-flowing conversation around the monthly theme. REGISTER online or contact ministry intern Leslie Mills with any questions (lmills@wbuuc.org).

SPIRIT PLAY: Workshops on Spiritual Practice
Wednesdays, April 29 & May 27, 7:30-9:00pm
Explore different modes of spiritual practice with a meditative session (April 29th) and an outdoor experiential session (May 27). Sign up for one or both, where we will experience a few different spiritual practices as well as time for reflection and discussion. REGISTER online or in the Social Hall, or contact Ministry Intern Leslie Mills at (lmills@wbuuc.org).

GOD REVISED: Book Group
Tuesdays, May 19th, 26th, June 2nd, 7:00-8:30pm
A book group exploring Galen Guenrich’s book, God Revised: How Religion Must Evolve in a Scientific Age. Join the conversation around how religious language and life have been and need to be adapting for our modern world. Led by Victoria Safford, Minister. REGISTER online or contact Victoria (vsafford@wbuuc.org) for more information.

CARING FOR SOMEONE WITH MEMORY LOSS: A class for caregivers
Wednesday, April 15th, 7:00-8:30pm
An opportunity for caregivers to gain an understanding of what is happening for people with memory loss, gain support so you can survive, and insights for the moments of joy. Facilitated by Carolyn Klaver, RN, from Lynblomsten, a nurse focusing on memory loss for 30 years, working with the Gathering Program. Also facilitated by Michele Madigan, member of the church and the Pastoral Care team.
Classes, Small Groups, Forums, Continued

Sign up in the Social Hall, online at wbuuc.org/classes, or contact:
Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer at revluke@wbuuc.org or 651.426.2369

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

SHARING CIRCLES
A once-per-month small group, offered many times during the week, focusing on the monthly theological theme with guided questions and short readings. Circles meet October-June.

Contact: Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer (revluke@wbuuc.org or 651.426.2369 x 103)

UU PARENT CIRCLES – 4th Wednesday of each month, 6:30 Dinner, 7:00-8:00 circle
A monthly circle of parents to explore spirituality and parenting together.

Contact: Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer (revluke@wbuuc.org), Amy Peterson Derrick (dre@wbuuc.org)

WOMEN’S SPIRIT CIRCLE - 4th Monday of each month, 7:00-9:00pm
A group supporting women in exploring their spiritual origins, experiences and beliefs in community with other women. Meetings are open to all women of WBUUC.

Contacts: Becky Myrick, becky.myrick@gmail.com, 612.760.6168; or Carol Marsyla, carol.marsyla@gmail.com, 651.253.4200

WOMEN’S BOOK GROUP - 2nd Monday of each month, 7:00-9:00pm
A group reading a variety of books throughout the year written by women, chosen by the group, and focusing on books which are affordable and easily available for purchase or from a library.

Contact: Dana Jackson (danaleep@q.com)

MEN’S GROUP
1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 12:30pm, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00pm
A group always open to new members, whose mission is to make connections, deepen friendships and build community, share life’s experiences, learn from each other, give and receive support.

Contact: Steve Kahn (stevekahn@comcast.net)

UU VOICES - 4th Wednesday of each month, 7:30-9:00pm
An open group to discuss various voices from our Unitarian Universalist heritage, with readings regularly provided.

Contact: Dee Smith (newtonsmith@aol.com)

OPEN MONDAY BOOK GROUP - 2nd Monday of each month, 12:00-2:00pm
An open book group reading various books throughout the year. Readings regularly provided.

Contact: Dee Smith (newtonsmith@aol.com)

SHAMANIC DRUMMING - 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00pm
A group participating in the ancient practice of shamanic drumming for meditation and spiritual exploration.

Contact: Nancy Hauer (nancy@rookhouse.org)

SUNDAY SITTING MEDITATION
Every Sunday morning at 10:15, between services, in the quiet room

Contact: Julie Vinar (Julie.vinar@gmail.com)
Global Climate Change Committee
The GCCC will have lots of things happening in the month of April:

1) The regular monthly meeting of the GCCC will be held at 7pm on Wednesday, April 1, 2015. Anyone interested, or concerned, about carbon emissions and global climate change, are certainly welcome to join the meeting. We look forward to new faces, and points of view, on this challenging issue.

2) The GCCC, in partnership with several other community organizations, is pleased to present the “Community Solar Gardens” information program on Thursday evening, April 9, beginning at 6:30pm. Others participating in this program include the Izaak Walton League, the Citizens Climate Lobby, the Environmental Stewardship Team at St. Andrews Lutheran, members of St. Jude Catholic, the League of Women Voters, the Sierra Club, and several others. Former WCCO news anchor Don Shelby will moderate the program. Please put this important program on your calendar.

3) The GCCC will sponsor a “Bike to Church” or “Walk to Church” on Sunday, April 26 for Earth Day. Prizes will be awarded for the most miles biked or walked, the largest family biking together, the largest family walking together. We will also calculate how many pounds of emitted carbon dioxide we have avoided. Let’s hope for great weather on April 26.

4) The GCCC will participate in the MAGI “Rite of Spring” on Saturday, April 25. We will sponsor a “write a letter to our congressmen” campaign about current political issues affecting climate change legislation. Let our voices be heard!

Community Solar Gardens Event: How to Invest in Local, Clean Energy
Thursday, April 9 at 6:30pm at WBUUC
Interest in community solar is booming right now as energy companies work to meet the requirement to support community solar garden development in the state. Want to get a piece of the solar power action, but don’t have enough sun, or funding, to set up an entire system on your own? Learn how neighborhoods, cities, churches and businesses can work together to lessen dependence on fossil fuel and invest in renewable energy. Find out if buying a subscription to a community solar garden would be a smart move for you by attending this program at WBUUC on April 9.

Serving Lunch at People Incorporated
Monday, April 13 at 10am—WBUUC Kitchen
Once a month members of our congregation will serve a warm meal to approximately 25-30 people who are homeless and have mental illnesses. Members meet at the church at 10am to cook together and then drive to People Incorporated’s Outreach Program on York Avenue in St. Paul. For more information, or to sign up, stop by the Standing on the Side of Love table in the Social Hall or contact Kate O’Reilly at katenandronh@q.com or 651.653.6319.

Environmentally Friendly Eating
Wednesday, April 22 at 7pm
Happy Earth Day! The next Environmentally Friendly Eating group will meet on Earth Day! We will discuss planning your garden and what to do with summer vegetables. Please join us as we share ideas and recipes. For more information, contact Stirling at stirlingcousins@gmail.com.

We are a congregation working towards social and environmental justice. Look in this section for articles about Economic Justice (housing, homelessness, hunger, poverty), Human Rights (LGBTQI equality, racial justice, reproductive justice), Peace (gun reform, antiwar/antiviolence), and Environmental Justice (climate change, Green Sanctuary). If you have questions or want to get involved, please email us at justice@wbuuc.org.
WBUC Earth Day Fair
Sunday, April 26
The Green Sanctuary Team is organizing a celebration of WBUUC’s “greenness” at the second annual Earth Day Fair. The fun will begin with an early morning bird walk on church grounds. Following services featuring special speaker Diane Wilson from Dream of Wild Health, there will be exhibit tables and activities that exemplify the congregation’s efforts to live our 7th UU principle, “respect for the interdependent web of life, of which we are a part.”

Learn about the status of our efforts to become certified by the UUA as a Green Sanctuary. April 26 will also be Zero Carbon Commute Day, and the Global Climate Change Committee will award prizes to the people who walked or biked the farthest to church.

During April look for announcements and details about the Earth Day Fair on the BIG GREEN FOOT in the Social Hall. Members of the community are invited to create additional art projects or lead activities on Earth Day Sunday. Contact janetkortuem@gmail.com if you have an idea you want to develop into a project for the Earth Day Fair.

Ad Hoc Playground Committee Update
In October, our annual Church Auction event raised the generous amount of $11,855.00 to fund a natural playground. Since that time, an Ad Hoc Committee was established with members meeting monthly to discuss plans for the Natural Playground. The Committee members include representatives from; RE, Land Stewardship, Bldg and Grounds, and other interested individuals.

The Playground Committee has developed a mission and vision statement to guide us in our work. It can be found at www.wbuuc.org/minutes-and-reports.

The area proposed is much the same as what is currently being used (90’ x 50’). A preliminary design has been proposed and will be available for review on Earth Day Sunday, April 26.

While we would like to have a playground this spring, there are building and grounds issues that need to be addressed. Water drainage into the courtyard area and the play area from the building are challenges that need a solution. The Building & Grounds committee in conjunction with the Land Stewardship committee has been studying this issue and will be making recommendations to the Board of Directors in April. Our hope is to keep you informed of our progress via the newsletter and our electronic communications. Should you have questions or wish to share an idea send an email to swarweg@msn.com.

WBUC Coffee House
Saturday, April 11, 7pm—Social Hall
Have a cup of coffee, soda, and snacks. Sit back, enjoy, mingle in a smaller informal gathering with church friends. Listen as other church friends of all ages perform for us (several for the first time). You’ll hear some poetry, storytelling, musical entertainment including clarinet, guitar, other instrumentals along with composer, Cathy Dalton who will share some new compositions. The host for the evening is Gloria Ferguson. Adults and children of all ages welcome. Hope to see you there!

Second Monday Group
Monday, April 13 at 12pm—Courtyard Room
Another stimulating discussion about ants and the separation of church and state today. Seem unrelated? You’d be surprised!

Our next meeting will be on Monday, April 13. Material for discussion will be a recent article from National Geographic entitled “Why Do Many Reasonable People Doubt Science?” and, from the book we’ve been using as a source—The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2014—the article “Learning How to Die in the Anthropocene” (p. 230-237), by Roy Scranton.

Looking toward May 11, we are going to put Elizabeth Kolbert’s The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History back on the docket. Even though we had this item previously, it was decided that we did everything other than actually discuss it at that meeting and Roger has some good insights to share on the book.
Announcements

**UUA Regional Assembly 2015**  
**April 17-19**  
It’s time to register for the MidAmerica Regional Assembly, a weekend long gathering of UUs. You’ll hear from great speakers, participate in thought-provoking workshops, and meet and mingle with UUs from all over the Region. Regional Assembly is April 17-19 in Naperville, Illinois—just outside of Chicago. Go to [www.midamericauua.org/RA](http://www.midamericauua.org/RA) to see all the exciting events and register. Youth are welcome. Childcare is offered. Limited partial scholarships are available. Hotel rooms are available at a group rate, too!

**Circle Suppers in April!**  
**Friday and Saturday, April 24 and 25**  
Want to meet friends and families of the WBUUC community, outside of the church in a more intimate setting? Then a Circle Supper is for you!  
- Sign-up to Host a group of 6-10 in your home (groups of individuals and couples, or families), OR sign up to be a Guest  
- The Host provides the main dish, and the Guests bring the other parts of the meal—the group decides on a time to get started  
- Then all that’s left is to get together, and eat and enjoy each other’s company!  
Sign-up sheets for the April Circle Suppers will be at the Belonging and Community table in the Social Hall, after both Sunday services, starting at the end of March. You can also contact Robin Spanier to sign up by email (robinstrax@yahoo.com).

**Men’s Programs**  
*Open to all men connected with WBUUC: members, friends or visitors.*  
**Men’s Retreat SIGN UP NOW:** May 15 through 17 Audubon Center in Sandstone. A great time and open to new men. Even if you haven’t participated in any of our programs yet, please join us for this weekend out of town. Open to first 40 men who sign up. No deposit needed. No problem with last minute cancellations. Email [stevekahn@comcast.net](mailto:stevekahn@comcast.net) to hold your spot or request information. Cost for entire weekend including food and lodging is usually $115 - $125. Scholarships available, no one turned away because of cost. Enjoy hiking, biking, fishing, canoeing, discussions, and music.

**Land Stewardship Work Day:** Saturday, May 2, 9am to 1pm. Men’s Programs partners with the Land Stewardship committee to provide labor and lunch. Help is needed for lunch preparation and clean up as well as to beautify our church grounds.

**Shuttle:** Drivers are always needed for the Sunday morning shuttle to and from the District Center. Email [bauh0002@umn.edu](mailto:bauh0002@umn.edu).

**Mission Statement:** To make connections, deepen friendships and build community. Share life’s experiences and learn from each other. Give and receive support during challenging times. Coordinate opportunities to have fun and do good work.

**Men’s Groups:** The daytime group meets on the first and third Tuesday at 12:30pm. The evening group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday at 7pm. No meeting on a fifth Tuesday. No sign up required, new members always welcome.

**Bowling:** Join us on Fridays at 9am at Sun Ray bowling lanes. For more information: email Bob Meyenburg at [bobmeyenburg@msn.com](mailto:bobmeyenburg@msn.com).

**UUA General Assembly in Portland**  
**June 24 - 28**  
Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates. The 2015 Ware lecturer is prominent and provocative democratic intellectual, Dr. Cornel West. Registration and housing reservations are open now! Visit [www.uua.org/ga/registration](http://www.uua.org/ga/registration).
Music Notes

We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we’re curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.

-Walt Disney

Our Choir is exploring different placement options for singing during morning services. The reasons for this are many and include growth in numbers, acoustics, and piano/keyboard usage and availability. In recent weeks we’ve heard them singing in several different locations: on the main floor in front of the large window, on the balcony level, and back on the main floor, but down the aisles for the pledge kickoff. Thanks for your patience as we experiment a little more.

- Thaxter Cunio, Director of Music

Artist’s Statements

Michael Gordon, 651.335.3284, michaelgordo@gmail.com

A fieldstone foundation sinking into prairie, a single concrete column cast alongside a riverbank, or a piece of twisted machinery rooted in an overgrown parking lot. Encountering elements like this, literally objects within a field, a question arises: Where did you come from, and what is your story? I am fascinated by the enigma of things unfamiliar to the places they inhabit. Remnants evoke curiosity: lost places, lost spaces, lost lives. I am drawn to those losses and their potential. Can a single object within a site expose the past of a place? By creating drawings, photographs, and reliefs of remnant artifacts within a site, I have created a print based narrative of a former brickyard.

Twin City Brick Company, located just south of downtown St. Paul along the Mississippi River, made bricks from clay deposits in the river banks up until the 1970s. Extracting massive amounts of clay, this landscape was manufactured to fit the functions of industry. Today discarded bricks are interwoven with the natural fabric and only a few industrial artifacts remain. These objects suggest the history of this place but leave one wondering of what actually was. Through a recording process of mold making and casting I have created these prints and others. They indicate how the objects were made, what they have weathered, and their current state.

Dancing Buffalo Photography; Jeffry Jeanetta-Wark, jjwark@gmail.com

Allow the beauty you experience to evoke who you are.

The Soul knows that acknowledging beauty is the beginning of cultivating a connection with beauty. Photography helps the mind accept more consciously what the Soul is aware of. This is where the Arts and spiritual practice meet and “embrace.” If we can align in each moment with beauty, with the Soul’s expression, and with the artful rendering of our outer experience, then we are bringing ourselves to the “embrace” which awaits us. In that moment, we become the beauty we experience. And so I invite you, the viewer, to allow the beauty you experience to evoke who you are.

I am fully open to, and encouraging of your feedback on my works and the process of purchasing them. You can email me directly at jjwark@gmail.com.
An evening of story, pictures, and testimony from those who went on the Selma Pilgrimage, as well as reflections on the work we are called to here in our own community. Come for a potluck at 5:30 and stay for the program at 6:30pm.

Close to 30 members and friends of White Bear UU joined the 50th anniversary Jubilee march commemorating the Civil Rights events in Selma, AL. They joined thousands from across the country, from all backgrounds, honoring the past and answering the current call to racial justice.

The delegation representing White Bear UU Church:

Jessica Banks  
Al & Shari Mitchell  
Tracy Bray  
Kerry Green  
John Velin  
Jane Harper  
Jane Bacon  
Kate O’Reilly

Peg Guilfoyle  
Bob & Stephanie Shaw  
Deb & Neil Krueger  
Madison Van Ostrand  
MJ Lavigne  
Mary Sturm  
Susan Hastings  
Niki Moyer

Michelle Shaw  
Scott Hall  
Kim Shobe  
Barb Flo  
Sara Hesseltine  
Leslie Mills  
Rev. Victoria Safford  
Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer
Upcoming Events

Service of Dedication for Older Children and Their Families
Sunday, May 31 at 5pm, Potluck supper to follow!
Throughout the year, we dedicate babies and young children in Sunday morning services, warmly welcoming these youngest members and their parents into our community with roses and blessings. But most of the children new to our Religious Education program enter when they’re a little older – as toddlers, elementary age kids, middle-schoolers and youth in high school. This special service is for these children, their families, and for all of us. Join us on Sunday evening, May 31 at 5:00 pm for a dedication service for older children and their families, to welcome them warmly and gladly into our congregation, and to mark the occasion with a joyful ritual and celebration. A wonderful potluck supper will follow. All are welcome to attend - we hope our whole congregation will come, smiling and welcoming, just as we come on Sunday mornings. If you would like your child(ren) to be included in the special ceremony, contact Victoria Safford vsafford@wbuuc.org or sign up on her office door.

Special Collections

Sunday, April 12: Unitarian Universalist Empowerment Scholarship at Century College
Our UU Empowerment Scholarship program offers $1,000 a year to a student of limited means to help pay tuition. For more information, see Kate Christopher in the Social Hall on Sundays April 5 and April 12 between services. Last year the congregation donated enough money to offer two $1,000 scholarships. If you cannot attend services on April 12, please donate online at www.wbuuc.org/donate and designate your money should go to Century College.

Sunday, April 26 (Earth Day Celebration): Dream of Wild Health
The mission of Dream of Wild Health is to restore health and wellbeing in the Native community by recovering knowledge of and access to healthy indigenous foods, medicines, and lifeways. Centered at a 10-acre organic farm in Hugo, Minnesota, Dream of Wild Health (DWH) is a place to gather and work as a resource for the Native Community. The organization is committed to sharing knowledge, resources and skills with others in an effort to reduce poverty, improve health and nutrition, and reconnect people and plants in a reciprocal relationship. DWH partners with dozens of urban and tribal organizations on programs that work to restore the mental, physical, and emotional health of the community.

Among Ourselves

We hold these friends and members in our hearts this month:

Diane Markel mourning the death of her father.

Tom and Sarah Hietpas and their family, mourning the death of Tom’s mother.

Bill Lamb, Lisa Lamb, Tom Hickson, Ayuna Lamb-Hickson, and many friends – mourning the death of Bill’s wife and Lisa’s mother, Marcia.

Jason Roycraft, who is a senior in high school, recovering at home from a hockey injury.
He has a serious concussion.

If you would like our ministers to include in the Sunday meditation the name of a loved one you are holding in sorrow or concern or joy, please contact Victoria Safford, vsafford@wbuuc.org (651.426.2369), or leave a note in the bowl by the Sanctuary window. To send cards to those named in meditations, visit the Pastoral Care table in the Social Hall, where each Sunday you will find a current list with mailing addresses. You may take these with you, or write them here for us to mail for you.
To all of you who have pledged, THANK YOU.

Your pledge helps the board plan for next year, insuring proper staffing, much needed building repairs, religious education, and community outreach, to name a few. If you haven’t yet pledged, or did not receive a packet, then visit the table in the Atrium and pledge TODAY.

You 2015–2016 Pledgelings

Chris Nelson, Carla Scholz, Jeff Nelson, Barb Flo, Steve Goranson, & Erin Scott

We are grateful for your pledges (as of 3.24.15):


2015–16 Pledge Team Update / wbuuc.org/pledge
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, April 5</td>
<td>8:55am &amp; 10:50am GYVS—Sanctuary</td>
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<td>9am &amp; 10:50am GYVS—Sanctuary</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9am (Youth) Chalice Glazing Field Trip</td>
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<td>10am People Inc.—Kitchen</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12pm 2nd Mon. Book Group</td>
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<td>5pm Building and Operations Meeting — Office Work Room</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5pm Sunday Afternoon Gathering</td>
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<td>5:30pm Adult Children of Alcoholics—Quiet Room</td>
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<td>Monday, April 6</td>
<td>12:30pm Men’s Group—Courtyard Room</td>
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<td>6pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary</td>
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<td>7pm Passover Seder—Social Hall</td>
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<td>Tuesday, April 7</td>
<td>12:30pm Men’s Group—Courtyard Room</td>
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<td>6:30pm GCCC Hosts Community Solar Program—Sanctuary</td>
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<td>6:30pm GYVS—Sanctuary</td>
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<td>9am &amp; 10:50am GYVS—Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 8</td>
<td>5:45pm Youth/Adult Committee—Sanctuary</td>
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<td>8:50am &amp; 10:50am GVTS—Sanctuary</td>
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<td>9am &amp; 10:50am GYVS—Sanctuary</td>
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<td>9am (Youth) Chalice Glazing Field Trip</td>
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<td>10am Welcome Gathering—Sanctuary</td>
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<td>10:30pm Sunday Afternoon Gathering—Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 9</td>
<td>5:45pm (Youth) Earth Day Meeting — Youth Room</td>
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<td>8:50am &amp; 10:50am GVTS—Sanctuary</td>
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<td>9am &amp; 10:50am GYVS—Sanctuary</td>
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<td>12pm Men’s Group—Courtyard Room</td>
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<td>6pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary</td>
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<td>6:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner—Social Hall</td>
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<td>Friday, April 10</td>
<td>9:30am Big Band Rehearsal—Social Hall</td>
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<td>10:30am Sunday Afternoon Gathering—Sanctuary</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11am MidAmerica Regional Assembly</td>
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<td>12pm Men’s Group—Courtyard Room</td>
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<td>Saturday, April 11</td>
<td>6pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary</td>
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<td>8:50am &amp; 10:50am GYVS—Sanctuary</td>
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<td>10:30pm Sunday Afternoon Gathering—Sanctuary</td>
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<td>Sunday, April 12</td>
<td>8:50am &amp; 10:50am GVTS—Sanctuary</td>
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<td>10am People Inc.—Kitchen</td>
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<td>12pm Men’s Group—Courtyard Room</td>
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<td>Monday, April 13</td>
<td>10:30am Family Forum: Positive Youth Development—Youth Room</td>
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<td>12:30pm Men’s Group—Courtyard Room</td>
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<td>Tuesday, April 14</td>
<td>6:30pm Financial Dev. —Office Work Room</td>
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<td>6:30pm Financial Dev. —Office Work Room</td>
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<td>Wednesday, April 15</td>
<td>7pm Men’s Group—Courtyard Room</td>
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<td>6:30pm MidAmerica Regional Assembly</td>
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<td>Thursday, April 16</td>
<td>5pm Building and Operations Meeting — Office Work Room</td>
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<td>5pm Building and Operations Meeting — Office Work Room</td>
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<td>Friday, April 17</td>
<td>10am People Inc.—Kitchen</td>
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<td>10am People Inc.—Kitchen</td>
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<td>Saturday, April 18</td>
<td>10am People Inc.—Kitchen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, April 19</td>
<td>6pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, April 20</td>
<td>10:30am Family Forum: Positive Youth Development—Youth Room</td>
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<td>Tuesday, April 21</td>
<td>12:30pm Men’s Group—Courtyard Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 22</td>
<td>7pm Men’s Group—Courtyard Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 23</td>
<td>7pm Men’s Group—Courtyard Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 24</td>
<td>5pm Building and Operations Meeting — Office Work Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 25</td>
<td>5pm Building and Operations Meeting — Office Work Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, April 26</td>
<td>8:50am &amp; 10:50am GVTS—Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, April 27</td>
<td>9am &amp; 10:50am GYVS—Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 28</td>
<td>10am People Inc.—Kitchen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 29</td>
<td>10am People Inc.—Kitchen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 30</td>
<td>10am People Inc.—Kitchen</td>
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<td>Friday, May 1</td>
<td>10am People Inc.—Kitchen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 2</td>
<td>10am People Inc.—Kitchen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 3</td>
<td>10am People Inc.—Kitchen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Specific events and locations are listed in the table.*
For lo, the winter is past:
Spring Services in April!

Circle of Laments
Thursday, April 2 at 7:30 pm
poems, chant, sharing and silence in candlelight, with a labyrinth walk

Passover Seder
Friday, April 3 at xxx pm
a shared potluck meal and UU retelling of the Passover story – adults and children welcome!

