



White
Bear
Unitarian
Universalist
Church

The MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

328 Maple Street | Mahtomedi, MN 55115 | Phone: 651.426.2369 | wbuuc.org

Summer 2018

WONDER – the practice of opening the windows

Find resources for spiritual practice at wbuuc.org/themes.



To see the current issue of *Show Your Soul*, visit wbuuc.org/show-your-soul.

Artwork by youth in “You the Creator” classes

Our goal should be to live life in radical amazement.get up in the morning and look at the world in a way that takes nothing for granted. Everything is phenomenal; everything is incredible; never treat life casually. To be spiritual is to be amazed.

– Abraham Joshua Heschel

In her extraordinary and prescient sci-fi novels, *The Parable of the Sower* and *The Parable of the Talents*, Octavia Butler wrote about a beautiful, dystopian world, like and yet unlike our own, and set in what was, at the time, the not-too-distant future: the early decades of the 21st century. Writing more than 30 years ago, Butler saw with eerie clarity what for her was not far-fetched to imagine, the rise of a boorish tyrant in the midst of American uncertainty, numbing the people with platitudes and terrifying them with reckless, ego-laced, crude, cruelty. One of the books' most intriguing inventions is a genetic human ailment, causing those afflicted to experience a kind of hyper-empathy. They are nicknamed "sharers:" people who feel the pain of others *literally*, in their bodies, their nerves, their muscles and bones. It is a risky condition, easily exploited by others, and thus hidden by those who carry it. It's also the source, in these books, of some of the characters' deepest wisdom and wildest creativity, for "sharers" must always be imagining how other people feel, and above all, how to avoid inflicting harm.

"Wonder" is our summer theme: the practice of opening the windows. It's about imagination and reverie and lazy, hazy dreaming. "Wonder" in the summertime means hammocks in the afternoon and Northern Lights at night, paddling in silence for hours with a friend, or listening to your taste buds sing

with joy at the first peach, tomato, watermelon, sweet corn. Summer wonder holds questions that the anxious winter can't contain or bother with: *How long can loons stay underwater? What happens if we take that trail? What human, living where, was the first to see the Perseid meteor showers and what was their response? When will these berries be ripe?* Sometimes, with enough open space in a day and in your mind, wonder just happens, which is why it feels so summery, so childlike and free.

But wonder is also a serious spiritual practice. You can cultivate it, hone that flabby muscle into readiness, learn to see and hear and smell and taste—and feel—as if the windows of your heart and mind and soul were open, not slammed down and shuttered against anything that might catch you by surprise, or startle or confuse you. We can cultivate the open heart and mind and soul, and relearn how to be astonished, how to be amazed.

It's a risky business. Like the "sharers" in those novels, we're wary of feeling too much these days, seeing too much, learning too much, holding too much rage or grief or fear for the daily devastations of the earth and all the people on it. If you open the windows of your heart and let the world rush in, you could be swept away with sorrow, swept up in despair. But the risk of staying closed is even greater. I think part of why we come to church

on Sunday morning and at other times, is to open our closed and weary spirit, which sometimes is a fearful spirit, to the wonders of life in community; to spacious, wide ideas and other points of view; to the joy of saying yes to helping someone else, when all along we thought we were too busy or too tired; to music, poetry, silence; the quiet breath, and even tears, and even joy, of other people.

From Sophia Fahs, Unitarian Universalist minister and teacher:
Fling wide the windows, O my soul! The bright beams of morning are warm.

JUNE SUNDAYS

∞ June 3 at 9am ∞

To Be in Union and Communion
Religious Education Celebration
Flower Communion! Please bring a bouquet from your garden or a few stems from the grocery store, a clump of dandelions, honeysuckle from the roadside, or a bushel of peonies—this lovely ritual closes out the regular church year.

Followed at 10:15am by
the Annual Meeting of White Bear UU Church.

All are welcome! If you are a member of the congregation, please come be counted in the quorum!

Summer Sundays Begin!