“The Snow is Melting into Music”
Sunday, April 5 at 9:00 and 11:00
Adult Choir, Youth Choir, stories for Easter and reflection from Victoria
### May 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Service Title</th>
<th>Leader</th>
<th>Music</th>
<th>Special Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 3</td>
<td><strong>All That Happens</strong></td>
<td>Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer</td>
<td>Music from the Choir, Thaxter Cunio and accompanied by Carol Caouette</td>
<td><em>at 11am Ceremony of Dedication for the Hoelzel family</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 10</td>
<td><strong>The Great and General Interests of Peace</strong></td>
<td>Rev. Victoria Safford</td>
<td>Music from Mary Duncan and Margaret Humphrey</td>
<td><em>Special Collection for Nonviolent Peaceforce</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 17</td>
<td><strong>Bigger on the Inside</strong></td>
<td>Rev. Victoria Safford</td>
<td>Music from the Choir</td>
<td><em>at 9am Ceremony of Dedication for the Mortimer family</em>&lt;br&gt;at 11am Ceremony of Dedication for the Ewasiuk family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 24</td>
<td><strong>Love ‘Till You’ve Loved It Away</strong></td>
<td>Rev. Victoria Safford</td>
<td>Music from Carol Caouette</td>
<td><em>Special Collection for the 9-11 Scholarship</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 31</td>
<td><strong>Stumbling Along with Grace</strong></td>
<td>Rev. Victoria Safford</td>
<td>Music from Elliot Wilcox</td>
<td><em>at 9am Ceremony of Dedication for the Norgon family</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Monthly Theological Theme for May**

**Grace - the practice of noticing**

How have you experienced moments of grace?
How do you practice noticing beauty and love in your life?
In what ways do you experience beauty and love in life that are unearned, or ‘graced’?
How does noticing gifts of life call you to live with more compassion or love?

*Each month, our church gathers around a theme and practice to guide our congregational life. To sign up for a small group, contact revluke@wbuuc.org, 651.426.2369 x 103, or visit wbuuc.org/classes.*
Save the Date!

The Annual Meeting is a throw-back, a remnant of a simpler time when it was still possible to imagine governing a congregation—or any other complex institution—in person, voting with a literal show of literal hands, discussing and debating and applauding what deeply matters in a community face-to-face and heart-to-heart, when showing up was a sign not only of one’s own agency and self-interest, but a real sign, too, of caring for the institution and the people in it, a sign of caring and respect. In New England, many towns still are governed in this way: the citizens who live in a place and love it show up in person, once a year, to demonstrate that love. They call it “turning out to vote,” but you can see the love. They elect a city government, allocate a budget, wrangle over public schools and potholes—but by the very act of showing up, they show faith in one another, concern for one another and the “common wealth,” and deep love for democracy, the great experiment which relies first and always on engagement—everybody at the table.

Built on this same democratic model, Unitarian Universalist congregations are governed by congregational polity: the congregation rules, the members holding in their hands all authority to raise and spend money; elect leaders; ordain, call, and dismiss ministers; and discern their own direction, to determine who they are and who they’re called to be.

It is a beautiful, humble, and humbling process, and it can only work if you show up. It’s not for lack of innovation or imagination that the congregation governs in this retro way, convening once a year not virtually and not online, but in person in the sanctuary: it is sacred work you do, an honor and a privilege. To offer to each other your most precious gift, the gift of time (real time) and presence, is a sign of deep respect, and even reverence.

Please come. If you have signed your name in the membership book, you need to come to make the needed quorum. You need to come and vote. Don’t assume that someone else will be there in your place—please come and own your church. If you are a friend or guest, please come. We need your voice, too, and your presence and support; you are part of this community.

You show up all the time: for Sunday services, for choir practice, for teaching in RE and cooking in the kitchen. You show up for Sharing Circles, for funerals and weddings, for demonstrations at the Capitol and quiet prayers when someone’s sick or needing help. It is such a retro throwback, to place your very body in the very moment—but that’s what church is all about. Once a year, at the Annual Meeting, the members of White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church show their love, their dedication, their mutual respect and care by showing up to ratify a budget and elect leaders for the year ahead. Please come. I’ll see you there!

The Annual Meeting of White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2015 at 10:15am

The meeting convenes in the Sanctuary immediately following the 9:00 a.m. service. Hear the highlights of the year reported by President Nancy Ver Steegh and Victoria Safford; honor the commitment of dedicated lay leaders with your presence and the power of your vote as they stand for elected office; own the vision and mission of our congregation by affirming the budget and the program it empowers for the coming year.

All are welcome and encouraged to take part in the Annual Meeting.

If you are a member of our church, please make every effort to attend and establish the required quorum!

With 740 members, we will need 160 just to open the Meeting.
FROM THE PRESIDENT
Nancy Ver Steegh

Our formal 2015-2016 pledge drive has nearly drawn to a close. We are grateful to all of our members and friends who have submitted pledges. Thanks for your generosity.

Please pledge if you have not done so! You can pledge online at http://wbuuc.org/donate/ or submit a pledge card. Our goal is 100% participation and we want to hear from you.

We are especially eager to close the participation gap because the pledges received so far fall well below the amount needed to sustain our operations, programming, and community outreach. The board will meet the first week in May to budget for next year and grapple with the shortfall. In the meantime our tireless pledge team and volunteers are actively calling members and friends who haven’t yet pledged.

We are an inspired church community and we recreate our future with every pledge drive. Please help us thrive and serve. Even when we’re not able to attend services, our church is present and available, serving us one by one and shining a bright light into the wider world.

Belonging and Community

Welcome...
...to our newest members who formally joined the church on April 19, 2015. A joyful congregation-wide recognition will take place during our Annual Meeting on June 7.

FRONT (L to R): Kristen Stone, Chris Kasinger, Maggie Romig, Laura Phoenix, Virginia Phoenix, Jennifer Carroll, Mary Bergerson

BACK (L to R): Melissa Cuddy, Roxanne Hardy, Jamie Petersen, Megan Coe, Diane Anderson, Mary Jo Meadow, Laura Stone-Jeraj, Ian Carroll.

Upcoming Events

Service of Dedication for Older Children & Their Families

Sunday, May 31 at 5pm, Potluck supper to follow!
The entire congregation is invited.

Join us on Sunday evening, May 31 at 5pm for a dedication service for older children and their families, to welcome them warmly and gladly into our congregation. A wonderful potluck supper will follow. All are welcome to attend. If you would like your child(ren) to be included in the special ceremony, contact Victoria Safford or sign up at the Grow Your Soul table in the social hall.
**Grace: The Practice of Noticing**

How do we help one another slow down and notice the gifts that already surround us? “Grace” can simply be recognition of the gifts and blessings that already surround you, but might otherwise go unnoticed. This month, try engaging in the “Practice of Noticing” simply by sharing thanks, or saying Grace, at mealtimes.

```
Earth, who gives us this food,
Sun, who makes it ripe and good,
Dear Earth, dear Sun, by you we live.
To you our loving thanks we give.
-Antonymous
```

**Summer Program Registration is Now Open!**

**Pre-K: Spirit Play:** This summer, we invite children completing and entering preschool to explore our UU Principles and sources through this Montessori-inspired curriculum.

**K-5: The Magic of Hogwarts:** Join us for a summer program that explores our UU Principles through hands-on activities inspired by the stories of Harry Potter.

Register today at [http://whitebearunitarian.org/re-registration/](http://whitebearunitarian.org/re-registration/).

**Our Natural Playground project is underway...but we need your help!**

Visit our WBUUC [Religious Education Pinterest](https://www.pinterest.com) page to look at some of the design ideas with your child. Then contact Amy Peterson Derrick at [dre@wbuuc.org](mailto:dre@wbuuc.org) so that you and your child can add your ideas to our collection. What are your favorite natural playground elements?

**MAY AT-A-GLANCE**

**Sun, May 3, 2015:** RE for children and youth 9am & 11am

**Wed, May 13, 2015:** Coming of Age Vespers, 7:30.

**Sun, May 10, 2015:** RE for children and youth 9am & 11am

**Sun, May 17, 2015:** RE for children and youth 9am & 11am

**Sun, May 24, 2015:** RE for children and youth 9am & 11am

**Wed, May 27, 2015:**
- UU Parenting Circle Meets 7-8pm
- Chalice Lighter & Spiritual Practice Workshop for children ages 8-13; 7-8pm

**Sun, May 31, 2015:**
- Final RE Classes of the program year at 9am and 11am
- 5:00pm: Dedication of Older Children and Potluck
In Boston We Learned the role UU ideas and institutions played in US history. We saw Arlington Church and King’s Chapel; learned about John Murray, Hosea Ballou, William Ellery Channing, Louisa May Alcott, Susan B. Anthony, Olympia Brown, and Mary Rice Livermore; toured the new UUA building and walked the old site on Beacon Hill; walked the Freedom Trail, stopping at the African Meeting House where Frederick Douglas once spoke. We saw Harvard Divinity School and sat in the chapel where Emerson gave his famous Unitarian speech.

We led worship services, hung out with other UU teens, and enjoyed the aquarium, Fanueil Hall, MIT Museum, Chinatown, improv theatre, and street performers (like the man at the right playing the hurdy-gurdy). We forged strong bonds, and thought with gratitude of the congregation that empowered our pilgrimage. Thank you, WBUUC! See more about the trip on the youth blog—located on the WBUUC website RE page.

DIG IN

A summer experiential for youth

Sundays, June 21st – Sept. 6th, 10:00-11:00.

We do: We break. We grow. We cook. We share. We enjoy. We unearth. We protect. We worship. We laugh. We invest. We understand. We serve. We love.


We produce: Meals for the shelter. Homemade bread. Voice. Habitat for butterflies and birds.


June 21st – Sept. 6th, 10:00-11:00. Some service hours eligible.
Register: www.wbuuc.org/re-registration

MAY CALENDAR

To RSVP & receive updates write: youth@wbuuc.org

Sun. 3rd  Camp St. Croix, 8:00 sharp/return by 3:00. Coming of Age youth.
Wed. 6th  Youth/Adult Committee meeting, 5:45-8:00.
Wed. 13th Coming of Age Vespers, 7:30. Youth only meet at 6:45. PeaceJam cancelled.
Sun. 27th Chalice Lighter Training, 7:00-8:00 – ages 8-14.

June Dates: 10th – Clean Youth Areas; 14th – RE Sunday; 15th – Picnic; 21st – Dig In Summer group begins.
Grow Your Soul | Classes, Forums & Groups

Sign up in the Social Hall, online at wbuuc.org/classes, or contact: Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer at revluke@wbuuc.org or 651.426.2369

THIS MONTH:

GOD REVISED: Book Group
Tuesdays, May 19th, 26th, June 2nd, 7:00-8:30pm
A book group exploring Galen Guenrich’s book, God Revised: How Religion Must Evolve in a Scientific Age. Join the conversation on how religious language needs to adapt for our modern world. Books are available for purchase in the Atrium. Participants are welcome to read as much as they would like; it is not required to read the entire book. REGISTER online, in the Social Hall, or contact Victoria Safford (vsafford@wbuuc.org). Led by Victoria Safford.

LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER PROGRAMMING:

THIS WE BELIEVE – Principles & Sources of Unitarian Universalism
Every Wednesday Evening, June 10th – September 2nd
6:00 – BYO Community Dinner | 6:30-7:30 Presentation & Discussion
Join us for a casual “bring your own” dinner, followed by a brief presentation and discussion. Each week, we will focus on one of Unitarian Universalism’s (7) guiding principles and (6) sources of wisdom. Attend any number of sessions. Each week includes separate programming for children. Register online, in person on Sundays, or contact Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer (revluke@wbuuc.org) for more info.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES:

SHARING CIRCLES
A once-per-month small group, offered many times during the week, focusing on the monthly theological theme with guided questions and short readings. Circles meet October-June.
Contact: Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer (revluke@wbuuc.org or 651.426.2369 x 103)

UU PARENT CIRCLES – 4th Wednesday of each month, 6:30 Dinner, 7:00-8:00 circle
A monthly circle of parents to explore spirituality and parenting together.
Contact: Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer (revluke@wbuuc.org), Amy Peterson Derrick (dre@wbuuc.org)

WOMENSPRIT CIRCLE - 4th Monday of each month, 7:00-9:00pm
A group supporting women in exploring their spiritual origins, experiences and beliefs in community with other women. Meetings are open to all women of WBUUC.
Contacts: Becky Myrick, becky.myrick@gmail.com, 612.760.6168; or Carol Marsyla, carol.marsyla@gmail.com, 651.253.4200
Classes, Small Groups, Forums, Continued

Sign up in the Social Hall, online at wbuuc.org/classes, or contact: Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer at revluke@wbuuc.org or 651.426.2369

WOMEN’S BOOK GROUP - 2nd Monday of each month, 7:00-9:00pm
A group reading a variety of books throughout the year written by women, chosen by the group, and focusing on books which are affordable and easily available for purchase or from a library.
Contact: Dana Jackson (danaleep@q.com)

MEN’S GROUP
1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 12:30pm, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00pm
A group always open to new members, whose mission is to make connections, deepen friendships and build community, share life’s experiences, learn from each other, give and receive support.
Contact: Steve Kahn (stevekahn@comcast.net)

UU VOICES - 4th Wednesday of each month, 7:30-9:00pm
An open group to discuss various voices from our Unitarian Universalist heritage, with readings regularly provided.
Contact: Dee Smith (newtondsmith@aol.com)

2nd MONDAY BOOK GROUP - 2nd Monday of each month, 12:00-2:00pm
An open book group reading various books throughout the year. Readings regularly provided.
Contact: Dee Smith (newtondsmith@aol.com)

SHAMANIC DRUMMING - 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00pm
A group participating in the ancient practice of shamanic drumming for meditation and spiritual exploration.
Contact: Nancy Hauer (nancy@rookhouse.org)

SUNDAY SITTING MEDITATION
Every Sunday morning at 10:15, between services, in the quiet room
Contact: Julie Vinar (Julie.vinar@gmail.com)

WELCOME TABLE WEDNESDAY
Wednesday Night Dinner
6:30-7:30pm | Every week through June 10 | Social Hall
Free-will offering meal.
Global Climate Change Committee
The Global Climate Change Committee (GCCC) will hold its regular monthly meeting on **Wednesday, May 6 at 7pm**. All those interested in facing the challenge of climate change, reducing our carbon footprint, and addressing environmental injustice, are encouraged to join the meeting. New faces and points of view are always welcome. The GCCC is organizing a volunteer group to assist with final construction and finishing touches at the Eco Village in River Falls, Wisconsin, this coming summer, June through August. Please contact Kirk Cobb, Dana Jackson.

Guided Tour of Habitat for Humanity Eco Village, River Falls
**Sunday Afternoon, May 17**
Sign up in the social hall by the social justice bulletin board for the guided tour of this carbon negative, net zero energy Habitat project. Eighteen homes and a community center on five acres of land share renewable energy systems (solar and geothermal), walkways, community produce gardens, “edible landscapes,” green spaces, and a proposed fleet of shared electric automobiles for the neighborhood. This project establishes a sustainable community life model, important in light of the unprecedented challenges of the future, especially climate change. Jim Cooper, Eco Village project manager and a WBUUC member, will lead the tour. Sponsored by the Global Climate Change Committee. Contact Dana Jackson danaleej3@gmail.com.

Green Sanctuary Environmental Justice Project
Have you ever been to Nigeria, Liberia, Cambodia, Guatemala, Vietnam, Laos, or Sudan? On **May 9 and 16**, you will have an opportunity to meet immigrants from these nations who garden at Harmony Community Garden in Maplewood. WBUUC is fortunate to be partnering with them as they learn the ropes of a small business operation, increase their English proficiency, and improve their job skills. Good folks are needed to assist customers at their plant sale. We also need many good customers! Please support this project; contact Janet Kortuem at janetkortuem@gmail.com.

Serving Lunch at People Incorporated
**Monday, May 11 at 10am—WBUUC Kitchen**
Once a month members of our congregation will serve a warm meal to approximately 25-30 people who are homeless and have mental illnesses. Members meet at the church at 10am to cook together and then drive to People Incorporated’s Outreach Program on York Avenue in St. Paul. For more information, or to sign up, stop by the Standing on the Side of Love table in the Social Hall or contact Kate O’Reilly at katenandronh@q.com or 651.653.6319. WBUUC has been serving lunches to the homeless at People Inc. for over a year. It has been a very successful program in so many ways. The directors of the programs at People Inc. have told us that we are the only group to bring consistent, healthy meals. The organization is also trying to replicate our program by contacting area churches. We have gotten to know many of the people that come to enjoy our meals. It is always a rewarding experience, and so beautiful to watch differences melt away in the warmth of community.

We are a congregation working towards social and environmental justice. Look in this section for articles about Economic Justice (housing, homelessness, hunger, poverty), Human Rights (LGBTQI equality, racial justice, reproductive justice), Peace (gun reform, antiwar/antiviolence), and Environmental Justice (climate change, Green Sanctuary). If you have questions or want to get involved, please email us at justice@wbuuc.org.
Service Opportunities

Donations Wanted

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Service Opportunities at WBUUC

Sunday Book Stall

Opportunity | Volunteer needed to staff the WBUUC Book Stall |
Time | Second Sundays between services |
Contact | Kathleen Keating, kathleenkeating@comcast.net |

Shuttle Driver

Opportunity | Shuttle WBUUC members and friends from the District Center for Sunday services. |
Time | 1 Sunday/year minimum |
Contact | John Bauhs, bauh0002@umn.edu |

Provide a Ride

Opportunity | Provide a ride to church on Sunday mornings. Drivers can be matched with riders in their area. |
Time | Any and/or every Sunday |
Contact | Leslie Mills, 651.426.5107 x 112, lmills@wbuuc.org |

Sunday Greeter

Opportunity | Greet and answer questions, pass out orders of service at the Sanctuary Doors. |
Time | 15 minutes before & after Sunday services. |
Contact | Miriam Juvette, 651.428.6314, mjuvette@comcast.net |

May 24 & June 7: 9-11 Scholarship

Good news from the 9-11 scholarship committee! From the congregation special collections last year and an additional gift in December, we are able to continue to offer this scholarship. The scholarship is a memorial to those who died on September 11th and is also a vehicle to foster hope through support of our youth in their ambition and efforts to develop a more peaceful and just world.

In addition to the initial scholarship of $2,500, the 9-11 committee has dedicated another $750 to $1,500 each year to each prior recipient as they continue their undergraduate education. The young people we continue to support have gratefully appreciated the yearly contribution.

Applications were received by the April 14. Eligible applicants are students in our congregation, other Twin City UU churches, and students at Mahtomedi High School who will graduate in the 2014-15 school year. Recipient(s) will be announced and introduced to the congregation on RE Sunday.

May 10: Nonviolent Peaceforce

WBUUC special collections have supported Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP) monitors for the past three years. Nonviolent Peaceforce currently has teams of peacekeepers from 25 countries in South Sudan, Mindanao Philippines, Myanmar, Ukraine, and Syria. They go on invitation from civilians in the area of armed conflict and provide physical presence, monitoring and reporting, relationship building, and capacity development, on a nonpartisan basis. Their role is protecting civilians while the local people do the work of peacemaking. Information will be available in the Social Hall on May 3 and Mother’s Day May 10 and from Ann Frisch afrisch@nonviolentpeaceforce.org Their website is www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org.
Announcements

Spring Forward to Great Food & Fun
It’s time for Dining for Dollars! At this fundraiser and friend-raiser, church members and friends volunteer to host dinners and bid on the available seats in a silent auction. All the proceeds benefit the church. It is a wonderful opportunity to eat great food and socialize. We are hoping to schedule 15 events between June 15 and November. Bidding takes place on May 17, 24, & 31 in the Social Hall after services. To host an event or for more info, contact Mark King at MarkTKing@mac.com or Kathryn Shaw at artwatch@bitstream.net.

Men’s Programs
Open to all men connected with WBUUC: members, friends or visitors.

Men’s Retreat: Sign up now for the May 15 – 17 trip to Audubon Center in Sandstone, MN. A great time! Open to new men. Please join us even if you haven’t participated in any of our programs yet. Reservations are open to the first 40 men who sign up. No deposit needed. No problem with last minute cancellations. Email stevekahn@comcast.net to hold your spot or request information. Cost for entire weekend including food and lodging is usually $115 - $125. Scholarships available, no one turned away because of cost. Enjoy hiking, biking, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, discussion topics, music.

Land Stewardship Work Day: Saturday, May 2, 9am to 1pm. Men’s Programs partners with Land Stewardship to provide labor and lunch. Help is needed for lunch preparation and clean up as well as helping beautify our church grounds.

Mission Statement: To make connections, deepen friendships and build community. Share life’s experiences and learn from each other. Give and receive support during challenging times. Coordinate opportunities to have fun and do good work.

Men’s Groups: The daytime group meets on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 12:30pm. The evening group meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 7pm. No meeting on a 5th Tuesday. All Men’s Programs are open to all men, no sign up required, new members always welcome. We meet all summer.

WomenSpirit Circle
Monday, May 18—Iowa Sisterhood Room
Our purpose is to provide opportunities that empower, affirm and support women in exploring their spiritual origins, experiences and beliefs in community with other women. Meets every 4th Monday at 7 pm. This is our last meeting for this year. Contacts: Becky Myrick, becky.myrick@gmail.com, 612.760.6168; or Carol Marsyla, carol.marsyla@gmail.com, 651.253.4200.

Environmentally Friendly Eating Class
Join us for the Environmentally Friendly Eating Class on Wednesday May 27 at 7pm. We will discuss gardening, CSAs, summer picking, canning, and stocking a pantry! Please join us! For more information, contact stirlingcousins@gmail.com.

UUA General Assembly in Portland
June 24 - 28
Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates. The 2015 Ware lecturer is prominent and provocative democratic intellectual, Dr. Cornel West. Registration and housing reservations are open now! Visit www.uua.org/ga/registration.

CAN YOU SHUTTLE?
DO YOU SHUTTLE?
HAVE YOU SHUTTLED?
To be a shuttle driver email bauh0002@umn.edu.
Music Notes
When Giving Is All We Have

One river gives
Its journey to the next.

We give because someone gave to us.
We give because nobody gave to us.
We give because giving has changed us.
We give because giving could have changed us.
We have been better for it,
We have been wounded by it—
Giving has many faces: It is loud and quiet,
Big, though small, diamond in wood-nails.
Its story is old, the plot worn and the pages too,
But we read this book, anyway, over and again:
Giving is, first and every time, hand to hand,
Mine to yours, yours to mine.
You gave me blue and I gave you yellow.
Together we are simple green. You gave me
What you did not have, and I gave you
What I had to give—together, we made
Something greater from the difference.

-Alberto Ríos, 1952

Thank you to all who gave for our Happy Music House Concert. 516 pounds of food were donated. Cynthia Tomlinson, WBUUC volunteer coordinator for Mahtomedi Food Shelf donations, says, “The food shelf director told me that thanks to the efforts of our church, and a couple of other sources, the shelves are bursting. Thanks to you and to the dollars donated via our collection a few weeks ago, we have done a lot to help our neighbors in need.”

-Thaxter Cunio, Director of Music

Artist’s Statements

Dates of exhibit: May 24-July 5; Reception: June 21
Charlotte Neely’s artistic journey began when she read Julia Cameron’s The Artist’s Way. Understanding the link between creativity and spirituality, and the principle that creative expression is the natural direction of life, enthralled her. Her artistic interpretation of nature is expressed through free-flowing images of trees, rocks, water and larger-than-life flowers. This approach is far from typical and is, at times, a bit mystical. Her goal is to capture the essence of a place or time to connect with a memory. She seeks to infuse joyfulness, passion and dimension in her images. 651.366.0532, designsbyneely@yahoo.com.

Sharon Weiser is an award-winning Arizona artist who recently relocated to Stillwater, opening her studio/gallery, where she teaches classes in painting and drawing. Her focus and process of painting is consistent: developing strong value patterns, creating unique compositions, using bold colors, attention to detail, and concentrating on technical proficiency. By using a limited palette of 3 colors and white she creates a color harmony that unites the paintings. 602.738.5102, www.sharonweiser.com, weiser5050@aol.com.
Among Ourselves

We hold these friends and members in our hearts this month:

Kate and Bill McCarthy, as Kate continues treatments for breast cancer

Steve Santi, whose father died in April

Gwynn Carver, whose mother died in April

We hold the family of Sharon Vaughan, who died unexpectedly in March: sister and brother-in-law Carl and Mary Bandt, niece Laura Bandt, and great-nephew Graydon

Charlotte Preston and Mary Kurth, living with Charlotte's cancer diagnosis.