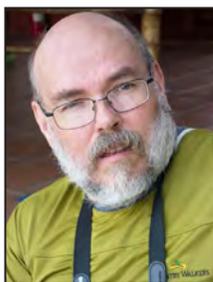
One service only at 10am, with concurrent classes for children

June 10 | By All Means
Victoria Safford

June 17 | Behold Your Music!
Reverend Shay MacKay

June 24 | Life is a Gift
Guest Speaker: Henry Boucha, Ojibwa writer and Olympian athlete

From the President | Opening Windows and Doors



Mark King
2017-18 President
president@wbuuc.org

This past week, with the arrival (finally!) of seasonable weather, I've been opening the windows of our house to let the fresh air in. Our cats are appreciative and frequently inhabit those spaces, especially the sunny windowsills. I enjoy, as I lie in the pre-dawn darkness, the bird calls echoing in the neighborhood—the

cats still occupying the window with their ears forward and alert. I think even routine and cyclical events, such as the (belated) arrival of spring, offer the opportunity to turn the opening of tangible wood-and-glass windows into something wondrous, like that sweet chorus outside my bedroom window in the morning.

I will be completing my term as president about the time this newsletter publishes; I will serve one more year on the Board as Past-President. This service provided a number of opportunities to open windows and doors. Our commitment to open our doors as a sanctuary to immigrants was sobering, yet profoundly meaningful and wonderful. Our

dedication to our growing and changing community will open us to new relationships as new members, friends, and staff (Rev. Sara Goodman and Jack Gaede) join us in our mission to “grow our souls and serve the world.” And as we move through our daily, weekly, seasonal, and annual rhythms, the routine tasks that combine and mix to make White Bear UU Church a vibrant community provide me with a continuous source of wonderment.

I expect that wonderment will continue in the coming year as I complete my service on the Board, and beyond. It has been an honor to serve WBUUC as president: you have made it a rewarding experience. Thank you.

Music & Art | Rev. Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping



Mary Jane La Vigne,
WBUUC member
maryjanelavigne@comcast.net

HoneyBeelujah! The Church of Stop Shopping is on its way with a family-friendly musical celebration!

The New York based anti-consumerist performance group led by white-suited, Earth evangelist Reverend Billy. Using gospel music and political preaching, they have invaded Monsanto laboratories and the lobbies of banks that finance fracking and pipelines. They were

at Occupy Wall Street and Standing Rock. Their campaign, “Bikes Against Deportation” came into focus when Immigration police detained a member of the choir.

Make Your Bike Helmet into a Honey-Bee Workshop
Sunday, June 10, 11:30am
The Honeybeelujah! Show!
Saturday, June 16, 7pm

In the past few years, Billy and company have focused on the decline of the honey bee population and the environmental damage caused by pesticides. Celebrating the honey bee in its natural state is the theme behind the upcoming WBUUC show.

Bring your bike helmet to church for a wearable art workshop led by Janet Groenert, Science Museum faculty member and art-bike artist

extraordinaire. Wear your bee helmet the following Saturday for “The Honeybeelujah! Show” and join the ceremonial swarm. Register at the Sunday ticket table, or email Cynthia Tomlinson (ceeshtom1@comcast.net).

Reverend Billy writes, “We’ll sing the way that we sing in the streets and in the paddy wagons and jails of New York. Singing and praying (to the Earth) right at the violence—that’s our gig.... We lay down in front of their vehicles and try to keep our harmonies intact.”

Reverend Billy and the choir have performed at Boston area UU Churches and will give a performance at First Unitarian in Madison prior to their appearance at WBUUC. For more information, go to www.revilly.com. Tickets available now at wbuuc.eventbrite.com.



Amy Peterson Derrick
Director of Religious Education
dre@wbuuc.org

When I was a kid, it became somewhat of a joke between me and my siblings that we could never ask our mom about the meaning of a word or for the answer to anything, really, that could be easily found in a dictionary or encyclopedia. “Look it up!” my mom would say to us in a way that, even as children, we could tell that she was one-part serious, but also probably mocking herself for sounding like her own parents.

“Look it up!” was a family tradition, you see; passed down from my mom’s father, a typesetter by trade, who treasured everything about books. Of course, what my mother, and her father before her, were referring to was looking up answers to questions in real, live, paper dictionaries and encyclopedias.

By the time we were in high school, my mom would scoff at our use of our new Encarta encyclopedia on our home computer, and she would often challenge us to a race: “I can find it faster in the *dictionary*,” she would say. In the days of dial-up internet, she may have been right, but it wasn’t long before it was clear that resistance to this modern technology was futile; the internet was here to stay.

In just one generation, the phrase, “look it up!” changed drastically;

now, if I say it to my own children, they assume I mean “Google it!”

I suspect that if you were to ask my mother today, she would stand by her assertion that there is a certain value to turning the pages of a dictionary or a paper encyclopedia; an experience that you just can’t duplicate by Googling something.

I don’t disagree—I have many memories of thumbing through the pages of dictionaries and encyclopedias, only to get lost and distracted along the way to my original destination, soaking in definitions and facts I had never intended to learn.

“Hopefully...we learn to hold these questions with awe instead of with fear.”

“Google it!” seems to be an express-train version of “look it up”; fewer random stops along the way to slow you down, no need to find the right volume or to find the right page; instant knowledge.

I say this all, of course, without judgment; I, too, have become so accustomed to reaching for my pocket-sized super-computer any time I wonder “Who wrote that book?” “When was that album released?” “Who is the leader of *that* country?” “Am I really spelling this correctly?” or even “Am I doing this parenting thing right?”

I crave answers. We all do.

And yet... this appetite and access to “instant knowledge” still does

not seem to help us, parents and caregivers, when our children inevitably approach us with questions that do not have easy answers—especially when these answers are simply unknowable.

Is there a God? What happens when we die? Will have I children when I am older? Is there a Hell? Are there good people and bad people? Why do people bully others? Why do wars happen?

In Religious Education, we call these questions, “Wondering Questions.” We call them this because we know we cannot simply “look it up.” We hold these questions for a lifetime; the shapes of these questions moving and shifting within us as we grow and learn. We keep asking, flipping through the pages, finding out unexpected things about ourselves and others along the way; and, hopefully, somewhere on this journey, we learn to hold these questions with awe instead of with fear.

The thing is, it isn’t just children who hold these Wondering Questions—all of us adults are holding them, too; no matter how much we want to pretend we can know *all* the things. And this is what our children really need to know: that we are on this journey of knowing and not knowing all together and that these big, wondering questions don’t have to be so scary, because we never have to do the work of wondering out loud alone.

Wonder out loud together with us: be a religious Education teacher! Visit religiouseducationforchildren.wordpress.com/teaching for more information.

Religious Education | Register Now!

Summer RE Programs Begin! Starts June 10 | One service at 10am

Summer Sundays at WBUUC include several opportunities for multi-age, hands-on learning:

- Nursery (Ages 6 months - 3 years)
- Spirit Play (open to children entering Pre-K through 1st grades)
- Summer Soulwork (open to children entering 2nd through 7th grades)
- UU Maker Space (open to children entering 4th through 7th grades)
- Harry Potter and the Sacred Text (open to youth 12+)
- Youth Mentors (youth ages 12+ may also opt to be leaders in the Nursery, Spirit Play, Soulwork, or Makerspace rooms)



Registration for 2018-2019 Religious Education Programs is now open!

Starts September 9 | Services at 9am & 11am

- Sunday morning classes and circles for all ages
- Youth Group (Grades 9-12)
- Coming of Age (rite of passage class, 9th grade only)
- Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education (5th, 8th, and 9th Grades)
- Youth Choir (1st-12th Grade)
- Chalice Lighter Training (5th Grade)

...and More!

Registration is required; please register by July 31. To find out more about all of our programs for children and youth, log in to your Church Life account or visit bit.ly/wbuucRE.