Pam Johnson, whose mother died in March

Frank and Laurel Winsor as Laurel recovers from back surgery

D'Ann Prior, living with a diagnosis of lymphoma

Karen Hering, whose father died in March

Brett Smith and Jody McCormick, mourning the death of Brett's mother, in April

Becky Schultz, whose grandmother died in April

If you would like our ministers to include in the Sunday meditation the name of a loved one you are holding in sorrow or concern or joy, please contact Victoria Safford vsafford@wbuuc.org (651.426.2369) or leave a note in the bowl by the Sanctuary window.

To send cards to those named in meditations, visit the Pastoral Care table in the Social Hall, where each Sunday you will find a current list with mailing addresses. You may take these with you, or write them here for us to mail for you.

Fond Farewell from Pat and Dan Zeddies

“We are moving to Colorado later this spring. We will be near the southern point of our children and grandchildren visiting triangle (Denver, MN, Seattle) and 1,000 miles closer to areas where we like to spend time in the Southwest. We will be back for extended stays in the summer and will visit at other times of the year. We have both loved our association with WBUUC, which has often been an intense embrace over the last 17 years. We have met and become friends with some of the most wonderful people in the world. WBUUC has been exactly the place we needed (though we didn’t know it starting out) to reassess our mid-lives and begin growing in new directions. We also found each other here and that is an incalculable blessing. We take our experiences with you with us. Thank you and farewell for now.”
# May 2015

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<td>6:30pm HVAC Committee 7pm God Revised Book Group 7pm Men's Group</td>
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<td>6pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 7pm Environmentally Friendly Eating Class 7pm Financial Oversight Committee 7pm UU Parent Circle 7:30pm UU Voices</td>
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<td>Dining for Dollars Bidding 9am &amp; 11am Worship Service 10:10am Sunday Meditation 5pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting 5pm Dedication for Older Children &amp; Their Families</td>
<td><strong>June 1</strong></td>
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The Annual Meeting of White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2015 at 10:15am

All are welcome and encouraged to take part in the Annual Meeting.
If you are a member of our church, please make every effort to attend and establish the required quorum!
See page 2 for more details.
From June 14 through September 6, WBUUC will have one Sunday Service at 10am. Coffee and Conversation at 11am in the Social Hall. Giving Voice to the Spirit: Community Singing at 9:50 in the Sanctuary.

June 2015

June 7 at 9:00am: Celebration Service and Flower Communion
  • Music from the Adult Choir and Youth Choir
  • Recognition of Laura Smidzik and Hanson Intern Leslie Mills
  • Presentation of the 9-11 Memorial Scholarship
  • Religious Education celebrations
  • Flower Communion

We close the regular church year with the FLOWER COMMUNION - Come celebrate this Unitarian Universalist tradition by bringing flowers to share in our common bouquet - a stem from your garden or from the store, showy weeds from the roadside, anything in bloom!

at 10:15am: The Annual Meeting and recognition of new members—all are welcome!—see inside

From Sunday, June 14 – September 6, we shift to one service only, held each week at 10:00 a.m., with concurrent nursery care and Religious Education classes for children from preschool age through high school.

June 14 at 10:00am: Everywhere and Anywhere
  Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer
  with music from Carol Caouette and guest musician ELLIS.

June 21 at 10:00am: Many Ways to Fatherhood
  Guest minister Rev. Doug Federhart preaching with music from Mary Duncan.
  at 5:30pm: SOLSTICE CELEBRATION: THE LONGEST DAY OF LIGHT
  5:30 – 8:00 pm
  Join us for a potluck supper (outside, we hope) and solstice circle in the courtyard. All are welcome!

June 28 at 10:00am: The Open Road
  Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer
  with music from Ava Harmon, soprano, and Mary Duncan.

Find our Summer Program brochure listing all Sunday services, programs for children, special celebrations and summer classes at wbuuc.org/summer.

Monthly Theological Theme for June

Freedom - the practice of expanding the spirit

In what ways have you experienced freedom in your life?
  In what ways has your freedom ever been constrained?
  How does the experience of freedom impact how you live?
  What paths has spiritual or theological freedom led you on?
  How has your own spirit, or your understanding of the “Spirit” or the Holy, been expanded by a free search for truth and meaning?

Each month, our church gathers around a theme and practice to guide our congregational life. To sign up for a small group, contact revluke@wbuuc.org, 651.426.2369 x 103, or visit wbuuc.org/classes.
FROM VICTORIA  
Victoria Safford

The Annual Meeting of White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church  
SUNDAY JUNE 7, 2014 at 10:15 a.m.

The meeting convenes in the Sanctuary immediately following the 9:00 a.m. service. Hear the highlights of the year reported by President Nancy Ver Steegh and Victoria Safford; honor the commitment of dedicated lay leaders with your presence and the power of your vote as they stand for elected office; own the vision and mission of our congregation by affirming the budget and the program it empowers for the coming year.

All are welcome and encouraged to take part in the Annual Meeting.

If you are a member of our church, please make every effort to attend and establish the required quorum!

With 761 members, we will need 153 just to open the Meeting.

Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda  
Sunday, June 7, 2015 10:15 a.m.

1. Lighting of the chalice  
2. Call to Order and recognition of parliamentarian  
3. Approval of minutes of June 8, 2014 Annual Meeting  
4. Recognition of new members  
5. Report of the President  
6. Report of the Minister  
8. Report of the Treasurer  
9. Presentation and approval of 2015-2016 operating budget  
10. Election of new Board officers and directors  
   President            Steve Kahn  
   Vice President       Laurie Kigner  
   Secretary            Dana Boyle  
   At-Large             Susan Miles  
   Youth Representative  Rebecca Edwards  

   Election of new Nominations and Leadership Development Committee members: Annie Vail and Jason Sem

11. Green Sanctuary vote  
12. Finding Home Task Force report  
13. Hallam Avenue purchase vote  
14. New Business  
15. Adjournment  
16. Closing words

Documents available at wbuuc.org and on request from Operations Director, Anna Gehres office@wbuuc.org or 651.426.2369

- Agenda  
- Minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting  
- Treasurer’s Report  
- Budget Workbook  
- Biographies of Nominees  
- Annual Reports from Committees  
- WBUUC Bylaws  
- Hallam Avenue Background Information

Document to be distributed at the Annual Meeting  
- Special Campaign Background Information
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Nancy Ver Steegh

Please plan to attend the WBUUC Annual Meeting at 10:15am, on Sunday, June 7th! Join us as we celebrate the year, elect leaders, affirm the budget, and conduct the business of the congregation. Even if you attend church every Sunday, you’re likely to learn something new about our vital church community.

The Board has had a productive year as we assessed and implemented some of long-term planning recommendations made last year. We particularly focused on the following goal areas:

**Church Building Needs.** Thanks to committee members and volunteers, the Board learned more about the status and ongoing requirements of our building. As our resident technical experts prioritized needs and outlined choices, the Board generated options for funding immediate HVAC work and grappling with future major repairs and maintenance. These efforts remain a work in progress.

**Financial Stability.** The Board investigated ways to enhance the long-term financial stability of the church, focusing on strategies to inspire planned giving and reduce mortgage debt. The Board is currently exploring the feasibility of conducting a special campaign to fund building repairs, pay down the mortgage, and help us devote more of our resources to our work in the world.

**Welcoming Congregation.** The Board supported racial justice efforts and developed and pursued additional parking options, including the pending consideration of the Hallam Avenue property.

**Staff and Leadership.** The Board discussed principles for right-staffing and supported clarification of the roles and responsibilities of board members, staff members, and committee leaders. We were pleased to welcome our talented new staff members, Laura Smidzik, Director of Membership, and Amy Peterson Derrick, Director of Religious Education.

**Ministry.** This year we launched the Hanson Ministry Internship, made possible by a generous anonymous gift last year, and welcomed Leslie Mills as the first Hanson Intern. In May, the Board offered a resounding “yes” to Laura Smidzik’s request to be ordained to the UU ministry at our church. Ordination is a status that only a congregation can confer—the service and celebration will take place on September 19, 2015.

**Communication.** The Board held nine Sunday morning “open house” conversations on topics such as long-term planning, HVAC building issues, the church budget, our culture of stewardship, racial justice initiatives, and off-site parking proposals.

It’s been an honor and a pleasure to serve as President. I extend my thanks to all of you, our exceptional ministers, and our dedicated staff, for an exciting and meaningful year.

DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP

Laura Smidzik

**Welcoming New Members**

As I speak with both long-term and new members of the church, it is clear that there are a lot of new and unknown faces among us. This is a sign of a healthy congregation which continues to attract people who are seekers and want to live a life connected to this religious community. I have had the honor of journeying with new members this year and have been touched by their stories and what brings them here. My hope is that you will also have an opportunity to come to know and love them.

We will formally welcome and covenant with the new members who have joined since last year at the Annual Meeting on June 7th. The recognition of new members is a joyful and hopeful ritual which unites us in our desire to grow our souls and serve the world. I hope you will come, reflect on your own journey of membership and celebrate those who are new among us! Together, we make this a holy place.
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  Amy Peterson Derrick

Summer Religious Education Registration is Now Open!

Pre-K: Spirit Play: This summer, we invite children completing and entering preschool to explore our UU Principles and sources through this Montessori-inspired curriculum.

K-5: The Magic of Hogwarts: Join us for a summer of mystery, magic, and fun as children participate in a sorting ceremony, play Quidditch, and attend magical classes inspired by Hogwarts school of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

7th-12th: Dig In: A summer experiential for youth. Gain cooking skills, explore Eco-justice and organic gardening, and learn about advocacy for native species.

Join us for Summer Park Days!

WBUUC Park Days are an open invitation to families of all ages to connect with community every Thursday from noon to 2pm during the summer. Each week we will gather in one of five parks around the metro area. Feel free to participate as you are able; registration is not required. Find out more and sign up to be a park host on the Religious Education Blog! See page 5 for information.

June At-A-Glance

Sunday, June 7, 2015: RE Sunday and Flower Communion: Multigenerational Worship; 9:00am

Sunday, June 14, 2015: Summer Programs begin; 10:00am

Thursday, June 18, 2015: Summer Park Day: Pioneer Park in Stillwater; Noon-2:00pm

Sunday, June 21, 2015: Religious Education for children and youth 10:00am

Summer Solstice; 5:30pm – 8:00pm

Thursday, June 25, 2015: Summer Park Day: Battle Creek Regional Park; Noon-2:00pm

Sunday, June 28, 2015: Religious Education for children and youth; 10:00am

Twin Cities Pride Parade; 11:00am

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC  Thaxter Cunio

Music is nothing else but wild sounds civilized into time and tune. -Thomas Fuller

Many new and old tunes this year from Giving Voice to the Spirit to our concerts and services. Sincere thanks to the following for a phenomenal year of music:

• Our choir supplied great choral works for 19 Sundays (37 services) and Christmas Eve services.

• Guest Musicians— Mike Briedenbach, piper; St. Croix Sacred Ensemble; Greenwood Tree; Hans Peterson and Nelson Morlock.

• Featured Musicians in chronological order from September through June: Harmonia; Carol Caouette; Polly Meyerding Dedrick and Russell Dedrick; Julia Ryan Holch, David Heath and Carol Caouette; Mary Duncan; Corinne and Carol Caouette; Christopher Williams and Jennie Lahlum; Virginia Podobinski and Mary Duncan; Peter Mayer; Ava Harmon and Carol Caouette; Liz Anderson; Julia Ryan-Holch and Carol Caouette; Michael Martini; Mary Duncan and Margaret Humphrey; Elliot Wilcox.

• Wonderful staff pianists, Carol Caouette and Mary Duncan, accompanying us and collaborating with our in-house talent.

• The Happy Music House Concert on March 28.

• Joyful Noise Concert Series: The Teddy Bear Band on October 10, Gypsy Mania on November 29, and Spider John Koerner on February 7.
WBUUC Summer Park Days
Thursdays Noon-2:00pm

WBUUC Park Days are an open invitation to families of all ages to connect with community every Thursday during the summer. Each week we will gather in one of four parks around the metro area. Feel free to participate as you are able; registration is not required.

Sign up to be a park host! Hosts need only arrive a few minutes early and bring a sign to help participants gather in the same location. Sign up to host HERE: [http://goo.gl/mizO2v](http://goo.gl/mizO2v)

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<td>June 18th</td>
<td><strong>Pioneer Park</strong>: 515 2nd St N, Stillwater, MN 55082</td>
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<td>June 25th</td>
<td><strong>Battle Creek Regional Park</strong>: 2401 E Upper Afton Rd, Maplewood, MN 55119 Meet by playground north of Upper Afton Road</td>
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<td>July 2nd</td>
<td><strong>Como Regional Park</strong>: 1199 Midway Pkwy, Saint Paul, MN 55103 Meet by West Picnic Shelter and playground</td>
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<td>July 9th</td>
<td><strong>Shoreview Commons</strong>: 4650 Victoria St N, Shoreview, MN 55126</td>
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<td>July 16th</td>
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<td>July 23rd</td>
<td><strong>Battle Creek Regional Park</strong>: 2401 E Upper Afton Rd, Maplewood, MN 55119 Meet by playground north of Upper Afton Road</td>
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<td>July 30th</td>
<td><strong>Phalen Regional Park</strong>: 1600 Phalen Dr, Saint Paul, MN 55106 Meet at the Beach (bring swimwear!)</td>
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<td>August 6th</td>
<td><strong>Shoreview Commons</strong>: 4650 Victoria St N, Shoreview, MN 55126</td>
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<td>August 13th</td>
<td><strong>Pioneer Park</strong>: 515 2nd St N, Stillwater, MN 55082</td>
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<td>August 20th</td>
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<td><strong>Shoreview Commons</strong>: 4650 Victoria St N, Shoreview, MN 55126</td>
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UU Sophia Lyons Fahs wrote: “We are resolved to protect individual freedom of belief. This freedom must include the child as well as the parent. The freedom for which we stand is not freedom of belief as we please, not freedom to evade responsibility, but freedom to be honest in speech and action, freedom to respect one’s own integrity of thought and feeling, freedom to question, to investigate, to try, to understand life and the universe in which life abounds, freedom to search anywhere and everywhere to find the meaning of Being, freedom to experiment with new ways of living that seem better than the old.”

Her words were read in May when Coming of Age youth lit chalices and shared their beliefs. Each parent placed an honor cord on the shoulders of their son or daughter. They named a gift they have received from their child, and offered their blessing at this tender moment on the threshold of adulthood. We are thankful for you, parents and youth! May freedom deepen your soul, serving UU faith and the greater good.

Religious Education Sunday. Plan to attend worship at 9am June 7th for the closing service of the regular church year. We will celebrate religious education across the lifespan, with recognition for those entering preschool, grade 7, and grade 9. There will be a bridging ceremony for graduates, and other recognitions. Youth currently in grades 7-8 and senior high: Please come to the youth rooms at 8:30 before being seated with your families for the service.

Starting June 14th, the summer schedule begins. Congregational worship and religious education classes for children and teens will be at 10am only. Summer classes start June 21st. Register now so we can plan well. See below for information on the Dig In summer experiential.

Dig In  A summer experiential for youth

We give and get... An hour a week. Bigger selves. Good food. Great feelings.
We produce... Homemade bread. Habitat. Knowledge. Shelter meals. Kindness.

June 14th – Sept. 6th, 10am-11am. Some service hours eligible. Register: wbuuc.org/re-registration/

JUNE CALENDAR To RSVP & receive updates write: youth@wbuuc.org

Sun., June 7  RE Sunday/Annual Meeting, service 9:00/meeting following. Meet in youth room at 8:30.
Wed., June 10  Clean Youth Rooms, 6:45-8:00. Youth and parents: Let’s get this done! RSVP to Jill.
Mon., June 15  All Youth Families Picnic, 6:00. Celebrate a great year and thank our leaders!
Sun., June 21  Dig In summer group starts, 9:30 only. Registration on website.
THIS SUMMER:

OUR LIVING TRADITION brown bag dinner & discussion
EVERY WEDNESDAY June 10th – September 2nd | 6:00-7:30pm
Join us for a casual “bring your own” dinner, followed by a brief presentation and discussion. Each week, we will focus on one of Unitarian Universalism’s (7) guiding principles and (6) sources of wisdom. Attend any number of sessions.

MEMBERSHIP CLASSES for newcomers and old-timers
Sunday, June 14th – Session I, Part I (Unitarian Universalist history)
Sunday, August 2nd – Session I, Part II (White Bear UU Church history)
Sunday, August 16th – Session II (Meaning of membership & signing ritual)
This is for those new to the church and ready to explore membership and longtime friends of the church who want to step fully into membership.

SIMPLY PRAY | Sundays July 12th, 19th, 26th | 11:30-1:00pm
Bring your own brown bag lunch, and stay for a brief presentation and discussion around Erik Walker Wikstrom’s book, “Simply Pray”, inviting Unitarian Universalists into “modern spiritual practice to deepen your life.”

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES:

MEN’S GROUP
1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 12:30pm, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00pm
A group always open to new members, whose mission is to make connections, deepen friendships and build community, share life’s experiences, learn from each other, give and receive support.
Contact: Steve Kahn (stevekahn@comcast.net)

SHAMANIC DRUMMING - 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00pm
A group participating in the ancient practice of shamanic drumming for meditation and spiritual exploration.
Contact: Nancy Hauer (nancy@rookhouse.org)

WOMEN’S BOOK GROUP - 2nd Monday of each month, 7:00-9:00pm
A group reading a variety of books throughout the year written by women, chosen by the group, and focusing on books which are affordable and easily available for purchase or from a library.
Contact: Dana Jackson (danaleep@q.com)
Social and Environmental Justice

We are a congregation working towards social and environmental justice. Look in this section for articles about Economic Justice, Human Rights, Peace, and Environmental Justice. If you have questions or want to get involved, please email us at justice@wbuuc.org.

Green Sanctuary

Thanks to everyone who helped with Earth Day Sunday. We had a lovely morning with opportunities to learn more about the Green Sanctuary Program, Land Stewardship, the natural playground, Global Climate Committee and the Religious Education program. A winner was drawn from those who participated in the quiz, and Dieter Heinz was the lucky winner of 4 tickets to the Science Museum and Omni theater. Several rode their bikes to church and many participated in the art projects. The Green Sanctuary program has reached the point where we can apply for Green Sanctuary status because most of our projects are completed! This requires a congregational vote, so make sure you attend the annual meeting on June 7 at 10:15am.

Habitat for Humanity Eco Village

Spring and Summer 2015

WBUUC member Jim Cooper who serves on the church building committee is also the project manager for an 18-home model neighborhood of sustainable integrated community design in River Falls, WI. From its permeable paving and edible landscapes to solar and geothermal energy systems, this St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity project is an example of what’s possible in the green building industry, demonstrating that efficient, ecological building practices can ensure lasting affordability for low-income homeowners. Help finish the homes this summer and gain hands-on experience in cutting-edge sustainable building practices. See www.scvhabitat.org/eco-village and volunteer by contacting Jim Cooper at jim.cooper@scvhabitat.org.

Serving Lunch at People Incorporated

Monday, June 8 at 10am—WBUUC Kitchen

Once a month members of our congregation will serve a warm meal to approximately 25-30 people who are homeless and have mental illnesses. Members meet at the church at 10am to cook together and then drive to People Incorporated’s Outreach Program on York Avenue in St. Paul. For more information, or to sign up, stop by the Standing on the Side of Love table in the Social Hall or contact Kate O’Reilly at katenandronh@q.com or 651.653.6319.

Project Home

September 1-30, 2015

Our community at WBUUC is once again hosting Project Home in September. We provide hospitality and a home to about six families each evening that are currently experiencing homelessness. Evening and overnight volunteer hosts from our church make sure our guests have a safe and comfortable experience while they are here. If you are interested in information about being a host, go to wbuuc.org/ph.

Get Involved in Twin Cities Pride

March in the Parade

Sunday, June 28 at 11am
Hennepin Ave. in Minneapolis

Calling all artists, singers, drummers and marchers! Join UUs from every local congregation as we celebrate our GLBTQ community. This year we’ll make “sUUper hero” puppets to share our UU values with the parade spectators. Want more info? Contact Karlyn Peterson at MsKarlyn@aol.com.

MUUSJA Outreach Booth June 27 & 28

Volunteer at the UU outreach booth being sponsored by MN UU Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA) on Saturday or Sunday. Help staff the booth with members of other area UU congregations. This is a chance to share information about our faith, our congregations, and our commitment to social justice. Training materials provided. Contact Jane Bacon (JaneGBacon@msn.com or 651.426.4319) for more information.
Announcements

Shuttle: The shuttle is coordinated by Men’s Programs. Drivers (men and women) will be needed for fall. We are hoping to have enough drivers so that no one has to drive more than four Sundays per year. This is an easy and important volunteer opportunity. This is perfect for new members or for people who are too busy to take on a bigger commitment. For more information please email John Bauhs (bauh0002@umn.edu).

Men’s Groups:
The daytime group meets on the first and third Tuesday at 12:30pm. The evening group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday at 7pm. No meeting on a fifth Tuesday. All Men’s Programs are open to all interested men, no sign up required, new members always welcome. We meet all summer.

Ad Hoc Playground Committee Update
The committee plans are unfolding. Be a part of the planning and let us know what you think. You can see the possibilities for natural playground elements by going to: pinterest.com/wbuucRE.

Construction for the project starts Thursday August 20th. From this date forward the courtyard will not be useable until all design elements are installed and the area is seeded and healthy. The projected date for opening of the area is the summer of 2016.

Volunteers are needed August 8th and August 15th from 9am-12pm. We are calling out to families and friends to help move the pavers and plants. We will be storing plants and pavers on site. It should go quickly with many hands on deck. Children are welcome and encouraged to participate. We will have a fun time working together to make it happen. If you have questions about the project, email swarweg@msn.com.

Men’s Programs
Open to all men connected with WBUUC: members, friends or visitors.

Mission Statement: To make connections, deepen friendships and build community. Share life’s experiences and learn from each other. Give and receive support during challenging times. Coordinate opportunities to have fun and do good work.