Social Justice | Sunday Justice Collections

Twice per month, our Sunday offering collection goes out the doors of our church to support justice work through various partners, organizations, and efforts. You can give on Sunday morning or any other time by contacting the church office at 651.426.2369.

Date of	Organization	TOTAL Collected
6/4/2017	9/11 Memorial Scholarship	1,901.00
6/11/2017	Ministerial Discretionary Fund	1,587.00
7/16/2017	ISAIAH	1,434.00
7/30/2017	American Refugee Committee	748.00
8/13/2017	People, Inc.	1,084.00
8/27/2017	Century College Lunches	968.00
9/10/2017	UUA-UUSC Hurricane Harvey Recovery Fund	6,798.40
9/24/2017	Project Home	2,943.25
10/8/2017	Heart to Heart International – Puerto Rico	6,138.02
10/15/2017	Century College Scholarship	2,841.00
10/22/2017	Black Lives of UU	2,400.00
11/5/2017	MUUSJA	1,278.61
11/19/2017	Protect MN	1,939.05
12/1/2017	Solid Ground	2,587.70
12/24/2017	UUSC - Guest At Your Table	23,864.81
1/14/2018	Social Justice Fund	1,670.25
1/15/2018	MN Comeback (MLK Breakfast)	2,683.00
1/28/2018	MUUSJA	1,145.25
2/11/2018	Hope for the Journey Home	990.00
2/25/2018	Area Food Shelves	1,569.00
4/1/2018	Sanctuary Special Collection	6,120.51
4/22/2018	Earth Day	\$2,774.59
5/6/2018	Black Lives of UU	\$1,295.40
5/13/2018	UU Empowerment Scholarship at Century College	\$2503.73
	TOTAL	79,264.57

Social Justice | NorthStar Youth Outreach—New Site at Maplewood Mall



Ron Ofstead
Social Action Committee
justice@wbuuc.org

The Harriet Tubman Center, host site for the North Star Youth Outreach Center, has now opened a second site, located in a vacant store in the Maplewood Mall. This step was taken after numerous discussions with Mall management concerning the high numbers of homeless or at-risk youth seen daily during Mall open hours.

The site, located on the upper level between Sears and Kohl's, provides computer access, school supplies, snacks, personal care supplies, a food shelf, some clothing items, and a lounge area. Most importantly, this provides a linkage to the whole range of resources available at the Tubman East Center, easily reachable by bus from the Mall.

WBUUC volunteers worked to "deep-clean" the site, which was a beauty salon in a former life. The entire space was then painted, via the donated services of John Macke, hiding a somewhat alarming pink and purple color scheme! A range of needed furniture items were found, two computer workstations were made operational, vibrant wall art via

a local public art/graffiti artist was installed, signage put in place, and the site was opened on March 19. Staffing is a mix of WBUUC volunteers and Tubman interns at present, with a need for more volunteers in order to adequately cover the busy times; we're seeing a good level of inquiries and youth contacts. A grand opening, community-oriented celebration event will be held on the afternoon of June 16. Please stop in and see the site.

For further information, please contact Ron Ofstead (612.202.9714) or Dan Wachtler (651.270.2246), and to sign up to volunteer go to the www.tubman.org website. Donations of supplies are always welcome—especially needed are bus tokens, bus passes, and gas cards.

Social Justice | Food Insecurity Surrounds Us



Cynthia Tomlinson
Social Action Committee
justice@wbuuc.org

Food insecurity is a problem in every community. In the White Bear Lake area, nearly 800 families rely on food shelves to stave off hunger. Students who come here to attend college often arrive at school hungry. At WBUUC, we do a lot to help nourish them.

Our February Sunday plate collection is sent to the Mahtomedi, White Bear Lake, and Century College food

shelves when it counts the most. Any donations made to those shelves in March is matched by Second Harvest Heartland, so double the impact!

WBUUC members and friends also volunteer for White Bear's Bonus Saturdays and Free Summer Produce Markets, as well as Mahtomedi's Tree of Light and Kid Pack events. Our youth group supports Century College students with need by making sandwiches for them once a week.