Land Stewardship

Wednesday Gardening Sessions
Join the Land Stewardship crew the first and third Wednesday mornings 9am-12pm throughout the summer to take care of our beautiful and welcoming outdoor space. We will be doing general gardening maintenance such as deadheading, pruning, weeding, mulching, planting, and eradicating invasive species. Come for all or part of morning for work, fun, and camaraderie. No experience necessary. Bring your work gloves, garden tools (some available on site), and water bottle. Wednesday mornings don’t work for you? Consider adopting a garden space to care for on
Service Opportunities at WBUUC

Sunday Book Stall

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<tr>
<th>Opportunity</th>
<th>Volunteer needed to staff the WBUUC Book Stall</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Second Sundays between services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact</td>
<td>Kathleen Keating, <a href="mailto:kathleenkeating@comcast.net">kathleenkeating@comcast.net</a></td>
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Provide a Ride

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Opportunity</th>
<th>Provide a ride to church on Sunday mornings. Drivers can be matched with riders in their area.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Any and/or every Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact</td>
<td>Victoria Safford, 651.426.2369, <a href="mailto:vsafford@wbuuc.org">vsafford@wbuuc.org</a></td>
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Sunday Greeter

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<th>Opportunity</th>
<th>Greet and answer questions, pass out orders of service at the Sanctuary Doors.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>15 minutes before &amp; after Sunday services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact</td>
<td>Miriam Juvette, 651.428.6314, <a href="mailto:mjuvette@comcast.net">mjuvette@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Tablet Needed

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Upgrading to a new iPad or Android (Preferably iPad 2 or newer)? WBUUC would love to use your old one at the Welcome Center.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact</td>
<td>Anna Gehres, 651.426.2369 x107, <a href="mailto:agehres@wbuuc.org">agehres@wbuuc.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Donations Wanted

We hold these friends and members in our hearts this month:

**Bill McCarthy, whose wife, Kate, died in early May**

**Chuck Pallas, recovering from a fall and in transitional care**

**Nicolet Lyon, whose mother has moved into hospice care**

**Sally Evans, who broke her arm very badly**

**Ann and Bill Bushnell, as their son Tom continues chemotherapy for leukemia**

**Gina Dugan and Stan Nichol, whose daughter Heather was married on May 16**

**Sandy Graff and Stephen Skilling, who were married here on May 24**

If you would like our ministers to include in the Sunday meditation the name of a loved one you are holding in sorrow or concern or joy, please contact Victoria Safford vsafford@wbuuc.org (651.426.2369) or leave a note in the bowl by the Sanctuary window. To send cards to those named in meditations, visit the Pastoral Care table in the Social Hall, where each Sunday you will find a current list with mailing addresses. You may take these with you, or write them here for us to mail for you.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<td>12:30pm Men’s Group</td>
<td>6pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>4pm Pastoral Care Training</td>
<td>7pm GCCC</td>
<td>Church Closed</td>
<td>9am Cookie Bake</td>
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<td>7pm God Revised Book Group</td>
<td>6:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner</td>
<td>7:30pm Endowment</td>
<td>7:30pm Board</td>
<td>9am Cookie Bake</td>
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<td>Closing Sunday, Flower Communion RE Sunday</td>
<td>10am People, Inc.</td>
<td>5pm Building and Operations</td>
<td>5:30pm Youth Rooms Cleaning</td>
<td>5:30pm Belonging and Community</td>
<td>Church Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>9am Worship Service</td>
<td>6:30pm Financial Development</td>
<td>7pm Men’s Group</td>
<td>7pm Shamanic Drumming</td>
<td>7pm Women’s Book Group</td>
<td>Church Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15am Annual Meeting</td>
<td>5pm Building and Operations</td>
<td>7pm Men’s Group</td>
<td>7pm Shamanic Drumming</td>
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<td>5pm Adult Children of Alcoholics</td>
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<td>10am Worship Service</td>
<td>Newsletter Deadline</td>
<td>12:30pm Men’s Group</td>
<td>7pm Religious Growth and Learning</td>
<td>5:30pm Belonging and Community</td>
<td>Church Closed</td>
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<td>12pm Art Committee Meeting</td>
<td>6pm Youth Picnic</td>
<td>7pm Shaminic Drumming</td>
<td>7pm Religious Growth and Learning</td>
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<td>Summer RE Session Opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>10am Worship Service</td>
<td>7pm Executive Committee</td>
<td>7pm Men’s Group</td>
<td>UU General Assembly Begins</td>
<td>Church Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>11am Artist’s Reception</td>
<td>6pm Youth Picnic</td>
<td>7pm Men’s Group</td>
<td>7pm Financial Oversight</td>
<td>Church Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>11am Welcome Gathering for Newcomers and Visitors</td>
<td>6pm Youth Picnic</td>
<td>7pm Men’s Group</td>
<td>7pm Financial Oversight</td>
<td>Church Closed</td>
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<td>5:30pm Summer Solstice Celebration</td>
<td>6pm Youth Picnic</td>
<td>7pm Men’s Group</td>
<td>7pm Financial Oversight</td>
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<td>UU General Assembly Ends</td>
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<td>11am Pride Parade (Mpls.)</td>
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Art Show: Sharon Weiser & Char Neely
Sun, May 24 – Sun, July 5

For more detailed and up-to-date calendar information, visit: [www.wbuuc.org/calendar](http://www.wbuuc.org/calendar)
The Annual Meeting of White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2015 at 10:15am

All are welcome and encouraged to take part in the Annual Meeting.
If you are a member of our church, please make every effort to attend
and establish the required quorum!

See page 2 for more details.
**July 2015**

**Sunday, July 5**

**The Poetry of Hope**  
Rev. Kristin Maier, preaching  
Music from Margo Berg and Carol Caouette

The Reverend Kristin Maier serves as minister at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield, MN. She holds a Masters of Divinity from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and a Bachelor of Arts from Carleton College. Kristin also served as a ministerial intern here at WBUUC and was ordained by this congregation in 2009. She is the author of *A Good Telling: Bringing Worship to Life with Story*, and the creator of [Storyinworship.org](http://Storyinworship.org), a website that searches out stories that touch hearts, open minds and grow souls.

**Sunday, July 12**

**Calling Forth Justice**  
Arif Mamdani, UU Seminarian, preaching  
Music from Lisa Borg and Carol Caouette

Arif Mamdani: Associate Director of the Kaleo Center for Faith, Justice & Social Transformation, Master of Divinity Student at United Theological Seminary, and Spiritual Director, Arif Mamdani wears many hats. After 15 years working in support of progressive community organizing efforts around the country, Arif embraced his growing call to interfaith social justice ministry and last Fall, joined the team at Kaleo and matriculated at United Seminary. Arif lives in St. Paul, MN with his wife, two daughters, and two cats. He is a member of First Universalist Church of Minneapolis, and serves on the board of the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship.

**Sunday, July 19**

**One World at a Time**  
Rev. Karen Hering, preaching,  
Music from Julia Ryan-Holch and the Hacklewrappers

Rev. Karen Hering was ordained by WBUUC and serves as consulting literary minister at Unity Church-Unitarian in St. Paul. Her book, *Writing to Wake the Soul: Opening the Sacred Conversation Within*, received the 2014 Silver Nautilus Award recognizing “literary contributions to spiritual growth, conscious living, … responsible leadership and positive social change.” She leads guided writing sessions and retreats and teaches at the Loft Literary Center and the Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research. Visit: [www.karenhering.com](http://www.karenhering.com).

**Sunday, July 26**

**From the Last Poets to Jay Z**  
Rev. Karen Hutt, preaching  
Music from Becky Pansch and Virginia Podobinski

Rev. Karen Hutt has been a Unitarian Universalist minister for 20 years. She has served as Director of Religious Education at First Unitarian Society in Chicago and serves as minister at Church of the Open Door in Chicago. Currently she is an ACPE Clinical Pastoral Educator (CPE) at the University of Minnesota Medical Center in Minneapolis. She has worked as a pediatric chaplain, a trauma chaplain, and chaplain educator at hospitals in the Chicago metropolitan area. She holds a master’s of divinity degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School and is a Board Certified chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains. She lives in south Minneapolis with her partner, UU minister Ashley Horan, who is the Executive Director of MUSSJA. They have two children Elizabeth 15 and Aspen 7 months.
An Invitation to Beloved Conversations

In June, I bought these buttons as a gift for our congregation. In two weeks, we distributed over 500 buttons, and I have just ordered more. I invite you to take one, and to wear it over the summer, as often as you will, as often as you can.

Pay attention to the conversations that open up around your button. Watch not only other people, but your own interior reactions.

Takes notes and write to me this summer at vsafford@wbuuc.org.

Tell me how it's going.

If you wear your button, tell me what that feels like. If you don’t wear it, tell me why.

In the fall I’ll gather your responses and on a Sunday in September (without quoting you by name) we’ll hear how this is going, this small attempt to shift the conversation about racism, violence and fear.

From Ferguson to Baltimore, Staten Island to Selma, Madison to Minneapolis, from Cleveland to Charleston to the very heart of your own town, we have got to shift the conversation. We have got to start the crucial, painful, holy conversations about white privilege, policy, prisons, the economy, one by one, with neighbors, workers, strangers, family, friends—and then walk our talk, in faith, with hope and courage.

As I write, our hearts have been broken and our spirits shaken by the killing of nine people in Charleston, South Carolina—an act of terrorism born of cowardice, ignorance, and centuries of systemic, culturally-acceptable racism, fueled by a national gun culture that is irrational, immoral, and recklessly out of control. Wearing a button is the least of the responses we are called to now, as people of faith, a people of courage and radical hope.

May our broken hearts be strengthened for the work ahead. As ever, I am grateful to be walking with you on this journey.

- Victoria

A Prayer for the People of Charleston and All People

Spirit of life and love,
A church is a harbor of refuge, a shelter and a sanctuary.
It is a place where people speak to God, silently, aloud.
It is where, trembling, they listen.
A church is a house of hope and history,
consecrated by the people’s faith:

lift up joy and thankfulness
lay down weariness and sorrow.
Babies are welcomed.
Couples are blessed.
The beloved dead are sanctified and
in the rising of the sun and in its going down,
we will remember them.
We wake to devastation, desecration.
Wild with grief and holy rage,
we pray for courage now, and renewed strength
to preach this morning’s gospel truth:
black lives matter.
In the rising of the sun, and in its going down,
may we remember what we know for sure -
in spite of, and precisely because of,
the awful evidence of other tragic truths.
AMEN
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Steve Kahn

Ask not

I was only 9 years old when John F. Kennedy gave his inaugural address, the one where he said: “Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.” As I moved through high school and college I was active politically and thought I would remain so all my life. But after marching on Washington against the Vietnam War in 1970, I acted less and less altruistically through my 20s, and did even less in my 30s and 40s with the time demands of family life and career. The last fifteen years or so, since our children were teenagers, and the work part of life became less overwhelming, I began, slowly at first, to volunteer for things at church.

I know as well as anyone how impossible it seems to be to become part of a church community during the busy years. But, at the risk of sounding like a “do what I say now not what I did then” old guy, I wish I had extended myself just a bit during those stress-filled years. Not necessarily for what WBUUC needed from me, but for what I needed from WBUUC that I didn’t realize I needed.

Sunday mornings can be an alienating experience when your only involvement is Sunday mornings. It can look like everyone else is already connected and there is no obvious way to become engaged. But there are always small ways to get involved: one hour every few weeks (Welcome Center, Wednesday night dinners), one or two evenings per year (Project Home), two hours every few months (shuttle), attending an adult education program now and then. There is a women’s book group, men’s programs, and if you have an interest in the church’s financial life, the Financial Oversight Committee meets monthly with another hour or two commitments in between meetings. Land Stewardship would welcome your involvement now and then as your schedule permits. Whatever you do will make you feel more at home, more part of your church community.

Ask not what your church can do for you—ask what you can do for your church. Not only because the church needs you, but because, just maybe, if you are like me, you need the connections that WBUUC can provide. I have found myself talking more about the projects for which I volunteer than about work or household tasks or how busy I am. I have something that is becoming mine to talk about. Even though the commitments I made at first were small, they changed, slowly at first, how I saw myself. Over time they have reworked my sense of who I am as a person.

Do you sometimes feel that you are only the roles you play at home and work? If so, please consider this an invitation to try one of the smaller opportunities here at WBUUC. There is a place for you here. There are connections for you here. All you have to do is pick something that your busy life permits and show up for it. Check with me, our Director of Membership, Laura Smidzik, or at the Welcome Center, and you will be on your way. I look forward to getting to know you.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Carol Caouette

Music was my refuge. I could crawl into the space between the notes and curl my back to loneliness.
~ Maya Angelou

What a great musical start to our summer services! Many thanks for beautiful music in June from guest musician, Ellis and from our featured musicians, Liz Anderson, Sharon Castle, Chris Bashor, Ava Harmon, and Mary Duncan.

As we move into high summer, count on a continued strong, eclectic mix of guest and featured musicians for our July and August services.

Happy Summer!

www.wbuuc.org

July 2015
Registration for Summer Programs Still Open

Summer Sundays
Through September 6th, 10am:
Pre-K: Spirit Play
K-5: The Magic of Hogwarts
7th-12th: Dig In

Hogwarts Professors and Spirit Play assistants are needed; sign up HERE or on the bulletin board in the RE hallway. Lesson plans and supplies are provided. Register today at: wbuuc.org/re-registration

Summer Wednesdays
Through September 3rd, 6:30pm-7:30pm
Principles and Sources for kids: Ages 5 and up

Join us for stories and crafts as we begin our kid-centered exploration of our Principles and Sources! All are invited to bring a brown bag dinner in the Social Hall at 6pm. Open to children ages 5 and up. An adult forum on Principles and Sources is also offered from 6:30-7:30pm. Nursery care available for children 4 years of age and under. Please RSVP to dre@wbuuc.org.

Join us for Summer Park Days!
WBUUC Park Days are an open invitation to families of all ages to connect with community every Thursday from Noon-2pm during the summer. Each week we will gather in one of five parks around the metro area. Feel free to participate as you are able; registration is not required. Find out more and sign up to be a park host on the Religious Education Blog!

July At-A-Glance
Sundays through September 5, 2015: 10am Worship and Summer Religious Education for children and youth
Weekday Programs
Wed., July 1, 2015: 6:30-7:30pm Principles and Sources for Kids, 4th Principle: 6:30-7:30pm
Thurs., July 2, 2015: Noon-2pm Park Day at Como Regional Park (Meet by West Picnic Shelter)
Wed., July 8, 2015: 6:30-7:30pm Principles and Sources for Kids, 5th Principle
Thurs., July 9, 2015: Noon-2pm Park Day at Shoreview Commons
Wed., July 15, 2015: 6:30-7:30pm Principles and Sources for Kids, 6th Principle
Thurs., July 16, 2015: Noon-2pm Park Day at Pioneer Park, Stillwater
Wed., July 22, 2015: 6:30-7:30pm Principles and Sources for Kids, 7th Principle
Thurs., July 23, 2015: Noon-2pm Park Day at Battle Creek Regional Park
Wed., July 29, 2015: 6:30-7:30pm Principles and Sources for Kids, 1st Source
Thurs., July 30, 2015: Noon-2pm Park Day at Phalen Regional Park Beach

Registration for the 2015-2016 program year is now open! Help us plan for a great year of growing and serving together in Religious Education by registering your child early.

Register Here
**Are Your Hands Dirty? Dig In summer session** is rocking WBUUC’s kitchen and grounds. Teens are preparing food for homeless families, constructing window crash protection for birds, identifying creatures in our pond water, protecting butterflies and other pollinators during construction of our new playground, helping the younger kids play Quidditch and playing games of their own, doing some great cooking, contacting lawmakers, baking bread, and learning conservation skills from guest experts. Jump in! Class runs at 10:00 Sundays through September 6th.

**DIG IN**

Summer experiential for youth

- **We give and get...** An hour a week. Bigger selves. Good food. Great feelings.
- **We produce...** Homemade bread. Habitat. Knowledge. Shelter meals. Kindness.

Register: [wbuuc.org/re-registration](http://wbuuc.org/re-registration)

To receive weekly program updates write: youth@wbuuc.org

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**WBUC Summer Park Days**

**Thursdays Noon-2:00pm**

WBUUC Park Days are an open invitation to families of all ages to connect with community every Thursday during the summer. Each week we will gather in one of four parks around the metro area. Feel free to participate as you are able; registration is not required. Sign up to be a park host! Hosts need only arrive a few minutes early and bring a sign to help participants gather in the same location. Sign up to host HERE: [http://goo.gl/mizO2v](http://goo.gl/mizO2v).

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<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 2</td>
<td><strong>Como Regional Park:</strong> 1199 Midway Pkwy, Saint Paul, MN 55103  Meet by West Picnic Shelter and playground</td>
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<td>July 9</td>
<td><strong>Shoreview Commons:</strong> 4650 Victoria St N, Shoreview, MN 55126</td>
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<td>July 16</td>
<td><strong>Pioneer Park:</strong> 515 2nd St N, Stillwater, MN 55082</td>
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<td>July 23</td>
<td><strong>Battle Creek Regional Park:</strong> 2401 E Upper Afton Rd, Maplewood, MN 55119  Meet by playground north of Upper Afton Road</td>
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<td>July 30</td>
<td><strong>Phalen Regional Park:</strong> 1600 Phalen Dr, Saint Paul, MN 55106  Meet at the Beach (bring swimwear!)</td>
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<td>August 6</td>
<td><strong>Shoreview Commons:</strong> 4650 Victoria St N, Shoreview, MN 55126</td>
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<td>August 13</td>
<td><strong>Pioneer Park:</strong> 515 2nd St N, Stillwater, MN 55082</td>
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<td>August 27</td>
<td><strong>Como Regional Park:</strong> 1199 Midway Pkwy, Saint Paul, MN 55103  Meet by West Picnic Shelter and playground</td>
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<td>September 3</td>
<td><strong>Shoreview Commons:</strong> 4650 Victoria St N, Shoreview, MN 55126</td>
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Grow Your Soul | Classes, Forums & Groups

Sign up in the Social Hall, online at wbuuc.org/classes, or contact:
Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer at revluke@wbuuc.org or 651.426.2369

THIS SUMMER:

OUR LIVING TRADITION brown bag dinner & discussion
EVERY WEDNESDAY through September 2nd | 6:00-7:30pm
Join us for a casual “bring your own” dinner, followed by a brief presentation and discussion. Each week, we will focus on one of Unitarian Universalism’s (7) guiding principles and (6) sources of wisdom. Attend any number of sessions.

MEMBERSHIP CLASSES for newcomers and old-timers
Sunday, August 2nd – Session I, Part II (White Bear UU Church history)
Sunday, August 16th – Session II (Meaning of membership & signing ritual)
This is for those new to the church and ready to explore membership and longtime friends of the church who want to step fully into membership.

SIMPLY PRAY | Sundays July 12th, 19th, 26th | 11:30-1:00pm
Bring your own brown bag lunch, and stay for a brief presentation and discussion around Erik Walker Wikstrom’s book Simply Pray, inviting Unitarian Universalists into “modern spiritual practice to deepen your life.”

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES:

MEN’S GROUP - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 12:30pm, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00pm
A group always open to new members, whose mission is to make connections, deepen friendships and build community, share life’s experiences, learn from each other, give and receive support.
Contact: Steve Kahn (stevekahn@comcast.net)

SHAMANIC DRUMMING - 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00pm
A group participating in the ancient practice of shamanic drumming for meditation and spiritual exploration.
Contact: Nancy Hauer (nancy@rookhouse.org)

WOMEN’S BOOK GROUP - 2nd Monday of each month, 7:00-9:00pm
A group reading a variety of books throughout the year written by women, chosen by the group, and focusing on books which are affordable and easily available for purchase or from a library.
Contact: Dana Jackson (danaleep@q.com)

Theological Theme for Summer

Freedom - the practice of expanding the spirit
In what ways have you experienced freedom in your life?
In what ways has your freedom ever been constrained?
How does the experience of freedom impact how you live?
What paths has spiritual or theological freedom led you on?
How has your own spirit, or your understanding of the “Spirit” or the Holy, been expanded by a free search for truth and meaning?

Each month, our church gathers around a theme and practice to guide our congregational life. To sign up for a small group, contact revluke@wbuuc.org, 651.426.2369 x 103, or visit wbuuc.org/classes.
Social and Environmental Justice

We are a congregation working towards social and environmental justice. Look in this section for articles about Economic Justice, Human Rights, Peace, and Environmental Justice. If you have questions or want to get involved, please email us at justice@wbuuc.org.

Serving Lunch at People Incorporated
Monday, July 13 at 10am—WBUUC Kitchen
Once a month WBUUC volunteers cook and serve a warm meal to people experiencing homelessness and mental illness. To get involved, visit the Standing on the Side of Love table in the Social Hall or contact Kate O’Reilly at katenandronh@q.com or 651.653.6319.

Volunteer to Work on
Habitat for Humanity Eco Village
Summer 2015
WBUUC building committee member Jim Cooper is also project manager for an 18-home model neighborhood of sustainable, integrated community design in River Falls, Wisconsin. This St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity solar/geothermal project is an example of what’s possible in the green building industry, demonstrating that efficient, ecological building practices can ensure lasting affordability for low income homeowners. Volunteer to help Jim finish the homes this summer. See scvhabitat.org/eco-village. Contact Jim Cooper at jim.cooper@scvhabitat.org.

Project Home
September 1-30, 2015
Please Consider this Incredible Experience

Our family did an overnight shortly after joining WBUUC. I was so uncomfortable serving the young mother who was parenting her 8 week old twins, and 3 year old daughter in a shelter. The experience has stayed in my mind ever since. How could I have the privilege of my own home and loving family when raising my daughters, and she had literally nothing? The experience moved me to action and I have continued helping with Project Home ever since.

- Laurie Wenker

Be an evening or overnight host for Project Home this September. Please help fill the 180 volunteer positions needed for the month. You can find more details and sign up as a volunteer at www.wbuuc.org/ph.

Finding Home

The Finding Home effort on working with homeless youth in our area is now moving forward with steps toward the opening of a Drop-in Center for youth. This is to be hosted at the Harriet Tubman East Center, located along Century Avenue, and will provide a wide range of support services for these young people. Procedures for donating supplies and participating as volunteers are now being developed, as well as identification of needed site preparation work. Important work also includes outreach to other community organizations to enlist collaboration and support. Our hope is to be ready to open the center around the time the school year starts this fall. Contacts: Dan Wachtler, at dkwachtler@msn.com, and Ron Ofstead, at poserofstead@gmail.com.

www.wbuuc.org
Social and Environmental Justice

Photos from the the Anti-Tar Sands rally in St. Paul, MN on June 6, 2015.

Janet Kortuem, Claudia Poser, Ron Ofstead
Speaker Bill McKibben addressing the crowd
Arriving at the State Capitol Building
(all photos – K.Cobb)

Special Collections

Sunday, July 12:
Unitarian Universalist Seminary Scholarships
This collection supports scholarships for Unitarian Universalist students at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. A liberal seminary rooted historically in the United Church of Christ, United is a leader among Midwestern seminaries committed to forming strong UU leaders. United offers safe space for people with a diversity of theological perspectives to interact and provides a welcoming, supportive setting for UU students. This collection helps offset the large amount of debt many seminary graduates incur during their study.

Sunday, July 26:
Ministerial Discretionary Fund
Throughout the year, our ministers serve our members and the wider community by offering emergency assistance to people in crisis who call, walk in, or connect in other ways with our church. Monies are used to help defray the costs of long-term housing, emergency shelter, food, medicine, travel, school supplies and other urgent needs. All grants are made confidentially, and when possible, checks are written directly to landlords, agencies, and others, instead of to individuals.

Artist’s Statement: Lindsey Kahn

Lindsey Kahn’s artwork will be on display at WBUUC from July 12 to August 16.

“I am a lifelong animal lover who just so happens to also enjoy art. From realistic portraits to whimsical sketches, I love expressing my love of creatures both real and fantastic. My ink drawings are largely influenced by Art nouveau, surrealism, comic books, and fantasy art. My main passion is horseback riding; I train and compete in the sport of three-day eventing and teach riding lessons to students of all ages at Woodloch Stable, my second home. I am also a writer for the websites Eventing Nation and Horse Nation. Aside from my horses Firefly and Griffin, I am the proud and exhausted companion of three cats (Mogwai, Thomas, and Gaius) and a tiny, awkward dog named Fritz. My art and writing can be seen at www.KahnArtistry.com.”

www.wbuuc.org
Among Ourselves

Our hearts are with:

- Helen Duritsa and Curt Sloan, mourning the death of their nephew in California
- Kate O’Reilly, whose sister-in-law, Margaret, has entered hospice care
- Sue Dallman, recovering from a bad fall
- Bill and Ann Bushnell, as their son Tom continues treatment for leukemia
- Nicolet Lyon, whose mother is in hospice care
- Sally Evans, recovering healing a badly broken arm
- Chuck Pallas, who was hospitalized following a fall in early May
- Lisa Monzel, whose mother died in May
- Lisa Neshek, who has been in the hospital
- Stirling Cousins, recovering from nasal surgery
- John Velin, recovering from knee surgery
- Justin Smith, recovering from DBS surgery

If you would like our ministers to include in the Sunday meditation the name of a loved one you are holding in sorrow or concern or joy, please contact Victoria Safford vsafford@wbuuc.org (651.426.2369) or leave a note in the bowl by the Sanctuary window. To send cards to those named in meditations, visit the Pastoral Care table in the Social Hall, where each Sunday you will find a current list with mailing addresses. You may take these with you, or write them here for us to mail for you.

Announcements

Men’s Programs

*Open to all men connected with WBUUC: members, friends or visitors.*

**Mission Statement:** To make connections, deepen friendships and build community. Share life’s experiences and learn from each other. Give and receive support during challenging times. Coordinate opportunities to have fun and do good work.

**Shuttle:** The shuttle is coordinated by Men’s Programs. Drivers (men and women) will be needed for fall. We are hoping to have enough volunteers so that no one has to drive more than four Sundays per year. This is an easy and important volunteer opportunity, which is perfect for new members or for people who are too busy to take on a bigger commitment. For more information please email John Bauhs at bauh0002@umn.edu.

**Men’s Groups:** The daytime group meets on the first and third Tuesday at 12:30pm. The evening group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday at 7pm. No meeting on a fifth Tuesday. All Men’s Programs are open to all interested men, no sign up required, new members always welcome. We meet all summer.

**Men’s Retreat:** Save the Dates! Oct. 23–25, 2015; April 22–24, 2016. Always a great time. Audubon Retreat Center of the Northwoods Sandstone. All are welcome.

**Clothing Collection**

*June 28 – July 26*

A collection for KINO, an organization (from Victoria’s justice trip with the UU College of Social Justice) working for humane migration on the U.S./Mexico border. Various donations needed including clothing and hygiene items. See the table in the Social Hall for a list of items, or contact Kathy Mackin for more information: kathymackin@gmail.com.

**The WBUUC Natural Playground**

The Natural Playground Project is underway, but we need your help to make this project a success!

- **Donate** items like logs, boulders or a slide
- **Volunteer** to build something
- **Attend** a Summer Work Party on August 8th & 15th

For more information, see Donations Wanted and Service Opportunities on page 10 or contact Susan Warweg at swarweg@msn.com.
## Announcements

### Habitat for Humanity
**July 20-31**
Join others from WBUUC any number of whole days within these two weeks. On-site training and lunch provided. Contact John Velin: johnvelin@comcast.net or 651.230.2034.

### Land Stewardship
**Wednesday Gardening Sessions**
Join the Land Stewardship crew the first and third Wednesday mornings (9 to noon) throughout the summer to take care of our beautiful and welcoming outdoor space. We will be doing general gardening maintenance such as deadheading, pruning, weeding, mulching, planting, and eradicating invasive species.

Come for all or part of morning for work, fun, and camaraderie. No experience necessary. Bring your work gloves, garden tools (some available on site) and water bottle. Weds. mornings don’t work for you? Consider adopting a garden space to care for on your own or with a friend. Contact Jackie Metelak at 651.442.9513, jackiemetelak@comcast.net or Susan Warweg at 651.430.1156, swarweg@msn.com.

Mark your calendar for Wednesday Gardening Sessions:
- **July 1 and 15, August 5 and 19, Sept. 2 and 16.**

### Donations Wanted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natural Playground Needs</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Item</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Logs for stepping: must be hard woods like oak, maple or walnut, 4-8 feet in length, 10” or more in diameter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A slide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Boulders for climbing</td>
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</tbody>
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**Contact** Susan Warweg at swarweg@msn.com

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tablet Needed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Item</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Upgrading to a new iPad or Android (Preferably iPad 2 or newer)? WBUUC would love to use your old one at the Welcome Center.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contact** Anna Gehres, 651.426.2369 x 107, agehres@wbuuc.org

## Service Opportunities

### Build Our Natural Playground

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opportunity</th>
<th>Build a foot bridge, musical elements, and more!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact</strong></td>
<td>Susan Warweg at <a href="mailto:swarweg@msn.com">swarweg@msn.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Helping Hands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opportunity</th>
<th>Assist fellow members who need temporary help (meals, etc) while recovering from illness.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time</strong></td>
<td>According to your schedule and preferences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact</strong></td>
<td>Mary Bolton, <a href="mailto:Mpbolton54@yahoo.com">Mpbolton54@yahoo.com</a>, 651.271.1593</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Belonging and Community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opportunity</th>
<th>Be on a team of four that take turns washing dirty towels and aprons from the church kitchen each week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time</strong></td>
<td>13 weeks out of church year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact</strong></td>
<td>Mary Bolton, <a href="mailto:Mpbolton54@yahoo.com">Mpbolton54@yahoo.com</a>, 651.271.1593</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sunday Book Stall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opportunity</th>
<th>Volunteer needed to staff the WBUUC Book Stall</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time</strong></td>
<td>Second Sundays between services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact</strong></td>
<td>Kathleen Keating, <a href="mailto:kathleenkeating@comcast.net">kathleenkeating@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Provide a Ride

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opportunity</th>
<th>Provide a ride to church on Sunday mornings. Drivers can be matched with riders in their area.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time</strong></td>
<td>Any and/or every Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact</strong></td>
<td>Victoria Safford, 651.426.2369, <a href="mailto:vsafford@wbuuc.org">vsafford@wbuuc.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sunday Greeter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opportunity</th>
<th>Greet and answer questions, pass out orders of service at the Sanctuary Doors.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time</strong></td>
<td>15 minutes before &amp; after Sunday services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact</strong></td>
<td>Miriam Juvette, 651.428.6314, <a href="mailto:mjuvette@comcast.net">mjuvette@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Art Shows for July

Sharon Weiser & Char Neely: through Sunday, July 5
Lindsey Kahn: Sunday, July 12 – Sunday, August 16

For more up-to-date calendar information, visit www.wbuuc.org/calendar.

July 2015

Sunday

1 6pm Our Living Tradition 9pm Principles & Sources for Kids
9pm GCCC 7pm Endowment

5pm Building & Belonging & Community

Monday

2 10am Worship Service 11am Welcome Gathering 5pm Adult Children of Alcoholics

5pm Peple, Inc. 6:30pm Financial Development 7pm Women’s Book Group

Tuesday

3 Church Closed

6 12:30pm Men’s Group

5pm Men’s Group 7pm Shamanic Drumming

Wednesday

4 Church Closed

7 9pm Our Living Tradition 9pm Principles & Sources for Kids

6:30pm HVAC Committee 7pm Men’s Group

Thursday

5 Church Closed

8 5:30pm Endowment

12:30pm Men’s Group

8pm Our Living Tradition 6pm Principles & Sources for Kids

9 9pm Our Living Tradition 6pm Principles & Sources for Kids

10 6pm Our Living Tradition 6pm Principles & Sources for Kids

Friday

11 Church Closed

14 5pm Building and Operations Meeting 7pm Men’s Group

21 7pm Big Band Rehearsal

12 Sun Jul 12, 2015 10am Worship Service 11:15am Gallery Committee 5pm Adult Children of Alcoholics

22 8pm Our Living Tradition 9pm Principles & Sources for Kids

13 10am Worship Service 11am Welcome Gathering 5pm Adult Children of Alcoholics

6:30pm HVAC Committee 7pm Men’s Group

Saturday

14 Newsletter Deadline 6pm Our Living Tradition 6pm Principles & Sources for Kids

28 7pm Executive Committee Meeting 7pm Financial Oversight Committee

18 Church Closed

25 Church Closed

19 8pm Our Living Tradition 9pm Principles & Sources for Kids

31 Church Closed

26 10am Worship Service 5pm Adult Children of Alcoholics

27 7pm Executive Committee Meeting 7pm Financial Oversight Committee

29 6:30pm HVAC Committee 7pm Men’s Group

30 Church Closed
July 2015

Save the Date:
Sunday, September 6
10am service
Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, preaching
Music from the Maple Street Ramblers

Picnic on the Lawn
Following the service

The Maple Street Ramblers, a Dixieland Band including church members, will provide music on the front lawn. Bring a picnic basket and blanket—children welcome!

Celebrate with us for our last summer Sunday!
UPCOMING SERVICES FOR AUGUST 2015

Sunday, August 2  
**Thicker Than Blood**  
*Guest Preacher: Ashley Horan, M.Div.*  
*Music from Eisner’s Klezmorim and Carol Caouette*  
The old adage says that “blood is thicker than water,” but some of us feel our deepest connections with people and communities who are not our biological kin. We will look this week at some audacious women preachers from the 19th century prairie, the spiritual and social communities they built, and the practice of creating chosen family every bit as strong as the clans into which we were born.

Sunday, August 9  
**Expanding the Spirit Through Prayer**  
*Preacher: Laura Smidzik, M.Div., WBUUC Minister of Membership*  
*Music from Carol Caouette*  
Unitarian Universalists have many ways they connect with something greater than their own being. Recently, a group of congregants participated in three gatherings and conversations based on the book *Simply Pray* by Erick Walker Wikstom. Join Laura as she explores the topic of prayer from a UU perspective.

Sunday, August 16  
**The Bread of Life**  
*Guest Preachers: Ross Safford and Rev. Bryce Johnson*  
*Music from Nico and Marlee Van Ostrand, and Mary Duncan*  
Come learn about the Bread of Life Ministry at White Bear Lake United Methodist Church, which has become a vehicle for nourishing the hungers of life in a variety of ways. Following the service, bring a brown bag lunch over to the Methodist church, to see the oven in action! WBL United Methodist Church is located at 1851 Birch Street, White Bear Lake, MN 55110.

Sunday, August 23  
**Religious Freedom and Radical Thinkers: Early European Unitarians**  
*Preacher: Laura Smidzik, M.Div., WBUUC Minister of Membership*  
*Music from Miriam Juvette, Lisa Sem, Carol Caouette*  
Our Unitarian Universalist roots are grounded both in American and in European soil. Enter into the history and lives of a few of our Unitarian forefathers and fore-mothers. Their stories are sure to fuel your own commitment to religious freedom and theological exploration.

Sunday, August 30  
**The Long Game: Doing Justice for the Now and the Not Yet**  
*Guest Preacher: Rev. Kelli Clement*  
*Music from Carol Caouette*  
Every movement, large or small, public or private, has an arc. How comfortable are we with the consistent small steps, especially the ones where we follow, rather than lead? What is the call of our faith to nimble, sustainable justice-making? Are we willing to dance in the streets in celebration tonight while working again for justice tomorrow?

Sunday, September 6  
**Let It Shine**  
*Preacher: Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer*  
*Music from the Maple Street Ramblers and Carol Caouette*  
As we come to the end of summer, we will honor Labor Day by celebrating what Dr. Martin Luther King called the *dignity of work.* We will honor the way each person helps to build up the world, and we will sing and celebrate with the *Maple Street Ramblers* during service and afterwards at our church picnic, as we let our souls and our lives’ work *shine.*
From the Minister

I’ve been watching the images from Pluto this month, and thinking about distance and proximity, the spaces between planets, and coherence. What holds things in their orbits? What makes a group of planets (and their sun and moons, and moods, their quirks and quarks) a solar system, not just a random bunch of big orbs in the sky?

What holds us in our orbits, binding us across our differences, our strangeness, loneliness, distractions, into a community, a congregation, and not just a random bunch of people passing through?

We’re held by covenant: the promises we make to one another, but mostly to ourselves, about the kind of people that we mean to be, the kinds of persons, one by one, within intentional community. We’re bound, by choice, to the history of our congregation, and to the liberal religious experiment within which it dwells, and we are bound to its future, mindful that we shape it with our own hands as we go.

We’re held as well by more practical connections, and summer is the time when staff and lay leaders plan and ponder all the tangible links that help us to cohere: the newsletter and weekly email blasts, social media and sermon podcasts, bulletin boards and tables in the social hall, even posters on the wall. How can we connect 1000 children, youth, young adults and elders, and everyone in between, to one another and to our larger purpose? How can we stay clear and focused, sharing enough information, but not so much that the news from church just adds to the streaming cacophony of everybody’s over-crowded inbox?

Beginning in September, our monthly newsletter will take new form: it will be shorter, with deeper and more thoughtful articles linked to our monthly Sunday themes; there will be more pictures, and more live links to information on our website. The weekly insert in the Order of Service (currently, “The Purple Pages”) will expand and be more organized, full of current news. These publications will be available both online and in print. A new online monthly journal called Show Your Soul will feature the writing and artwork of this congregation’s wondrously creative members and friends, and it, too, will follow the cycle of monthly themes around the year. (I hope you’ll contribute! See page 10 to learn more.)

How can we connect more meaningfully, making space in busy lives to deepen friendships, be of service, and to grow our souls? What does it mean to be a member of a church community, one small planet in relation to the others?

This year Wednesday nights will shift their shape to make the mid-week dinner more inviting to families with young children, to people coming straight from work, and elders, and the rest of us. We’ll be eating in the Atrium, a more spacious, gracious, light-filled space, surrounded by gallery art, and every Wednesday after dinner there will be a 50-minute forum in the Social Hall, led by members or ministers on a variety of topics, with concurrent programs for children. The Choir will still practice, and committees will meet from 7:30 – 9:00. You’ll see this schedule printed soon. To me it feels more deliberate, more exciting, more accessible, and ultimately simpler—a welcome island just where we need it, in the middle of our week.

Like stars and planets, we are held together by relationships. Gravity keeps our feet on the floor, but we’re connected also by bonds of grace and deep intention. You’ll hear more soon about communications and fall programs, ways to connect with one another, with generous service, and with your heart’s own longing for the sacred. For now, may your summer days be filled with light.

With gratitude,

Victoria Safford

DO WE HAVE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION?

Cellphone number?  Current e-mail?  Street address?

Keeping in touch and helping your church reach you are key responsibilities of membership in our community! Contact Jody Karlen at 651.426.2369 or officeassistant@wbuuc.org to update your information.
Do you feel at home when you are at WBUUC? Do you “walk around like you own the place?” Do you remember feeling welcome when your search first led you here? Based on what I hear and see, my guess is that you do. (In fact, if not, please let me know about it.)

Being an open and welcoming place is one of our highest priorities. If staff and lay leaders are at the top of their game, new people find us, check us out and feel, right off the bat, what we feel after we have settled in and put our roots down. A place to call home. An RE program in which to comfortably and confidently enroll children. Fantastic sermons. Strong Social Justice programs. Opportunities to get involved, no matter how much or how little time is available.

Project Home is one of our largest Social Justice programs. It takes place in September. If you have any time available, even just for one shift, it will be greatly appreciated. To get involved, visit: www.wbuuc.org/ph.

Programs like Project Home are a vital part of our church identity. What can seem less vital are mundane things like whether the building is kept at a comfortable temperature during the summer and winter months, whether we have an HVAC system that fits with our values and our concerns for the environment, whether there is parking available for all who wish to come in and join us. One of my goals this year is to connect the important with the mundane in the minds of all who have come to be part of and value WBUUC. I hope that when you hear us talk about parking, you think of being welcoming. When you hear us talk about HVAC, you think of Social Justice work done in a room that is neither freezing nor sweltering. The people who come in to grow their souls need to feel welcomed the first time they visit, and feel at home every time they are in the building to serve the world.

I recently returned from the Unitarian Universalist Association’s General Assembly in Portland, OR. Our annual meeting is attended by thousands of UU’s from across the country and the world. The full schedule includes a gathering for each region, many workshops, sessions for congregational delegates, large-scale worship with rockin’ hymns, and public witness connected to a social justice issue in the local community where the assembly is held.

I love both regional and national meetings because they remind me of the vibrancy of our faith, shine a light on a particular focus that impacts our full association, and inevitably feed my soul. The assembly begins with a parade where representatives display their UU church, society, or fellowship banner. The banners are colorful and artistic and often depict symbols reflecting the location or spirit of the congregation. Waterfalls, high rises, trees, faces, rainbows, and other images act as a back drop to the name and location of each congregation. The banners are carried by people of all ages, gender expression, physical ability, etc. The parade goes on for quite some time with audience members jumping up to take a photo to post on social media or to cheer on their congregations.

This simple parade reminds me of the range of connections and involvement available to us as UUs. As Minister of Membership, I witness new members who share what calls them to join this faith community. I am reminded of how important it is to have a weekly touchstone of worship, a small group, and/or a consistent means of service which supports us as we grow our souls and serve the world. Many of you have attended regional assemblies and the 2010 General Assembly which was in Minneapolis. My hope is that even more of you will ground yourself here, fed by the beauty of this place and the loving community of spiritual seekers, and also venture into regional or national UU realms. For now, I encourage you to check out the links to several of the events at this year’s General Assembly, including a lecture by Cornel West at www.uua.org/ga/virtual/2015. Prof. West is the author of Race Matters, Black Prophetic Fire and The Radical King—all published by Beacon Press.
Ongoing Summer Programs for Children and Youth

Sundays
Through September 6, 10am:
Pre-K: Spirit Play
K-5th: The Magic of Hogwarts
7th-12th: Dig In

Wednesdays
Through September 3, 6:30pm-7:30pm:
Principles and Sources for Kids
(for ages 5 and up)
RSVP to dre@wbuuc.org

Thursdays
Through September 3, 12pm-2pm:
Summer Park Days
WBUUC Summer Park Days are an open invitation to families of all ages to connect with community every Thursday from Noon-2pm during the summer. Each week we will gather in one of five parks around the metro area. Feel free to participate as you are able; registration is not required. Find out more on the Religious Education Blog!

WBUUC Natural Playground Project Continues!

Work Dates: Saturday, August 8, 9am to 12:30pm,
Saturday, August 15, 9am to 12:30pm,
September dates to be determined.

Builders needed: We have several play elements that have patterns or designs that can be built by a person or a group of people. Our hope is to have items built and installed in the spring of 2016. Items include:

- 8’ x 5’ walking bridge
- Sand box with an attached cover
- 12’ x 12’ or 14’ x 14’ wooden platform
- Toad stool bench with chairs
- Storage benches with a cover
- Woven beehive shelter
- Woven archway
- Woven fence
- A outdoor water feature
- A small outdoor kitchen

For more information, contact Susan Warweg swarweg@msn.com or 651.430.1156.
For inspiration, check out our Playground project Pinterest page HERE.

Grow Your Soul and Serve Your World…
with our children and youth in Religious Education!

- Discover new spiritual practices, songs, rituals, and wisdom
- Help guide our children and youth as they grow in spirit and make their own discoveries
- Strengthen your own UU faith in a multigenerational setting
- Engage with our monthly worship themes and our faith in a whole new way
- Make connections with other adults who are committed to teaching our children and youth
- Connect with children and their families

Help build and grow our multigenerational community!
For more information and to sign up click HERE.

Registration for the 2015-2016 program year is now open!
Help us plan for a great year of growing and serving together in Religious Education by registering your child early.
Be a Quidditch Referee August 2: Assist with Quidditch; Aug. 9: Prepare for construction; Aug. 16: Survey land for Pollinator Waystation certification; Aug. 23: Construct bird crash window protection; Aug. 30: Cook for Project Home.

Dig In Sundays in August at 10am.

DIG IN Summer experiential


CLASSES & GROUPS Starts Sunday, September 20.
Registration is required: www.wbuuc.org/re.

Grades 7-8: Riddle and Mystery What’s life all about? Ask big questions about the universe, mortality, God, spirituality, and suffering. Make video newscasts on the many varieties of UU faith. Sundays at 9am and 11am.

Grade 9+: Our Whole Lives (OWL) Award-winning sexuality education. Age-appropriate information on human development, relationships, behavior, health, and culture. Clarify values, build skills, understand spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality. Includes discussion, games, speakers, videos, and snacks. Sundays 9am only. Parent orientation is required. This course is followed by Coming of Age, which runs January 10 through May 29.

Grades 9-12: Youth Group Check-in with peers, take part in focused discussion on youth-selected topics, and plan activities such as the youth service, special projects, and more. Open to youth in grades 9-12, including those who are also enrolled in OWL/Coming of Age. Sundays 11am only.

Grades 7-12: PeaceJam Create a project promoting peace. Learn from seasoned advocates, connect with metro youth, meet a Nobel Peace Prize laureate. Wednesdays TBA + spring/fall conferences. To register, send an email to youth@wbuuc.org.

Adults: Be an Ally for Youth! Come to Youth Ally Training to hear the latest research on the wellbeing of youth, think about your own formative years, and practice skills for being an asset to young people in your daily life. To register, send an email to youth@wbuuc.org. Evening of September 9. All adults are welcome. Required for advisors and teachers.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR To RSVP & receive weekly updates send an email to youth@wbuuc.org.

Wednesday, Aug. 2 Youth/Adult Committee Meeting 11am-1:30pm. Lunch provided.
Sunday, Aug. 6 Last Dig In class 10am-11:20am. Prepare bread for all-church picnic.
Wednesday, Aug. 9 Youth Ally Training 6:15pm-8:30pm. All adults welcome. RSVP.
Sunday, Aug. 13 Opening Worship Service Fall services begin at 9am and 11am.
Wednesday, Aug. 16 Teacher Training 6:30pm-8pm. For those leading any time this year. RSVP.
Sunday, Aug. 20 OWL Parent Orientation 6:30pm-7:30pm. RSVP.
PeaceJam Orientation 5:30pm-6:30pm during church dinner. RSVP.
RE and Youth Classes/Groups open for fall/winter season. Register: www.wbuuc.org/re.
Program Orientations 10:15am-11pm, for 7-8 and 9-12 youth and parents. RSVP.

www.wbuuc.org
From the Assistant Director of Music

I believe that music saves lives. ~ The Rev. Kristin Maier, sermon at WBUUC, July 5, 2015

August is here and though there is much summer left to enjoy, we’re already looking ahead with lots of great new ideas and plans for a dynamic and musical new church year at WBUUC. Many thanks to our July Sunday service musicians: Margo Berg, Lisa Borg, Julia Ryan-Holch and The Hacklewrappers, Mary Duncan, Becky Pansch and Virginia Podobinski. Gratitude for beautiful summer music.

Theological Theme for Summer

**Freedom - the practice of expanding the spirit**

In what ways have you experienced freedom in your life?

In what ways has your freedom ever been constrained?

How does the experience of freedom impact how you live?

What paths has spiritual or theological freedom led you on?

How has your own spirit, or your understanding of the “Spirit” or the Holy, been expanded by a free search for truth and meaning?

*Each month, our church gathers around a theme and practice to guide our congregational life. To sign up for a small group, contact revluke@wbuuc.org, 651.426.2369 x 103, or visit wbuuc.org/classes.*

Among Ourselves

Our hearts are with these member and friends:

Charlotte Preston and Mary Kurth, as Charlotte continues cancer treatments and recovers from hospitalizations in July;

John and Katie Macke, mourning the death of John’s father, Woody;

Dick and Mary Rogers: Mary’s mother, Carol, died in July. A memorial service will be held here on Monday, August 24;

Kate O’Reilly, mourning the death of her sister-in-law, Margaret;

Ann and Bill Bushnell, as their son, Tom, continues treatment for leukemia.

And we celebrate the weddings of these couples:

Jacqueline Zita and Karen Clark

Katy Lowery and David Edminster

Elisa Collins and Dan Jagusch

If you would like our ministers to include in the Sunday meditation the name of a loved one you are holding in sorrow or concern or joy, please contact Victoria Safford vsafford@wbuuc.org (651.426.2369) or leave a note in the bowl by the Sanctuary window. To send cards to those named in meditations, visit the Pastoral Care table in the Social Hall, where each Sunday you will find a current list with mailing addresses. You may take these with you, or write them here for us to mail for you.
Grow Your Soul | Classes, Forums & Groups

Sign up in the Social Hall, online at wbuuc.org/classes, or contact:
Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer at revluke@wbuuc.org or 651.426.2369

THIS SUMMER:

OUR LIVING TRADITION brown bag dinner & discussion
EVERY WEDNESDAY through September 2nd | 6:00-7:30pm
Join us for a casual “bring your own” dinner, followed by a brief presentation and discussion. Each week, we will focus on one of Unitarian Universalism’s (7) guiding principles and (6) sources of wisdom. Attend any number of sessions.

MEMBERSHIP CLASSES for newcomers and old-timers
Sunday, August 2nd – Session I, Part II (White Bear UU Church history)
Sunday, August 16th – Session II (Meaning of membership & signing ritual)
This is for those new to the church and ready to explore membership and longtime friends of the church who want to step fully into membership.

FALL SMALL GROUPS:

SHARING CIRCLES meet once a month to engage the monthly theme and practice with questions, poetry, and short readings. The groups are a nourishing way to explore the theme, and build relationships, by listening and sharing. Led by a facilitator. Other times may be offered as needed.

3rd Sundays 1:00pm-3:00pm;
3rd Mondays 10am-12pm
3rd Tuesdays 1pm-3pm
3rd Wednesdays 7:30pm-9pm (following a forum on the theme)

WELLSPRING groups meet twice a month to explore personal spiritual practice, theology, and UU history. Led by our ministers, these small groups encourage reflection and interaction among participants.