Food shelves are not the only way we help. Once a month, a group from WBUUC gathers to prepare and deliver a meal to clients of People Inc., an organization supporting those suffering from mental illness in the broader Twin City area. We collect donations of snacks and grab-and-go food for the NorthStar Youth

Outreach Center for homeless teens and young adults.

In its second year, Giving Gardens builds raised beds for area residents who make a monetary donation. Half of the produce from those beds is then delivered to area shelves. Multiple WBUUC members have Giving Gardens in their yards.

I invite you to join the new Food Insecurity work group has formed at WBUUC. We hope to connect and better coordinate our current efforts, and consider other ways we can help those experiencing food insecurity. If you feel a connection to this ongoing problem and would like to volunteer with an existing effort, or have a new idea, please contact Cynthia Tomlinson at ceeshtom1@comcast.net. A list of connections will be on its way to you!

Wellspring | Sign Up in September



*Joan McIntosh and Joshua Seaver
2017-18 Wellspring Co-facilitators
joan@joanmcintosh.com*

*And the world cannot be discovered by
a journey of miles,
no matter how long,
but only by a spiritual journey,
a journey of one inch,
very arduous and humbling and joyful,
by which we arrive at the ground at
our feet,
and learn to be at home.*
-“A Spiritual Journey,” Wendell Berry

UU Wellspring is a 10-month program of distinctly Unitarian Universalist spiritual development. Begun in 2005, the program celebrates the depth and breadth of our rich religious tradition. The seven members of the 2017-2018 UU Wellspring Sources program celebrate their nine months’ journey together in June.

Travelers on this path are challenged, comforted, and inspired by learning not just about Unitarian Universalism, but also about how to integrate their Unitarian Universalist faith more fully into their daily lives. Specifically, we focus on UU history and theology; how taking the Sources seriously might change the way we live our lives; and core

spiritual themes such as vulnerability, forgiveness, joy, and more.

Holding this all together are the essential components that are the heart of all UU Wellspring programs: small group connection, commitment to daily spiritual practice, monthly spiritual direction, reading and reflecting on the assignments, and putting our faith into action, all resting on a foundation of deep listening.

Our ministers wish to repeat this program in 2018-2019, and hope you will consider joining. Co-facilitators for this year - Joan McIntosh and Joshua Seaver - would be delighted to hear of your interest or concerns. Watch for Wellspring sign ups in September.

Summer Sundays | Upcoming Services

One service only at 10am from June 10 through September 2.

June 10

Reverend Victoria Safford
Music from Carol Caouette

June 17

Reverend Shay MacKay
Music from Harmonia

June 24

Henry Boucha
1972 Olympic Silver Medalist
in Hockey and Ojibwa
Motivational Speaker
Music from Carol Caouette

July 1

Sara Smalley
Ministerial Intern at Robbinsdale
United Church of Christ
*Music from Laura Stone-Jeraj
and Lisa Borg*

July 8

Pastor Danny Givens
MUUSJA Statewide Organizer
Music from Carol Caouette

July 15

Reverend Karen Hutt
UU Minister, co-founder of Twin
Cities Chaplains, and professor at
United Theological Seminary
Music From Stu Janis, dulcimer

July 22

Margo Berg
Show Your Soul: A Gathering
Music from Show Your Soul Musicians

July 29

Reverend Ashley Horan
Executive Director of MUUSJA
Music from Phil Aaron

August 5

Ken Stewart
WBUUC member, Worship
Advisory Council member, Marriage
and Family Therapist
*Music from Zacc Fricke, Joe
Mechtenberg, Mark Murphy*

August 12

Kyle Cold
Ministerial Intern at Robbinsdale
United Church of Christ
Music from Mary Duncan

August 19

Leah Welch
Chaplain & Spiritual Life
Coordinator at Episcopal Homes
of Minnesota
Music from Sylvia Middleton, violin

August 26

Arif Mamdani
Hallman Ministerial Intern at Unity
Unitarian Church in St. Paul
Music from Mary Duncan