Fall Orientation for both groups: Sunday, Sept. 20, 12:30-4:30pm
Meeting time for both groups: 1st and 3rd Sundays, 1-3pm (October - June)

Two group options:
Wellspring Foundations: In-Depth UUism
Wellspring: Spiritual Practices (for past Wellspring participants)

COMING THIS FALL:

LIVING WITH GRIEF - Sundays, October 4 through mid-December | 3pm-4:30pm
The most universal human experience we share is the death of a loved one. We are planning a Sunday afternoon group that will explore and support the personal and often bewildering process of grief. The focus will be readings, poetry, and sharing the personal experience of loss and grief. Our hope is that ‘a grief shared will be a grief diminished.’ Facilitators: Jo Ford, MSE and Sheryl Niebuhr, PhD (both with extensive experience in grief work). To register or for more information, contact Victoria Safford (vsafford@wbuuc.org).
ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES:

MEN’S GROUP - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 12:30pm, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00pm
A group always open to new members, whose mission is to make connections, deepen friendships and build community, share life’s experiences, learn from each other, give and receive support.
Contact: Steve Kahn (stevekahn@comcast.net)

SHAMANIC DRUMMING - 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00pm
A group participating in the ancient practice of shamanic drumming for meditation and spiritual exploration.
Contact: Nancy Hauer (nancy@rookhouse.org)

WOMEN’S BOOK GROUP - 2nd Monday of each month, 7:00-9:00pm
A group reading a variety of books throughout the year written by women, chosen by the group, and focusing on books which are affordable and easily available for purchase or from a library.
Contact: Dana Jackson (danaleep@q.com)

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Special Collections

Sunday, August 2: MUUSJA (Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance)
MUUSJA’s mission is to unleash courageous leadership and collective power to build a just and loving world. MUUSJA connects UUs from across the state of Minnesota—firmly grounded in UU principles of world peace, justice, and sustainability: to work together on focused programs of education, witness, and systemic change to create a world that works for everyone, developing capacity of UU individuals and congregations to work effectively for systemic change and social justice, and bringing UU values into the public square. MUUSJA works to prepare UUs to use an action, reflection, collaboration approach to social change ~ action to combat root causes of injustice, reflection to evaluate our progress and ground our work spiritually, and collaboration with faith based and secular social change organizations (including communities deeply affected by our target issues) to maximize our power and impact.

Sunday, August 23: Ministerial Discretionary Fund
Throughout the year, our ministers serve our members and the wider community by offering emergency assistance to people in crisis who call, walk in, or connect in other ways with our church. Monies are used to help defray the costs of long-term housing, emergency shelter, food, medicine, travel, school supplies and other urgent needs. All grants are made confidentially, and when possible, checks are written directly to landlords, agencies, and others, instead of to individuals.
Announcements

Land Stewardship
Wednesday Gardening Sessions
Mark your calendar!

When: August 5 and 26, Sept. 2 and 16 from 9am until noon. Come as your schedule permits.

Why: To maintain and care for our welcoming, but vast outdoor space. To have fun, make a difference, and meet new friends with similar interests.

Who: You! Feel free to bring a friend or family member. No experience needed.

What to Bring: Work gloves, garden tools (also available on site), and a water bottle.

Are Wednesday mornings not good for you? Consider adopting a garden space to care for on your own at your convenience. Contact Jackie Metelak at 651.442.9513, jackiemetelak@comcast.net or Susan Warweg at 651.430.1156, swarweg@msn.com.

Playground Project Update
The Natural Playground design has been completed. On Saturday, August 8, volunteers are needed to begin moving the pavers, plants and play structure from the current area. Work will take place from 9am-12:30pm. The following Saturday, August 15, volunteers are needed again to finish removing all the materials from the play area. On August 21, grading will begin. The grading takes place over a week and will provide the property with better drainage. Once the grading is complete, some of the play elements such as the slide, boulders, and walking path will be installed. The area will then be reseeded with grass. Please note that the courtyard area will not be usable until next spring in order for the grass to take. The majority of the play elements will then be installed in the spring of 2016. Volunteers are needed to make this happen. Please let Susan Warweg know if you might be free to assist: swarweg@msn.com or 651.430.1156.

There are other ways to help after the first two dates. In September, we will need volunteers to reposition all the plants and pavers. The date for this is to be determined. If you are free in September please let us know.

Many of the play elements can be built by volunteers, as well. A list of those will be posted in the next electronic newsletter.

Men’s Programs
Open to all men connected with WBUUC: members, friends or visitors.

Mission Statement: To make connections, deepen friendships and build community. Share life’s experiences and learn from each other. Give and receive support during challenging times. Coordinate opportunities to have fun and do good work.

New Playground: Help will be needed on Saturdays, August 8 and 15. For more information, contact jackiemetelak@comcast.net.

Shuttle: The shuttle is coordinated by Men’s Programs. Drivers (men and women) will be needed for fall. We are hoping to have enough volunteers so that no one has to drive more than four Sundays per year. This is an easy and important volunteer opportunity, which is perfect for new members or for people who are too busy to take on a bigger commitment. For more information please email John Bauhs at bauh0002@umn.edu.

Men’s Groups: The daytime group meets on the first and third Tuesday at 12:30pm. The evening group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday at 7pm. No meeting on a fifth Tuesday. All Men’s Programs are open to all interested men, no sign up required, new members always welcome. We meet all summer.

Announcements

WBUUC SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Help with Project Home

Opportunity: Volunteer as an evening or overnight host. Visit www.wbuuc.org/ph or the PH table.

Time: Varies

Contact: Katie Macke, 651.426.9307, macke.kt@gmail.com

Build Our Natural Playground

Opportunity: Build a foot bridge, musical elements, etc.

Time: Varies

Contact: Susan Warweg at swarweg@msn.com

Helping Hands

Opportunity: Assist fellow members who need temporary help (meals, etc.) while recovering from illness.

Time: According to your schedule and preferences

Contact: Mary Bolton, Mpbolton54@yahoo.com, 651.271.1593

Kitchen Laundry

Opportunity: Be on a team of four that take turns washing dirty towels and aprons from the church kitchen each week.

Time: 13 weeks out of church year

Contact: Mary Bolton, Mpbolton54@yahoo.com, 651.271.1593

Provide a Ride

Opportunity: Provide a ride to church on Sunday mornings.

Time: Any and/or every Sunday

Contact: Victoria Safford, 651.426.2369, vsafford@wbuuc.org

Sunday Greeter

Opportunity: Greet and answer questions, pass out orders of service and usher.

Time: 15 minutes before & after Sunday services.

Contact: Miriam Juvette, mjuvette@comcast.net, 651.428.6314

DONATIONS WANTED

Natural Playground Needs

Item: Boulders for climbing and logs for stepping (logs must be hard woods like oak, maple or walnut, 4-8 feet in length, 10” or more in diameter)

Contact: Susan Warweg at swarweg@msn.com

Tablet Needed

Item: Upgrading to a new iPad or Android (Preferably iPad 2 or newer)? WBUUC would love to use your old one at the Welcome Center.

Contact: Anna Gehres, 651.426.2369 x 107, agehres@wbuuc.org

Introducing...Show Your Soul

An Online Journal of Writing and Art

Beginning September 2015, members and friends may exhibit their original writing and art imagery in a new online journal called SHOW YOUR SOUL. Since 2010 the Sunday Worship Committee has invited us to explore monthly themes and practices. Here is a way to go deeper by “showing our souls.”

Submit your original work around Home: The Practice of Setting Roots. All submissions will be accepted, with some guidelines. No editing will occur without your permission. Visit wbuuc.org/themes for guidelines, how to submit, and to view an August preview of the journal on our summer theme of Freedom.

The deadline for the September issue: Thursday, August 15th

Show Your Soul submission from Ken Stewart
## WBUUC SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

### Help with Project Home
- Opportunity: Volunteer as an evening or overnight host.
- Visit: [www.wbuuc.org/ph](http://www.wbuuc.org/ph) or the PH table.
- Time: Varies
- Contact: Katie Macke, 651.426.9307, macke.kt@gmail.com

### Build Our Natural Playground
- Opportunity: Build a foot bridge, musical elements, etc.
- Time: Varies
- Contact: Susan Warweg at swarweg@msn.com

### Helping Hands
- Opportunity: Assist fellow members who need temporary help (meals, etc.) while recovering from illness.
- Time: According to your schedule and preferences
- Contact: Mary Bolton, Mpbolton54@yahoo.com, 651.271.1593

### Kitchen Laundry
- Opportunity: Be on a team of four that take turns washing dirty towels and aprons from the church kitchen each week.
- Time: 13 weeks out of church year
- Contact: Mary Bolton, Mpbolton54@yahoo.com, 651.271.1593

### Provide a Ride
- Opportunity: Provide a ride to church on Sunday mornings.
- Time: Any and/or every Sunday
- Contact: Victoria Safford, 651.426.2369, vsafford@wbuuc.org

### Sunday Greeter
- Opportunity: Greet and answer questions, pass out orders of service and usher.
- Time: 15 minutes before & after Sunday services.
- Contact: Miriam Juvette, juvette@comcast.net, 651.428.6314

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### August 2015 Calendar

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For more detailed and up-to-date calendar information, visit: [www.wbuuc.org/calendar](http://www.wbuuc.org/calendar).
Save the Date:
Sunday, September 6
10am service
Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, preaching
Music from the Maple Street Ramblers

Picnic on the Lawn
Following the service
The Maple Street Ramblers, a Dixieland Band including church members, will provide music on the front lawn. Bring a picnic basket and blanket—children welcome!
Celebrate with us for our last summer Sunday!
Theme for September

HOME: The Practice of Setting Roots

Find resources for spiritual practice at wbuuc.org/themes.

Topophilia is a Greek word that means love of place. The term suggests that we carry within ourselves familiar sights, sounds, and images that, once recognized, give us a sense of belonging. No matter where we go or how far we travel, this internal checklist keeps pointing to things that make us comfortable. A particular geography calls us: ocean, mountains, prairies. I think that the place we do call home is more than landscape or topography. It is the place where the social, political, and human history of a people fits with our own story. It is the texture of the friendships we form while we live together in one particular place. It is that feeling we have been welcomed and that we can welcome others. It is the knowing we are part of a community where people call each other neighbor.

- Sheila Moriarty

To see this month’s issue of Show your Soul, visit www.wbuuc.org/show-your-soul
Most of us have come to this place, and to Unitarian Universalism, from some other point of origin. Children may be rooted from their birth here, but we adults come stomping the dirt from our travelling shoes. We fling ourselves down and say we’re so glad to be at home at last, even though it is a brand new place for us. It is not the house we grew up in. Nor do we enter empty-handed.

Both what is said and what will not be said (namely judgment); to begin to lean toward what’s required (mutual support, personal integrity, respect) and to trust that some things (conformity of thought or faith, for example, or unremitting shame) will never be required.

This is a religious way in which to be “at home” means your spirit feels absolutely free to wander and to wonder, to roam around and maybe in the end land right back where it started, with those same essential questions that you held when you were small, in synagogue or Sunday School, or in the quiet woods: Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?

To be at home in this Unitarian Universalist house means that you feel free to wander widely, and return with gratitude, over and over and at least once a week, to a safe hearth built of love and joyful service.

Welcome back, friends. Welcome home.

3 Dates in September

- We begin fall Sundays on September 13 with the Water Communion. Bring a small container with water from your summer travels, your kitchen faucet or your garden hose. We’ll mingle these waters, blessing the house and one another, and honoring our earth.

- On Saturday, September 19 White Bear UU Church will ordain Laura Smidzik to the Unitarian Universalist ministry! Please mark your calendar now, and plan to be present for this solemn and joyful celebration. We want to fill the house! Read more on page 4 about Laura’s journey with us, and about the UU tradition of ordination.

- A Special Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 27 at 12:15 p.m. Members will be asked to approve the Board’s recommendation to launch a Special Campaign in 2016 to sustain our beautiful building and deepen our vibrant work.

Among Ourselves

We hold in love these members and friends:

Charlotte Preston and Mary Kurth, who are living with Charlotte’s cancer diagnosis;

Julie Wallace, whose father died in August;

The Nelson family, as Alex recovers from surgery at the Mayo Clinic.
Searching for, discovering and creating a sense of home. Does your connection with this beautiful church of ours provide you with the warmth and safety of hearth and home? Many of us grew up with our family’s religion and then began a search that led us here. Do you remember when you first discovered WBUUC? You may have been pulled in that first Sunday morning or it may have taken a while to feel connected. Maybe it was the sermons or the music or the comfortable feeling you had about your children’s experiences in RE.

Perhaps you deepened your connection and continued to feel more and more at home here.

Or, perhaps now is the time for that next step. Here is a place where intentional relationships are created. Different from the relationships we have with our relatives, neighbors and coworkers, relationships we form here are on purpose, deliberate, and intentional.

I believe there will be a path for you to follow that will lead to deep connections with like-minded folks. We build intimate connections by showing up for what matters to us. Your inherent worth and beauty meets another’s inherent worth and beauty and some good work gets done at the same time.

We laugh, we cry, we live, we die, we dance, we sing our song. We need to feel there’s something to which we can belong and we believe in life, and in the strength of love. And we have found a place being together.

So, if you are experiencing home here, I am happy for you. If not, please consider the likelihood that there is a home here waiting for you to search, discover, and create in the way that works best for you.

Soul Work for Racial Justice

In March 2015, over 30 members of our church participated in an anniversary conference and march in Selma, AL, commemorating the Civil Rights marches.

The version of me that I brought home is stronger and smarter and more loving. I recognized that the world is a dark and broken place, but as I looked around me at the crush of people on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, I saw hope. I saw people who had faced injustices worse than I can imagine. I saw people with more privilege than I will ever know. I saw young adults like me, gleeful to find that they were welcomed immediately and wholeheartedly into the movement of our ancestors.

I saw determination, love, and a passion unlike any I have witnessed before. It was the most beautiful thing I have ever been part of. I think we all realized that the march was a symbol not only of the progress that we’ve made, but also of the long road of work ahead. If I brought one thing back from Selma, it’s the realization that none of us are truly helpless. We have each other. And we all have voices which, truly, are all we need to change the world.

- Nico Van Ostrand
**Belonging and Community**

*Promising of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-First Century*, Beacon Press, 2011

A new member told me, “This has felt like home since the first day I attended.” Such expressions are echoed at every new member class.

*To thrive, hope requires a home, a sustaining structure of community, meaning, and ritual.*

It feels humbling and miraculous as strangers walk in through our doors and find a place that they want to join and call their religious home. Listening to new members speak of why they joined WBUUC is always a reminder of what we all long for and why we stay and sustain our spiritual home. They, like you, need a place which grounds them in a theology of hope and love while challenging them to stay engaged in the world beyond our walls.

This year we will be welcoming and covenanting with new members during three regular church services, after they sign the membership book containing the names of all those who have joined the church since our founding. Our hope is that you will come to know each of them and experience the joy of new companions in faith.

- Laura Smidzik
  Minister of Membership

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**Event Reflection**

*A reflection on the Ordination of Laura Smidzik to take place Saturday, September 19th at 2:00pm in the Sanctuary*

In the Unitarian Universalist tradition, it is the privilege of a congregation, not a bishop or institution, to ordain a person for ministry. It is an affirmation of their call to ministry and the gifts and experience that they bring. We have had the privilege of having Laura Smidzik serve our church for the past year, and we have been able to witness her passion, skills and abilities for ministry. A host of ministers, family, and friends who have guided Laura on her journey will participate in this joyous occasion. Our congregation will give Laura a stole to mark her ordination as Rev. Smidzik, and all will be invited to gather around to lay hands on her as a blessing. We need you there—not simply to attend and officially enact this right, but to affirm a call, bless a ministry, enact a sacred ritual – as only the members of our church can do.

- From the members of the ordination committee:
  Ann Galloway-Egge
  Dick Haskett
  Melissa Stoddart
  Kathleen Weflen

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As we unpacked our moving boxes after our trek from Michigan to Minnesota last year, I carefully opened a small box containing a small clay chalice, a little bag of 5 smooth stones, a chalice lapel pin and a large rock with a chalice painted on it. It was a box I had been desperately searching for as we unloaded the truck, and I was relieved that the items inside had made the journey unscathed.

Of course, all of these things have little value to anyone else in the world but me, yet all of them had been lovingly packed and unpacked countless times; from Illinois to Michigan, from home to college and back again, through the travels and changes of young adulthood, and finally to our family home here in Minnesota. Each time, these objects were handled and packed as if they were priceless jewels.

These stones and chalices make up a portable altar of sorts, and each is a relic of my childhood; a visual reminder of time spent in religious education classes, serving on committees as a youth, the lessons of countless mentors, and of the Unitarian Universalist congregations that have so lovingly held me throughout my childhood and beyond. From bedroom dresser tops to dorm room window sills to office desks, my altar has called me to remember that I am deeply rooted in a faith tradition that teaches that every single one of us is worthy of love and that we each ought to do all that we can to be a source of light and love in the world.

Through the changes and challenges of growing up and through all transitions of life, big and little, chosen and unchosen, it is an amazing gift to be able to feel rooted wherever you go. This is the power, not of rocks and clay chalices, but of a community of teachers and mentors who freely offer love and wisdom, who provide a safe place to learn and grow, and who remind you through words and deeds that here, you will always have a home.

- Amy Peterson Derrick, Director of Religious Education

**Lifespan Spiritual Development**

On Sundays, we sometimes sing “roots hold me close.” My Wellspring experience has nourished those roots, deepening my connections both to Unitarianism and to my life. Our review of Unitarian history gave me a new respect for the intellectual depth and moral courage of our leaders past and present and a renewed commitment to Unitarian values of free religious inquiry and service to the world. The focus the program gave to our spiritual journeys led me to develop a spiritual practice that has helped me be more present to the many blessings in my life and feel more deeply connected to everyone and everything within it. I also learned from other group members how much of what we do in life can be seen as spiritual.

- Janet Urbanowicz
I live in. When Project Home started at our church six years ago, I saw an opportunity to get out of my bubble. Deciding to start slowly, I helped with move-in and move-out, then I took an overnight shift, then I took several overnight shifts, then I joined the committee and became a weekly transition host. Although it is vital to have the clear time expectations and responsibilities that Project Home volunteering offers, what keeps me coming back are the interactions I've had with our guests. What has really grabbed me is opportunity Project Home offers to genuinely relate with folks I would rarely encounter in my day-to-day life. But where I had imagined dealing with crushing despair, I found resiliency and hope, humor and gratitude. I've discovered that the longest lasting gift I can offer is to truly see someone – learn their name, look them in the eye, truly listen. My Project Home experiences resonate with my soul's yearning for broader connection, and they have unlocked my capacity to see people for who they are. The impact has been profound, and I am humbled and grateful. Amen.

- Katie Macke

Music and the Arts

Peter Mayer (January 30), a Poetry of the Soul event (April 2), and our own church House Concert (May 7). A new online journal called Show Your Soul features writing and art by any member or friend of the congregation who wants to submit, reflecting on the monthly theme. Music in the Sanctuary, Art Shows in the Gallery, special concerts, and an online journal with reflections and images - our community will be filled, again, with art that lifts our hearts and calls us to set our roots here in our church home.

- Thaxter Cunio
Director of Music
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 or contact us at office@wbuuc.org.

When the student is ready, the teacher appears. As any teacher will tell you, if the student isn’t ready very little learning will occur. And outside the classroom, years ago) become the thriving WBUUC that means so much to us today? WBUUC could never have become who we are without the time and financial contributions of the hundreds of families who came before us.

Early on, before there were funds for staff members to look after the building, there were volunteers to serve as custodians (actually our first Men’s Group). Chalices, pianos, photovoltaic panels, an organic garden, Leopold benches, years and years of interior painting, and of course the move to 328 Maple in 1990, expanding the RE wing and then building the sanctuary ten years ago.

Every step of the way, generous people appeared when the congregation had needs. We owe so much to them! Thanks to them we have the best staff a church could ever imagine and a beautiful new sanctuary. The older parts of the building need work and parking is an ongoing need and that will be our generation’s great opportunity. Surely today’s needs will be met by the same generosity of spirit, time and money as previous needs.

We know from experience that it is when people are primed for a leap of faith that opportunities arise.

we know from experience that it is when people are primed for a leap of faith that opportunities arise.

In a similar way, a congregation’s needs can be the catalyst for people and resources to appear. How else could a congregation of fewer than 100 people (only fifty contributions of the hundreds of families who came before us.

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My home is built upon a garden surrounded by life-giving water. Over 50 years my life like a tree has grown deep roots connecting me to husband, children, grandchildren, birds, rocks, trees and fruits of the garden. These roots of belonging become stronger and deeper the longer I live. Looking back now how was I to know that these connections would soon become one with my body and my heart.

- Gail Diez

To see this month’s issue of Show your Soul, visit www.wbuuc.org/show-your-soul.

Leafless Tree by Gail Diez
Looking Ahead

**Water Communion & Opening Sunday** | Sunday, September 13  
Services at 9am & 11am  
*Our opening ritual of the year, to gather in song, poetry, and community.*

**Ordination of Laura Smidzik** | Saturday, September 19 at 2pm  
*Come to enact the ritual of ordination, a privilege of members of the congregation. All are welcome—please come.*

**Congregational Meeting** | Sunday, September 27 at 12:30pm  
in the Sanctuary  
*A special meeting to vote on the Board recommendation for a Special Campaign.*

**The Bazillions Concert** | Friday, Oct. 2 | 5:45pm Pizza, 6:30pm Concert  
*A concert and pizza dinner, especially for families and children, supporting the church.*

**Welcome Table Wednesdays** | Dinner at 5:30pm, Forum at 6:30pm  
**Sept. 16:** Home – the practice of setting roots. *A forum on the monthly theme using poetry, music, and reflections.*  
**Sept. 23:** Board Open House. *A forum highlighting the vision and mission of the church. Led by Steve Kahn, Board President.*  
**Sept. 30:** Eco-Spirituality – Video of Pope's address on Climate Change. *A forum viewing the video of Pope Francis' Encyclical on Climate Change and Social Justice: Moral and Political Implications*  


A Month of Sundays

**September 13**  
**This Threshold is an Altar**  
Rev. Victoria Safford  
*Music from the Choir, directed by Thaxter Cunio*  
Please bring a small container of water for the Water Communion.

**September 20**  
**Sing Me Awake**  
Rev. Victoria Safford  
*Music from Margaret Humphrey, violin; Mary Duncan, piano*

**September 27**  
**Hearts Will Work Again**  
Rev. Victoria Safford  
*Music from the Choir, directed by Thaxter Cunio*

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328 Maple Street  
Mahtomedi, MN 55115  
Phone: (651) 426-2369  
[www.wbuuc.org](http://www.wbuuc.org)

September 2015
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<td>• 9:00AM - 12:00PM People Incorporated</td>
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<td>• 12:00PM - 1:00PM Grow Your Soul Sign-ups</td>
<td>• 6:00PM - 7:30PM Principles and Sources for Kids; Our Living Tradition</td>
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<td>• 5:00PM - 7:00PM Building and Operations Meeting</td>
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<td>• 5:00PM - 8:00PM Artist's Reception</td>
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<td>• 7:00PM - 8:30PM Belonging and Community</td>
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For more up-to-date information, visit [www.wbuuc.org/calendar](http://www.wbuuc.org/calendar)
WATER COMMUNION
and OPENING SUNDAY

Sunday, September 13
at 9:00am and 11:00am

This Threshold Is an Altar
Reverend Victoria Safford
Music from the Choir, directed by Thaxter Cunio, and Carol Caouette

Please bring a small container of water for the Water Communion.

ORDINATION
of LAURA SMIDZIK

Saturday, September 19 at 2pm
WBUUC Sanctuary

“Affirm a call, bless a ministry, enact a sacred ritual.”

Our WBUUC congregation will ordain Laura Smidzik to the UU ministry. Parking is limited. Carpool if possible. Contact dre@wbuuc.org for childcare or other special needs. A fabulous reception follows.

You don’t want to miss this rare and special celebration!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, September 27, 2015
at 12:15pm

A Special Congregational Meeting is called by the Board of Directors, to be held on Sunday, September 27, 2015 at 12:15pm, to approve the Board’s recommendation that a Special Campaign be undertaken in 2015-2016.

THE BAZILLIONS:
Kid-friendly Rock-N-Roll

Friday, October 2
5:45-6:30pm Pizza
6:30-7:15pm Concert

Fun for children of all ages! Tickets go on sale at church starting Sunday, September 6 and online at wbuuc.eventbrite.com

$10 for adults, $5 for children, babes in arms free, with no extra charge for more than two children. All proceeds go to support the work of the church.
PURPOSE: The Practice of Letting Your Life Speak

Find resources for spiritual practice at wbuuc.org/themes.

“To see this month’s issue of Show your Soul, visit www.wbuuc.org/show-your-soul.

“The challenge, or invitation, for October is letting your life speak. My life is about creativity quite simply. When I heard this quote on MPR, it was my life speaking: ‘When life is too big for words it comes out as art.’”

- Karen Dahl
WBUUC member
and photographer of “Heart Rocks,” above.

On Purpose
Just keep walking. Trust each foot will find the next flat stone already beneath it.

Your newfound path—it has been waiting patiently for a lifetime or more.

- Bill McCarthy, WBUUC member
from “Remember Who You Are”
Sermon on the Ordination of the
Rev. Laura Smidzik
September 19, 2015

As religious people we’re called to
sacred patience and at the same
time to a holy impatience; to quiet
and disquietude; to the radical
stillness of cupped hands and also
to the clamor of raised voices
shattering all silences.

As religious people, we dwell within
a glad and awkward paradox: action
and reflection, say the liberation
theologians; ora et labora, prayer
and work, say the Benedictines;
waking and sleeping, says the rising
of the sun and then its going down.
Love till you’ve loved it away: this
day that you’ve got, this life you’re
given. You cannot rest; you have to
rest. You must speak up, and you
must shut up—and listen. We dwell
within this paradox.

As people religious, you are called to
the life of the spirit, and to the work
of justice, and the fact is, it is all one
life. We are here to grow our souls and
to serve the world, we say. We are
here to help each other do this.

What’s your story? What’s your
prayer? Is there a thread you can
trace, a way of seeing, being, and
believing, the lifeline holding you
steady through every day, as you
sway between the call to prayer
and the call to action? Teetering,
as we all do, somewhere between
“Be still my soul” and “Wake now,
my senses,” how do you hold your
ground, center your spirit, give
voice to your power? That is not a
question for ministers to answer;
it’s a question for human beings
to answer. The job of the minister
is to keep asking it, over and over,
and out loud in public at least
once a week, to inflict upon people
both affliction and solace, in equal
measure, for as long as the people
will have us.

“As religious people
we’re called to sacred
patience and at the
same time to a holy
impatience; to quiet
and disquietude; to
the radical stillness of
cupped hands and also
to the clamor of raised
voices shattering all
silences.”

These are intimate questions.
We come to church, I think, to
congregations, to community,
to get help with our answers, to
remember who we are, to find
ourselves in a context that is larger
than ourselves.

We hold in love these members
and friends:
Phil Hinderacker, who has been in
the hospital.
Maggie Baillie, mourning the death
of her friend, Dahlia Yehia.
Gus Hellzen, whose mother died
in September.
John and Katie Bergman-Baer,
mourning the death of John’s father.

Sue Dallman, whose sister, Judy,
died in August.
Ann Rinkenberger, whose mother
died in August.
Mary Duncan, mourning the death
of her mother in August.
Rachel Snyder, who lost two of her
three sisters in August.
Ellen Ade, recovering at home from
spinal surgery.
D’Ann Prior, who is living with
advanced cancer.
Charlotte Preston and Mary Kurth,
as Charlotte continues hospice care
at home.
Helen Duritsa, and Roz and Jack
Sloan, mourning the death of Curt Sloan.
Steve Goranson and Marcia Jensen,
whose daughter Sara was married
on September 12.
Yasha Horstmann and Kari Hauk,
marrined in our sanctuary on
September 12.

2 Dates in October

JOYFUL NOISE!
Friday, October 2
Pizza at 5:45pm-6:30pm
Concert 6:30-7:15pm
Our 2015 concert series opens
with The Bazillions – Kid
Friendly Rock and Roll!

LIVING WITH GRIEF
Sundays, Oct. 4 – Dec. 13
3:00 – 4:30pm
Join facilitators Jo Ford, MSE
and Sheryl Niebuhr, PhD for
sharing of wisdom, stories and
resources for those who have
lost a loved one. To register:
vsafford@wbuuc.org.
It amazes me when I think about the many purposeful ways we grow our souls and serve the world here at WBUUC. Thank you to every single one of you who serves on committees, drives the Shuttle, volunteers for Project Home, or cares for our financial life. This is all the more remarkable because you are simultaneously juggling other “purposes” that make demands on your time. You may have children to raise, a relationship to nurture, a parent to care for and/or a demanding job. Good for every single one of us who, somehow or other, also makes the time to show up and dig into something that matters to us.

“It just a bit of time devoted to listening to the small voice inside of you could point you to a new purpose.”

It makes more sense to me to think about purposes—plural—rather than singular. Let’s face it, paying bills and raising children are not insignificant tasks! But if we only care for those purposes, are we neglecting an important part of ourselves? I think so. Perhaps that is why we usually feel so good when we are doing something for others. Just a bit of time (perhaps while showering or driving) devoted to listening to the small voice inside of you could point you to a new purpose. You might learn something about yourself, something that touches you and matters enough to you to step up, and by doing so, fulfill a need you didn’t even know you had.

May I single out the hard-working folks on the Building and Operations Committee, the HVAC sub-committee, the Land Stewardship Committee and the Playground Committee for their good work? I know they are as busy as everyone else and not only does their work support our beautiful church, but they stand as role models for the rest of us.

Soul Work for Racial Justice

Our lives are tapestries of relationships—with our loved ones, our jobs, our environment, our bodies, our communities, and our many institutions and underlying social systems. Dying the threads of this cloth, in constantly changing light and shifts in color, are the complexities of privilege and -isms, of justice and oppression. Tracing the patterns of racism—occasionally the bold line—more often the shifting gleam of threads cross-woven beneath another—this process has emerged as an endless project through my life. Living overseas as a child, raised by intentional parents, attending the White Privilege Conference when I was 14, studying the intersections of race, class, and gender in college, community organizing, working in an inner city youth sexual health clinic in Washington, D.C., serving as a volunteer birth doula for low-income women—these things have all contributed to my continued commitment to racial justice. Now, I have started to explore more fully my relationship to my faith and racial justice. The sacred pilgrimage to Selma in March, along with the commitment and intention of our WBUUC community to focus more than ever on these questions in this intense moment of history, have motivated me to serve on the Racial Justice Taskforce. I am looking forward to joining others with a UU lens to unravel these knots and weave along that beloved arc toward justice.
Hans Deutsch, an Austrian artist, created the image of the chalice during his work with the Unitarian Service Committee during World War II. He saw the chalice as a symbol of love and sacrifice. You'll hear us speak about the chalice as the flame of hope and the warmth of community. This is what our faith brings to individuals each Sunday as they enter our church for the first time.

A few weeks ago I met with over 20 Welcome Team volunteers who filled the room with love of this church and its purpose. As they reflected, they shared stories of being new and why they are called to serve on the Welcome Team. It's clear that hope comes in many forms and people are drawn to varied aspects of church life. One member shared, “I was searching for authenticity and a way to be more involved in the work of social justice. I found that here in this beautiful space amongst these wonderful people. WBUUC feeds my soul and inspires me to lead a more purposeful life. When I greet new people I wish I could impart my own powerful experience of this church, and then I am reminded that each person will discover that on their own. All that I can do is be gracious and welcoming, so that is what I strive to do.”

Cognizant of the challenge of being new, volunteers look for ways to bring the warmth of community to all who cross the threshold into the church. “When I first started coming to WBUUC 20 years ago, I was a bit timid and I vividly recall my discomfort when everyone gathered in the social hall. It was crowded, loud, and everyone else seemed to know one another. It wasn't until I accepted an invitation to join a committee that I started to get to know many of the people who attend and to truly feel a connection. When new visitors walk through our doors, it’s important to me to give them a warm welcome and assist them in any way that I can.”

If you are new to WBUUC, welcome; we are glad you are here. May this place bring you hope, love, purpose, and a deep sense of a spiritual community.

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**Event Reflection | Auction Party Saturday, November 7**

I have always enjoyed attending the Auction at church. It has both a festive and purposeful atmosphere—having fun for a cause. There's the music and the food, of course, which are always welcome and which offer the opportunity to visit with old and new friends. The Silent and Live Auctions present the marvel of seeing what various members have to offer — what they've made, what they'll be feeding to the bidders who win their meals, what unique ideas they've come up with to raise money for our Beloved Community - in addition to the excitement of bidding so I can bring some of the goodies or opportunities home with me! I appreciate and get a feeling of warmth from all the other people donating and attending, plus the efforts put in by so many volunteers, representing all the participants’ wonderful commitment to our church. It means a lot to me.

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Polly Meyerding-Dedrick Auction Committee

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Rev. Laura Smidzik Minister of Membership
A glossy chipmunk is moving with determined energy in my yard. Her goals are clear. She is stockpiling food, establishing safe shelter for winter to come, and avoiding predators. Goals are not the same as purpose, though. I ponder the purpose of her life. Why is this striped beauty here, now, in my yard?

She’s planting sunflower seeds from the garden, aerating the earth, and spreading spores for fungi that feed tree roots and little creatures. With luck she’ll give birth to more of her kind. Certainly her body one day will nourish a hawk, raccoon, worms, or microbes. Or is her purpose the pure joy of being a chipmunk so full of hope as fall moves toward winter? Is her life an expression of the divine itself—the ecstatic dance of a creator as this race-striped sister who moves so elegantly and comically?

Of course her purpose is an unanswerable question—as are all the questions that illuminate and fascinate us.

In Coming of Age each year the teens wrestle with questions large and small: Whom do you admire? What have your elders taught you, and what would you teach us? What are you committed to? How does it show in your life? At the time of your death, how will you know whether you have lived life as you think it should be lived? What do you want to be able to say about your life?

Sometimes at a funeral, I glimpse the purpose of a person’s life or at least my interpretation of it: Grandpa embodied love. Our friend tried to live according to his faith. The one who suffered tried again and again to define hope. The baby who was lost carved into our hearts the lessons that love is at the core and we can never understand all that is. No matter what we think about our purpose, by our living we leave patterns in the world and in the people around us. Much is not in our control, and still, we have the power of choice. What tracks are you leaving? What do you love? What is your dance?

A Sharing Circle, for me, is that place where I can “Come In,” as I am, to bear witness to whom each of our circle is called to be. This practice of deeply sharing, and especially of fully listening, is absolutely soul-growing work. It is an opportunity to uncover and cultivate my inner light in shared experience—to speak aloud my revelations, my concerns, and my questions in the context of our themes. Often we are a fully-charged large circle, once we were really only a square, but each and every time I come away feeling seen and heard. Being mindful and present to my experience fills me and deepens me, and sometimes, I think I can see eternity from here.
Is it possible to be a Unitarian Universalist and worship an ageless entity with unfathomable power? I’d answer yes, because that would describe me, a UU who worships the sun. The Sun’s radiant energy falling upon the Earth for countless millions of years is literally a gift from heaven.

The Sun’s radiant energy falling upon the Earth for countless millions of years is a gift from heaven that requires no sacrifices or special pleadings. Recognizing the value of this power is all that’s needed.

We must stop burning fossil fuels and go to the original energetic source, sunshine. I was compelled to stop adding more CO2 to the atmosphere, which is driving Earth’s climate into a catastrophic warming. Some may say it’s an obsession, but I prefer to look at it as my spiritual practice.

I measure the energy we use at home and compare it to how much our solar panels have collected. I notice the angle of the sun and how it changes with the seasons. I take the ground temperature under our yard ensuring the geothermal replenishes heat in summer that was taken in winter.

I hope someday we’ll all live powered solely by the sun. To look skyward for energy rather than burning what had been safely buried deep within the Earth.

So whenever I can, for those who are willing to listen I’ll tell the story of how this Unitarian Universalist has faith, faith in the sun.
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
or contact us at office@wbuuc.org.

Kate Christopher – Chalice

Our Sunday services begin each week with the lighting of the chalice, connecting us not only with other Unitarian Universalists, but with people of every faith and time who have found in kindled lights a sacred symbol of freedom, justice and love. The chalice symbol was first adopted by the Unitarian Service Committee in 1941 to further their work with civilian refugees during World War II. Designed by the Czech artist Hans Deutsch, the flame emblazoned on trucks, stationery and badges was a universal sign of hope, safety and hospitality in a dangerous world.

In 2005, our Worship Committee commissioned member Will Swanson, a distinguished potter, to make a chalice to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the church’s founding. Will’s beautiful stoneware lamp was a generous gift to the congregation. It is kindled many times each week to open special services, small groups, spiritual gatherings, and every meeting of the Board of Directors. Will also made the beautiful bowl in which members and friends leave the names of loved ones to be remembered in each Sunday’s meditation.

“...it is each member’s responsibility to hold the light of hope, safety and sanctuary for all who come to this church.”

In 2007, when our new sanctuary was completed, a member couple offered funds for a new chalice suited to the larger space. Kate Christopher, a renowned sculptor and a member of the church, was commissioned to cast a large chalice in bronze. A major work, her piece incorporates two rings around the burning flame, symbols of our Unitarian and Universalist origins. In addition, Kate says, “My design includes the castings of church members’ hands – both children and adults – because I feel that it is each member’s responsibility to hold the light of hope, safety and sanctuary for all who come to this church.”

For the dedication of these chalices, the congregation spoke these words:

This is the light of hope.
This is a beacon of truth.
This is a lamp of love.
This is the flame of freedom.
This is the fire of conviction and commitment,
first kindled by our ancestors,
burning bright for our descendants.
May our way be illumined, and all souls warmed and welcomed in its light.

We are grateful to Will Swanson and Kate Christopher, and to the very generous couple who offered a gift of beauty, meaning and love to the people of this church.

Will Swanson - Chalice
Looking Ahead

The Bazillions Concert | Friday, Oct. 2 | 5:45 pizza, 6:30-7:15 show

A concert and pizza dinner, especially for families, supporting our church.

Auction Party | Saturday, November 7 | 4:30 – 8:00pm

Join us for our annual auction party, with food, music, and fun! Come to bid on items donated by members and friends — handmade goods and art, musical performances, dinners, and more! All are welcome!

Welcome Table Wednesdays | Dinner at 5:30pm, Forum at 6:30pm

October 7: Songs & Stories of Justice with Carol and Mick Caouette
A forum with music and narrative, highlighting justice movements and the stories of forgotten heroes.

October 14: Meditation and Thich Naht Hahn
A forum on the mindfulness meditation practice taught by Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hahn. Led by Julie Vinar.

October 21: Purpose – the practice of letting your life speak
A forum on the monthly theme of Purpose, with poetry, reflections, and discussion.

October 28: Lifting our Voices – Singing Circle
A forum, and singing circle experience, with time for music and discussion about the spiritual practice of communal singing. Led by Margo Berg.

A Month of Sundays

October 4
The No That Makes Possible Each Yes
Rev. Victoria Safford
Music from the Choir, directed by Thaxter Cunio
Ceremonies of Dedication:
9:00am Lennon and Alex Derrick
11:00am Huxley Emerson Rice

October 11
When Necessary, Use Words
Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer
Music from Polly Meyerding-Dedrick & Russell Dedrick, flutes; Carol Caouette, pianist

October 18
An Ethics of Attention
Rev. Victoria Safford
Music from the Choir, directed by Thaxter Cunio

October 25
The Hidden Wound
Rev. Victoria Safford
Music from Carol Caouette
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For more up-to-date information, visit www.wbuuc.org/calendar.
An evening of delicious food and beverages, music, bidding on unique and exciting events, experiences and handmade crafts and art - all benefitting the beloved community at WBUUC!
November 2015

MORTALITY—the practice of being alive

Find resources for spiritual practice at wbuuc.org/themes.

To see this month’s issue of Show your Soul, visit www.wbuuc.org/show-your-soul.

The Practice of Being Alive

During an October sun drenched morning
I awaken to life as it is,
The cry of a Loon, migrating Geese,
A now quiet lake, morning coffee;
Breakfast alone, you’re gone, meditation:
This afternoon a walk in the woods,
where puffballs show up for dinner
Slowly home to stuff to be attended to -
Later grandchildren’s voices and stories to read,
Dusk settles in and darkness too soon,
Thoughts of the day nourish my sleep
As I dream myself into a new day of wonder.

~Gail Diez
I love to walk in graveyards at this time of year. In an old one that I know, there was a little marker for a child, with a lamb made of stone lying on the top—a familiar motif in the early 19th century. The engraving read OUR LITTLE FRANK with the day of his birth and his death—one single day. Next to it was another little stone, and it, too, said FRANK. Their second son, born a year after the first, and given the same name, lived only to age three. And next to them their parents, and the stones of other children who lived on to adulthood, and the children's children, and there they are now all together—and anyone I've ever known, or seen on any street, or any one of you, might be their descendants—or maybe there were none.

In another row I found the stone of a man who was married twice and widowed twice, and his two wives were sisters: not uncommon long ago, but strange to read the news in granite. You find all these threads of stories, bits and pieces, on little humble gravestones and big impressive marble monuments.

I like the quiet air in cemeteries. All the drama of the living has died down, settled into soil and grass and birdsong. Sometimes you can hear traffic on the highway just beyond the fence, or the shouts of children in a schoolyard, dogs barking, airplanes, hip-hop music wafting out of the land of the living, but where you are is quiet. You can feel a deep sympathy in such a place, for all their struggles, all their loves and losses, the failures that won't be etched in any stone and over time are worn away and all forgotten, and the victories as well, all settled down into a congenial democracy.

These people have become part of something larger than themselves, and sometimes, walking in a graveyard, I remember I am too; my life, also, is a small, fleeting chapter of a larger, older story—something that goes on and on. It's not a sad thought.

If the dead do come back to haunt us, I believe they're begging us to tell the truth: that all of us are human, all of us are mortal, and life is very short—it is breathtakingly short—and most of us are trying, despite sorrow, grief and loss, to lead joyful, useful lives. Made stronger by our losses, or more wise, or gentler, we're trying to lead lives that bring honor to the memory of the dead. Soon enough, under one sky, we will be restored to common ground—the same ground upon which we stand today, breathing in, breathing out, as one.

“*My life is a small, fleeting chapter of a larger, older story—something that goes on and on. It’s not a sad thought.”*

I hold in love these members and friends:

Mary Kurth, and Jake and Emma Kurth, as they mourn the death of Charlotte Preston in October.

*In the rising of the sun, and in its going down, we will remember her.*

An Garagiola Bernier, recovering from surgery;

Several members, and their loved ones, in the hospital this month with mental illness;

Nan Cowin, recovering from surgery in October;

Lori Gordon, whose son John was married to Alyssa Tuma in October.

4 Dates in November:

**Auction Party!**
Saturday, Nov. 7, 4:30—8:00pm
Food, drinks, music—come to bid and to have fun!

**Veterans Observance**
Sunday, Nov. 8 at 9:00 & 11:00am
If you have served in any branch of the services and would like to learn more or take part, contact vsafford@wbuuc.org.

**Memorial Service for Charlotte Preston**
Sunday, Nov. 8 at 3:00pm
Singing with “Charlotte’s Web” begins at 2:00pm—join us.

**Joyful Noise!**
Saturday, Nov. 28 at 7:30pm
Carols of Minnesota composers curated by composer Abbie Betinis.
From the President | Steve Kahn

Two people dying at a young age in one month will focus attention on mortality. Priorities get realigned, deep feelings of love and appreciation are shared with loved ones, and fun intrudes upon work. A different kind of balance enters and is temporarily allowed to stay, but after a week or two, do petty inconveniences matter again? Do trivial things begin to bother us again?

Life and death. Traffic and weather. Whose turn is it to take out the garbage? Emails from a teacher about a child’s missing assignment. It is so easy to get caught up in the day to day business of life that the mere fact of being alive is lost to its tasks.

“I am surrounded by role models, people from different traditions working on the same vision.”

Our days are filled with events ordinary and amazing, and we can change how those events make us feel by how we choose to perceive them. A rained out picnic can be a huge disappointment or a mere change of direction. Traffic can be an inevitable part of living in a city or an impossible burden on our busy lives. Would we be better able to choose how we perceive the ups and downs of our ordinary lives by keeping our mortality in mind?

I am better at this, usually for a very short period of time, after funerals. And I am helped in this work by our beautiful church. Not only the inspirational Sunday sermons, but seeing all the good work done by so many good people. I am surrounded by role models, people from different traditions working on the same vision. In order to serve the world, we first have to grow our souls.

Soul Work for Racial Justice

I have what I call a “hidden minority”—I’m gay. I can go about my day never thinking, “Did that person say that to me because they don’t like gay people?”

Unfortunately for other minorities who can be identified by their skin color, this is not the same. Each day simple encounters may leave them wondering, “Did they say that because I’m black?”

NOT thinking about race is a white privilege.

When I was asked to serve in racial justice leadership at church my first thought was, “What do I have to offer this group?” It may be because I have a different perspective on race and privilege because of the years I taught students of diversity, or maybe because I live with a hidden minority.

During the Vote NO campaign and passing of Marriage Equality, my husband and I received much support from WBUUC and this made us feel welcomed. I believe we need to approach our support for racial equality the same way: “We affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person and seek justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.”

Steve Kahn
president@wbuuc.org

Steve Kahn
president@wbuuc.org

Tom Degree, WBUUC member
thomadegree@yahoo.com

NOT thinking about race is a white privilege.”
Now there are problems associated with aging—diseases, poverty, loss of social status. It’s hardly time to rest on our laurels. But the more we learn about aging, the clearer it becomes that a sweeping downward course is grossly inaccurate. Aging brings some rather remarkable improvements—increased knowledge, expertise—and emotional aspects of life improve. That’s right, older people are happy. They’re happier than middle-aged people, and younger people certainly. Study after study is coming to the same conclusion.

-Laura Carstensen, Older People are Happier, TEDxWomen 2011

Our first monthly Third Thursdays gathering, welcoming all adults 60+, exemplified such happiness with 27 people in attendance. This is a group for those who are seeking additional connections and stimulating conversation around the spiritual and social aspects of aging and living purposeful lives. We read a short TED Talk and had time for spirited small group conversation followed by a home-cooked meal.

As we continue to build community, there is clearly energy for gathering specific demographics as one way to create “belonging.” Opportunities for small group connections exist if you are 60+ and looking for daytime connections, parents with young children, a young adult in your 20s-30s, wanting to join a men’s group or one of our several women’s groups. In this large church, it is the small group experiences that form deeper ties, open the door to theological exploration, and help foster lasting relationships. The consistent answer to the question at our opening Third Thursdays gathering, “Why did you come today?” was, “I hope to meet people.” It takes some initiative to move beyond the beauty of Sunday worship and into the deeper fabric of the congregation. We hope you take that step and find meaningful ways to grow your soul and serve the world.

You can find out more information on our website under “Classes, Groups and Forums” or click: http://wbuuc.org/classes/#g3.

Event Reflection | Spaghetti Dinner, Sunday, November 15

My favorite part of the spaghetti dinner is the energy that builds up as we hurry to roll silverware, set tables, and cook noodles. A long line forms outside the social hall, waiting patiently for the delicious meal just beyond.

When the doors open, all that pent-up energy erupts. The social hall fills with people meeting each other for the first time and catching up with old friends. There is a gentle buzz of voices filling the room. Live music plays. It’s a wonderful fall afternoon meal, with all generations together. The dinner allows the youth group to go to Boston every few years. We learn about the history of Unitarian Universalism, visit early UU churches, go to the UUA headquarters, and explore. The dinner also funds an upcoming service trip to St. Louis.

Spaghetti dinner: a great way to celebrate and support the youth while strengthening our community as a whole.
“What happens when we die?” I remember so clearly when my daughter first asked this question. She was not quite three at the time and we were slowly making our way back from an autumn nature walk through the woods. On our journey she had become a little concerned upon discovering that the flowers that had grown alongside our usual path were now wilted and brown.

Like the leaves on the ground, we had told her, these flowers die back in the cold months; some of the flowers have roots that will rest underground waiting for the spring, but some won’t come back. Those that don’t come back will go back into the ground to make the earth healthy and strong for new flowers.

Learning that new flowers and new leaves would come back seemed to lift her spirits a bit. I have always loved the way that young children make discoveries about our world and the way that they help us adults rediscover some of the simplest, yet most important truths in our world. But somehow, “what happens when we die?” felt more shocking a question than, “What is happening to the flowers and leaves that die?”

My mind raced through all of the adult-sized unsettled questions in my own heart and mind about life after death, until I remembered that this sweet, 3 year old baby was probably asking me something much simpler than “what happens to one’s soul after they die?”

I offered: “Well, when someone dies, their body stops working.”

“They go back into the ground?”

“Yes,” I said. It just so happened that my grandfather had recently passed away, and we had attended the burial just a few weeks prior.

“To make the Earth healthy?”

“Yes, I suppose so,” I responded.

“Oh, ok,” said she. And she ran off to play in the leaves.

What a gift it is to rediscover our world and all questions of this amazing life through the eyes of a child.

I have been asked,”Why grief work? Isn’t it scary or depressing?” I have responded saying,“No, it’s neither of those.”

I’ve come to realize that being with and listening to the bereaved is to be a witness to the deep loves they have experienced in living. Just as they have known the beauty and joy of loving and being loved, they now suffer the “grinding ache” and at times unbearable sadness of the loss that comes with death.

This sounds very negative, but the work of grieving is actually a positive and essential part of life.