September 2

Reverend Kristin Maier
Minister to the Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship of Northfield
Music from Carol Caouette

**TICKETS
STILL
AVAILABLE!**

Join us this June to celebrate
the great women jazz artists in
the Twin Cities!

wbuuc.eventbrite.com



Patty Peterson Presents:
The Jazz Women All Stars



June 7 at 7:30pm



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Summer Sundays



From June 10 through September 2, we revert to a more summery pace, with a single Sunday service and concurrent Religious Education every week at 10:00am. Hosted by our Lead Minister or by volunteers from the Worship Advisory Council, our summer services feature mostly guest preachers, with music from Carol Caouette, Mary Duncan, and a variety of special guests.

MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

*Thursdays, August 16 and 23 at 7pm with
Victoria Safford, Jack Gaede & Sara Goodman*

If you've been thinking of joining our congregation, or simply want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, or programs and opportunities here, plan to attend a summer membership session! In SESSION I, on August 16, you'll learn about UU history, theology and polity; in SESSION II, we focus more on the life of our own congregation and ways to be involved in our community. SESSION II concludes with a brief ceremony for those ready to join the congregation officially by signing the Membership Book. All are welcome!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE AND PUBLIC WITNESS

The Poor People's Campaign, a national call for moral revival, continues 40 days of public witness on poverty, immigration and labor policy, environmental destruction, racism, and militarism, with weekly demonstrations at the Capitol in St. Paul, every Monday at 5pm (through June 18). Contact Jane Bacon at janegbacon@msn.com for details.

Adults and families volunteer weekly at the Free Farmer's Market in White Bear Lake, distributing beautiful fresh produce to neighbors in need through *The White Bear Food Shelf*. Contact Annie Vail at annedavid.vail@gmail.com.

White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church is a *Sanctuary Church*. To learn more about our project supporting immigrants facing detention or deportation, contact Karlyn Peterson or Kathy Mackin at sanctuary@wbuuc.org.

The Racial Justice Task Force is redoubling efforts to teach and learn about racism, white supremacy, and privilege within ourselves, our congregation, and our wider community. To learn more or to join this work, contact Peg Guilfoyle, Margo Berg, Karin Hogen, Carol Caouette, Stephanie Shaw, or Jane Bacon through the church office: office@wbuuc.org.

GATHERING AGAIN!

Saturday August 25, 2018

On summer's far shore, in late August, a number of volunteer groups, committees, and leaders will gather for training, orientation and planning for the year ahead. If you're interested in *teaching RE classes for children or youth*, volunteering with *Project Home*, or leading a *Theme Circle*, mark your calendar for Saturday, August 25!



Sunday, June 3: Celebration Sunday and Annual Meeting



at 9:00am:

Celebration Service and 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! *Music from the Adult Choir and Youth Choir, Presentation of the 9-11 Memorial Scholarship, Religious Education celebrations*

at 10:15am: The Annual Meeting & Recognition of New Members—all are welcome!

Honor new members who have joined the church this year; hear the highlights of the year reported by President Mark King; recognize 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 784 members, we will need 156 just to open the Meeting.**

WHITE BEAR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 3, 2018 10:15am

Agenda

1. Lighting of the Chalice – Susan Miles
2. Declaration of Quorum
3. Approval of minutes of June 4, 2017 Annual Meeting
4. Recognition of New Members
5. Report of the President
6. Report of the Minister
7. Recognition of the 2017-18 Pledge Chairs, Jane Holzer & Mary Poul
8. Report of the Treasurer
9. Presentation and Approval of 2018-2019 Operating Budget
10. Election of new Board officers/directors, and new members of the Nominations & Leadership Development Committee
11. New Business
12. Closing Words
13. Adjournment

Documents available May 20 at wbuuc.org or on request from Operations Director Anna Gehres (office@wbuuc.org, 651.426.2369).

- Agenda
- Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting
- Treasurer's Report
- Budget Workbook
- Biographies of Nominees
- Annual Reports from Committees
- WBUUC Bylaws