It’s learning how to hold and honor the depth of loss as proof of one’s capacity for life and loving. And it’s traveling the challenging journey back to believing in life again.

For these reasons, it has been my humble privilege to be a companion in that journey.
Justice

Why the UUSC? For several reasons:
- It was founded 75 years ago to help people help themselves by partnering with local organizations.
- It has our name on it, and it follows the 7 Unitarian Universalist principles.
- It is a membership organization receiving no money from our denomination or our church budget, or government funding.
- It gets the highest rating from charity navigator.
- We have direct input into their work.
- The UUSC Guest at your Table boxes help teach our children about justice.

We will collect for the UUSC in December, with matching grants. Families will collect at home in small boxes and bring them to church Christmas Eve to support the UUSC—changing the world one little box at a time.

Ours is a tradition of embodying our values, and living our principles. We find collective power by joining with trusted organizations, and help to serve the world—making it just a little more just and a little more equitable than it was before.

Music and the Arts

Our congregational life is steeped in art in many of its forms...the beauty of the architecture, the regular invocation of poetry and well-considered words, the beautiful rotation of installations throughout our spaces, and the variety of fine Sunday music in all its iterations. Art, in our community, helps carry spirit. It both soothes, and stirs, the soul.

In a way, when we come into the space, we walk into a house made of beauty, and that permits both a kind of relaxation, and a kind of sharpening of the senses.

And, of course, we bring our humanity with us as we come, so that the house is occupied by friendship and community, and singing, and solace and joy and seeking. And, through our wide windows, we see what the poet called “the leaping greenly spirits of trees and a true blue dream of sky.”

When we gather, all these elements gather with us. We listen, and think, and reflect, laugh a little, praying as we are inclined, or not, chatting or not, doing the church’s volunteer business, or not, but always shaped by a framework of art and spirit and always welcoming each other into the spiritual home we share.


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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 or contact us at office@wbuuc.org.

John Knapstein
WBUUC Board Member
john@knapstein.com

We at WBUUC stand on the shoulders of giants. Giants who, over the years, gave more than was ever imaginable for one person to a much larger organization. These are the individuals who chose to give their time and energy to advance the greater good, sometimes through small tasks done over and over because there simply was a need.

Twelve years ago, John Sisterman joined our staff as our first paid custodian, but before that, a steady team of volunteers came every week on Fridays to vacuum, polish, mop, wash windows and bathrooms, shovel snow, mow the grass and take out the garbage. Phil Hinderacker, Louis Hauser, Bob Thornbury, Jogn Fortier, Arnie Weber, and Murray Olyphant (plus Murray’s little dog) made the building shine! They were glad to do it, and even more glad when the congregation stepped up to pay for services sorely needed. The strong friendships forged among the wonderful Custodians Emeriti found new opportunities as a golfing group and eventually in the (infamous) Dawg Pound bowling group.

Volunteers still make a huge difference. Today our two part-time custodians, John Sisterman and Steve Santi, work together with many volunteers, including John Macke, Ralph Karlen, Jackie Metelak and the Building/Operations and Land Stewardship Committees to maintain our beautiful church and our sacred woodland/wetland grounds.

Standing now in 2015 and looking back into the past, the need to recognize the service of so many to this church over the years is real. This is not because we have forgotten, but rather because we remember and want to give thanks. This church is alive from the inside out. That is what has made it special and what will continue to be in the future. We are a church with service as its law. We are a congregation and people of generosity.

Now, our congregation is called together around a new pursuit as we consider a special campaign to replace our aging furnace system and pay down our mortgage—freeing funds to do our most important work. What was true in the past is still true today: there simply is a need. An effort like this is doable with the participation of all. Generations of giants have made this choice over the years. Now, we can make a difference, together. When we do, our mission and vision can shine even brighter, so people can come to us to be who they are and who they are called to be, to grow their souls and serve the world.
Looking Ahead

**Auction Party** | Saturday, Nov. 7 | 4:30—8:00pm
Join us for food, music, and fun! Bid on handmade goods, art, musical performances, dinners, and more, donated by members and friends.

**Joyful Noise—Carols of MN Composers** | Saturday, Nov. 28 | 7:30pm
Musicians from Rose Ensemble, Lumina, Cantus, the MN Opera, curated by Abbie Betinis, presenting carols from Stephen Paulus, Peter Mayer, and more.

**Youth Spaghetti Dinner** | Saturday, November 15 | 12:30-2:30pm
An annual dinner hosted by our youth to raise funds for Boston Bound.

**Welcome Table Wednesdays** | Dinner at 5:30pm, Forum at 6:30pm

**November 4** | Climate Change: Conversation with Julia Nerbonne
Executive Director of Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light leads a discussion on the intersections of racial and economic justice and climate change.

**November 11** | Finding Home—Youth Outreach Center
Our homelessness task force will give updates about a partnership with the Tubman Center and progress toward an outreach center for homeless youth.

**November 18** | Mortality—the practice of being alive
A forum on the theme of Mortality, with poetry, reflections, and discussion.

**November 25** | Community Thanksgiving Service | 7:00pm
No forum—join with other area churches at Redeemer Lutheran Church: 3770 Bellaire Avenue, White Bear Lake.

A Month of Sundays

**Nov 1: This Gives Life to Thee**
*The Day of the Dead*
Rev. Victoria Safford, with music from the Choir, directed by Thaxter Cunio

**Nov 8: The Glory Index**
*Veterans Observance*
Rev. Victoria Safford, with music from Carol Caouette, David Heath, and Julia Ryan-Holch

**Nov 15: This I Believe**
Becky Myrick and Dee Smith, with music from the Choir, directed by Thaxter Cunio

**Nov 22: Prairie Pragmatism for the Wild and Wide-Eyed**
Rev. Victoria Safford, with music from Harmonia

**Nov 29: Lessons from Young Men**
Rev. Laura Smidzik, with music from Andrea Stern, Celtic Harpist
# November 2015

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For more up-to-date information, visit [www.wbuuc.org/calendar](http://www.wbuuc.org/calendar).
SPAGHETTI DINNER
Fundraiser for Youth

The youth invite everyone to a spaghetti dinner November 15th after the second service. Enjoy a delicious meal, light music, great company. The event supports a spring 2017 St. Louis service trip and Boston Bound UU identity pilgrimage the following year. Tickets are $5 each, with a family maximum of $20; donations welcome.

CAROLS OF MINNESOTA COMPOSERS
Thanksgiving Weekend
Saturday, November 28, 2015
at 7:30 pm in the WBUUC Sanctuary

Tickets ($20-$30) available online at wbuuc.eventbrite.com or at Sunday ticket tables beginning November 7.

Please join us for a joyous and thrilling evening, featuring carols by Minnesota composers such as Stephen Paulus and our own Peter Mayer.

Carols of Minnesota Composers is a concert originally presented by the Schubert Club. The young composer Abbie Betinis will introduce each carol, a fine bouquet of music to take us into the holiday season. Four sterling musicians—soprano Carrie Henneman Shaw, who sings with ensembles in Minnesota, Boston, and Chicago, alto Linda Kachelmeier, a founding member of the Rose Ensemble and artistic director of Lumina, tenor Nick Chalmers, cantor at the Cathedral of St. Paul and Rose Ensemble member, and bass Timothy Takach, a co-founder of Cantus—will be joined by Min Kim, the principal harpist of the Minnesota Opera and flutist Hannah Peterson.

Coming Up: After the holidays, Joyful Noise will return with Peter Mayer on January 30, and a poetry program April 2 featuring Michael Dennis Browne, Deborah Keenan, Angela Shannon, and musician Laura McKenzie.
December 2015

MYSTERY: The Practice of Keeping Open

Find resources for spiritual practice at wbuuc.org/themes.

I’m learning to open myself up to finding natural beauty in unexpected places, and in the worst of weather. Walking into the woods… What will I find? Why is it there? And the beauty that appears one day, may be gone the next, which adds to the sense of mystery.

Photograph and text by Mark Kotz, WBUUC Member

To see this month’s issue of Show your Soul, visit www.wbuuc.org/show-your-soul.
WINTER HOLIDAYS
Where is the Light?
**Sunday, December 20 morning services at 9:00 and 11:00am**

music from the Choir, directed by Thaxter Cunio and from the Youth Choir, directed by Russell Packard

Stories from Amy Peterson Derrick, Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, and others.
We'll sing “Solstice Song” and “The Twelve Days of Christmas” – cherished White Bear traditions.

Winter Solstice Night
**Sunday, December 20: Come back to church to celebrate the longest night!**

Celebration at 5:00pm
POTLUCK SUPPER at 6:00pm

We'll mark the turning of the year and welcome Yule with a magical tree, music from Harmonia, solstice stories for all ages and an outdoor starry circle round a solstice bonfire.
Then - we'll warm up inside over a shared winter meal.

Adults and children of all ages are welcome. Dress warmly!

O Holy Night

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
**Wednesday, December 24 at 4:00pm 6:00pm 10:00pm**

Readers are needed for these services; contact Victoria Safford at vsafford@wbuuc.org.

at 4:00 and 6:00pm

Songs and carols, stories and wonder, with music from the Choir, directed by Thaxter Cunio

at 10:00pm

The winter night deepens, with readings, carols, candlelight, and music from Margo Berg and Carol Caouette.

Welcome a Guest at Your Table

Special Collections for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee on December 20 and 24.
On Christmas Eve, please bring your Guest at Your Table boxes and/or checks made to WBUUC!
The UUSC empowers justice work nationally and globally, supporting communities as they transform oppression into hope and lasting change. Learn more at www.uusc.org.

Mitten Tree
Throughout December, bring new hats, mittens, scarves and socks to adorn our Mitten Tree!
At the new year, we'll bring these to families, children and teens at the Tubman Center.
There is nothing easy about keeping our hearts open. What closes your heart? For me, being busy and getting caught up in the daily, ordinary tasks of living can have a closing effect. My perspective narrows, lists get made and clocks are checked many times during the day. Are things getting done? Will I be where I want to be at the end of the day? A closed heart can be quite efficient.

My heart is torn open by tsunamis and terrorist attacks, as I am sure yours is too. But that is not my ideal self-image: Efficient task-doer in everyday life reminded about the truly important by occasional calamities. So I look for small things to pry my heart open. Here are a few everyday, non-catastrophic events that work for me. I am interested in what works for you.

“**I look for small things to pry my heart open.**”

Listening and learning about other people’s stories, journeys and challenges. The focus shifts from my boring list to another person’s life and my life becomes richer. Conversations in a Men’s Group or retreat weekend. Recent topics have led to intimate conversations about life events that helped us become resilient and difficult times when we were stuck and what helped us get moving again.

Working side by side with someone. Recently, twenty-five members spent a Saturday morning being trained for the Special Campaign and fifteen members worked on the Buckthorn. There were also two additional crews addressing our cookie and spaghetti needs. A crew of five prepared and served lunch. I am sure that you know from times you spent volunteering for projects like this, there was constant conversation, constant sharing and a pervasive expansion of open and loving hearts.

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**Event Reflection | Solstice Celebration**

Winter is coming. Like the turning of a wheel, the cycles of nature are shifting in the skies and on earth. Before humans had central healing and electricity, the winter solstice was the most fearsome night of the year. All was dark except for the light of candles and the fire. As you sat with your neighbors around the hearth fire, listening to the wind, you could not help but think about how much food stores you had. Would you make it through the winter? Eating, drinking and being merry were the best ways to stave off the worry that you might not make it through the long, dark season. It was an unknown, a trial of faith.

Take in the darkness and embrace it as part of life.

Draw your blanket around yourself, put on your warm boots, and join us for the sacred time around the Solstice fire. We will honor the blessings that we have which sustain us through the long, dark winter.

Sing Joy to the world, for the light will be born again.
Belonging and Community

The temptation is always to reduce life to size. A bowl of cherries. A rat race. Amino acids. Even to call it a mystery smacks of reductionism. It is the mystery.

- Frederick Buechner

Life, the mystery, be it our lives, the life of this planet and all that is part of it, or life beyond our imagination or scientific knowing…As people enter this church, curious if this may be their religious home, they come acutely aware of such mystery. They come searching for a place to help celebrate and navigate the complexity of life, love, commitments, grief, or the spiritual wilderness many find themselves in after leaving another faith tradition.

We, as seekers and companions in each other’s faith journeys, welcome the expansive questions, inner stirrings, outer struggle for justice centering the lives of those who are marginalized. May this place be a constant reminder of the mystery, with each breadth expanding our capacity to embrace that which is not known, to hold each other when life is acidic and painful, and to remind ourselves of that mysterious thread of life and being that connects us to all.

Rev. Laura Smidzik
lsmidzik@wbuuc.org

Soul Work for Racial Justice

I Don’t Feel No Ways Tired. I openly lived my younger days in the meaning of this Civil Rights spiritual—a call to battle for racial justice. As a child of an interracial marriage considered illegal in 20 states the year I was born, I expended a great deal of personal energy battling racism. Be it vitriolic or ignorant racist comments; teachers’ unequal treatment; store clerks’ rudeness, or a punch in the gut in the second grade. My younger self responded with energy and gusto. Verbally challenging racists; educating the ignorant; getting good grades; openly stating, “I’m not going to steal anything,” and refusing to acknowledge I’d been physically hurt.

Somewhere along the line, though, I felt plenty tired. Responding to racism effected a protective closing of myself. Then I found researcher William A. Smith’s work on Racial Battle Fatigue which explains how the cumulative barrage of racial “micro” and “macro” aggressions can result in generalized anxiety, turning the experience of racism into a serious mental health disorder. This legitimized my desire to withdraw from the field of battle. If mental illness could result from constant exposure to racism, then it’s ok for me to close my spiritual shop and be tired. No mystery there.

What, exactly, does mystery mean? I choose to see mystery as that which cannot be rationally explained. It is a mystery why a Somali woman in our community dining out with family, including children, should be smashed in the face with a beer mug, and require 17 stitches because a white diner took exception to her speaking Swahili. Yet it is also a mystery that this Somali woman could say, in the immediate aftermath, that a white person was the first to help her after the attack, and to call upon us to open our hearts and talk to and learn from one another.

I choose to see that mystery is indeed the practice of keeping open to the inexplicable in its very best sense. I invite you to wake up from whatever your individual “battle fatigue” may be, and open to the mysterious possibility of a racially just world. You won’t feel no ways tired.

For info. about racial justice work at the church: revluke@wbuuc.org or vsafford@wbuuc.org or 651.426.2369.

Tracy Bray, WBUUC Member

www.wbuuc.org

December 2015 | Vol. 1, No. 4
Life is full of mystery and wonder. How do monarchs find their way from Minnesota to Mexico? How does a blind kitten find its way to nurse? Beyond these questions, there are larger questions. Questions to which we may never learn the answers. Questions whose answers we spend lifetimes seeking.

At some point in our lives, we all wonder: Where did we come from? What is God? How did life begin? Why do bad things happen? These and more are some of the big questions we’re addressing with the Religious Education Lifespan Spiritual Development developed by Thich Nhat Hahn and his community.

“We have to come to terms with not knowing. We have to embrace ambiguity.”

Keeping ourselves open is not always easy. I think, by nature, people want answers. We want closure. Some people may think UUs have it easy because we can believe whatever we want. I would posit the opposite is true. Because of our openness to the possibilities, we live with a sense of uncertainty. We don’t get to wrap ourselves in the security of a religion that tells you what to believe. We have to come to terms with not knowing. We have to embrace ambiguity.

But on the other hand, there is a kind of beauty in keeping ourselves open, in considering the possibilities. It can allow you to see things as fresh, as if through the eyes of a child. Something well-known to us, whether people or ideas, can become new again by viewing them with our open mind.

Everyone contemplates these big questions at some point in their life. Some of us even believe we know the answers. But as with all big questions, we may never know for sure. For that reason, I would encourage all of us to keep our doors open to the endless possibilities.

I especially love the first three of the Fourteen Mindfulness Trainings*

developed by Thich Nhat Hahn and his community.

“We will train ourselves to look at everything with openness and the insight of interbeing in order to transform dogmatism and violence in ourselves and in the world. . . . We are committed to being open to others’ experiences and insights in order to benefit from the collective wisdom. . . .

Truth is found in life, and we will observe life within and around us in every moment, ready to learn throughout our lives.”

May we be curious.
May we be free from fear.
May we be open.

Julie Vinar is a member of WBUUC, and has facilitated classes and forums on Buddhist mindfulness in the practice of Thich Nhat Hahn.

* plumvillage.org
Visible Signs of Inward Grace is celebrating 10 years of success showcasing artists of varying capabilities. We have promoted the idea that we are all artists! I don’t know if I would call it a Mystery, but VSIG is the definition of “the practice of being open” - open to our dreams, our doodles, our drive to create meaning, beauty, & healing.

One of our team used to say it was “art from the heart.” Because it is more connected to feelings than thoughts.

We have felt so privileged to present this show every year, so excited to see the artist’s statements, and to hang the exhibit in a way that shows off each unique piece.

The first year of VSIG a woman shared a mosaic container that she made from the chips of her deceased daughters cups and plates. Another year a man presented a mold of his hand. He was opening to the knowledge that his body is all too human, his heart could fail. There have been entries celebrating life: retirement, better health, renewal of faith, love for a dear pet, and even divorce! In the first year we came together, I was suffering from an undiagnosed stroke. We all had major life crisis on the horizon but this is what we chose to do! There, is the Mystery!

The Visible Signs of Inward Grace services are Sunday, December 27 at 9am and 11am.

"Your job is to figure out what your gift is, dig it out, and give it to the world. You are powerful.” Henry Winkler’s words motivated 18,000 teens and their mentors at WE Day, an extravaganza celebrating youth leadership.

“We can create massive change,” said Governor Dayton. Sitting among all those youth who earned their tickets through volunteerism, I knew he was right. Young people are shaping history.

WBUUC offers teens encouragement, spiritual strength, a sense of history, and opportunities to use their gifts. This includes age-sensitive service work, reflection, advocacy, explicit and implicit teaching, and worship.

This month our youth will spend time with homeless kids. They will deliver household supplies for families moving into apartments. They’ll think about race, save change for the UU Service Committee, and with their families support the children’s mitten tree and coat drive. Cookie Bake, with its hours of hard work, raucous play, and beautiful midnight worship, will benefit Doctors Without Borders, Boston Bound, and service trips.

The Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance is gathering teens from six UU congregations, including ours, to learn faith-based activism through skill-building, theological grounding, and community engagement. One of our teens, Lazlo Zbichorski, has been selected to be intern for the program. Congratulations, Lazlo!

I am thankful for WBUUC, MUUSJA, and all who work inter-generationally for justice and peace.

Justice

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Music and the Arts

Visible Signs of Inward Grace is celebrating 10 years of success showcasing artists of varying capabilities. We have promoted the idea that we are all artists! I don’t know if I would call it a Mystery, but VSIG is the definition of “the practice of being open” - open to our dreams, our doodles, our drive to create meaning, beauty, & healing.

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www.wbuuc.org 

December 2015 | Vol. 1, No. 4
The circle is a powerful and mysterious form that is meaningful to the spiritual practices of people around the world. We recognize that when we join a circle, we can enter at any point, at any time, and be immediately in connection with the entire group. It is a timeless and perfect form. The circle is egalitarian, endless and can expand to include all of us.

At WBUUC, we have established the Legacy Circle as a way to join together with members who have made a commitment to the Church’s Endowment Fund, usually through a bequest in their Last Will & Testament. Bequests such as these are for everyone and anyone. Regardless of the amount, a bequest is a statement of faith and leaves a legacy that sustains the work of the church far into the future.

The Legacy Circle recognizes those who have taken the steps to provide for the long-term viability of the Church by naming the Endowment Fund as a beneficiary of their charitable gift. This can be done at any time and does not require any immediate transfer of funds. The intended amount is not disclosed and it can change over time. The intended gift can be done anonymously, although we believe that when you publicly declare your commitment to support the future of the Church, others will be inspired to follow your generous example.

Endowment funds are managed to build and maintain real value over time. The income generated from the Fund will be used to support the mission of our church. Expenditures are approved by the Board of Directors based on the values of the church and where the need is greatest at the time.

Find more online under “Giving” or at www.wbuuc.org/legacy-circle. There is also a brochure you can pick up at the church.

Talk to any of the Endowment Committee members with your questions and we will be happy to sit down with you and discuss your plans. We look forward to you joining the circle.

Jonathan Lubin
Peter Nord
Paul Sevcik
Janet Urbanowicz
Jack Ver Steegh

For more information, contact office@wbuuc.org or 651.426.2369

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Joyful Noise Presents
Peter Mayer
Saturday, Jan. 30, 7:30pm
The beloved singer/songwriter, creator of “Blue Boat Home,” “Japanese Bowl,” and our own “Church of the Earth,” returns to our sanctuary in a full concert.

Tickets available at wbuuc.eventbrite.com and at Sunday ticket tables in the Social Hall. All proceeds go to support the work of WBUUC.

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And coming up...

Poetry and Music
Saturday, April 2 | 7:30pm
WBUUC House Concert
Saturday, May 7 | 7:30pm
Looking Ahead

Winter Solstice | Sunday, Dec. 20 | 5:00pm followed by potluck supper
We'll mark the turning of the year and welcome Yule with a magical tree, music from Harmonia, solstice stories for all ages, and an outdoor starry circle round a solstice bonfire. Then we will warm up inside over a shared winter meal. Adults and children of all ages are welcome. Dress warmly!

Joyful Noise presents Peter Mayer | Saturday, Jan. 30 | 7:30pm

Welcome Table Wednesdays | Dinner at 5:30pm, Forum at 6:30pm
December 2 | Protest at the 4th Precinct #blacklivesmatter in Mpls.
Join a conversation, facilitated by our ministers and members who have been at the protests, around racial justice and what our church is called to.

December 9 | UN Climate Change Conference—What is at stake?
A conversation with Susan Fletcher, retired senior analyst in International Environmental Policy, US Congressional Research Service, to learn about the conference around global agreements to greenhouse gas emissions.

December 16 | Mystery – the practice of being open
A forum and discussion on the monthly theme of “Mystery” with music, poetry, and reflection from church members and ministry staff.

December 23 & 30 | NO Dinner or Forum due to the Holidays

A Month of Sundays

Dec. 6: Wonderfully Dark
Rev. Victoria Safford
Music from guests Timothy De Prey, Victoria Vargas, Nathan Croner.

Dec. 13: Mad, Bad, God
Rev. Victoria Safford
Music from the Choir, directed by Thaxter Cunio.

Dec. 20: Where is the Light?
Amy Peterson Derrick, Luke Stevens-Royer, Victoria Safford
Music from the Youth Choir, directed by Russell Packard, and from the Choir, directed by Thaxter Cunio.

Dec. 27: Visible Signs of Inward Grace
Karen Dahl, Robin Lalor, Margery McAlpine
Music from Harmonia

Special Services
Dec. 20: Winter Solstice Night, 5:00 followed by potluck supper
Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, 4:00, 6:00, & 10:00pm

White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church
328 Maple Street
Mahtomedi, MN 55115
Phone: (651) 426-2369
www.wbuuc.org

To contact Monthly contributors, or for general information: monthly@wbuuc.org.

December 2015
### December 2015

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>9am &amp; 11am Sunday Service</td>
<td>12:30pm Men’s Groups</td>
<td>02 12:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner</td>
<td>03 7:00pm Women in Transition—Retirement</td>
<td>04 Youth Cookie Bake Overnight</td>
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<td>10am &amp; 12pm Youth Cookie Sale</td>
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<td>10am &amp; 12pm Welcome Gathering</td>
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<td>10:10am Open Meditation</td>
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<td>12:30pm VSIG Conversation: Inner Journeys</td>
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*For more up-to-date information, visit [www.wbuuc.org/calendar](http://www.wbuuc.org/calendar).*
WINTER SERVICES

Winter Solstice Night
Sunday, December 20
5:00pm Service, 6:00pm Potluck

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
Thursday, December 24
4:00, 6:00, & 10:00pm

Readers are needed for these services; contact Victoria Safford at vsafford@wbuuc.org.

Religious Education and Childcare
Information for the Holidays

Sunday, December 20th at 9 & 11am: Intergenerational worship—no Religious Education classes, Nursery care available for children 3 and under

Sunday, December 20th, evening solstice service: No Nursery Care

Wednesday December 23rd: No Religious Education programming or Nursery Care

Thursday, December 24th: Intergenerational Worship at 4 & 6pm: Nursery will not be staffed

The church office will be closed on December 24th, 25th, 31st, and January 1st.