

MINISTER'S COLUMN

Minister Laura Thompson

Risk

We often think of risk as engagement with potential danger or as a situation which might result in some sort of loss. But, there is something else there aside from potential danger and loss. There is potential, there is gain, there is justice and freedom and discovery to be found in risk as well.

When you think about it, all of life is risk, for in every choice there is something to be gained or something to be lost. We often make safe choices, which lessen the risk to ourselves. These choices, however, often have an adverse effect because they increase the risk of others. Look around you right now. Observe the things you have purchased for yourself; furniture, clothing, food, housing, ... look all around you. These are the things you chose in your life to keep you safe, educated, fed, and comfortable. Likely, many of these choices reduced your risk for being harmed or unnourished.

Look at these things again. Where did they come from? Did their manufacturing or harvesting increase the quality of life for those who grew or made it or did it put them at risk. Often the things we do, the things we have, the way we are comes with the added bonus of reducing our risk at the cost of increasing someone else's.

Our UU principles ask us to act out of an awareness of that. This is the basis of the Declaration of Conscience that we have out in our lobby. We are called to see those who are being put at greater risk and we are called to act upon it. If we answer this call, what do we risk losing and what do we gain?

Join us this month as we explore what it means to be a community of risk.

*In faith and joy,
Laura Thompson*

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

March Theme: Risk

MARCH 5

10:30am: ***The Cracks Are Where the Light Gets In***: Leonard Cohen writes, "Forget your perfect offering. There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in." This lyric can help us accept our brokenness, but will it also help us accept our broken offering? In a culture obsessed with perfection and achievement, are we willing to take the risk of appearing (or being) imperfect? Will we commit to a spiritual practice or engage in social justice work? Or will we let the fear of our imperfection prevent us from doing the good? – with Guest Speaker Jack Gaede and Worship Associate Linda Hayen

11:45: ***Stewardship Luncheon***: Our Minister, Laura Thompson, is in the kitchen cooking up her not-yet-award-winning pumpkin chili. Church leaders are also on hand to serve you in gratitude of your ongoing support of MVUUF.

MARCH 12

10:30am: ***Music Sunday***



MARCH 19

10:30am: ***Learning to Fly***: In order to fly, we must first be willing to fall. How do we get past our fears in order to reach new heights? It has been said that to fly you must first let yourself fall. What do we need to turn our falling into flying? How does our community support or detract from this? Are we ready to fly or will we stay in the safety of the nest? With Minister Laura Thompson and Worship Associate Tom Bergmann

11:45am: ***Grief Circle***: Open supportive space for anyone experiencing grief. Meets in the Middle School Classroom down the hall from the kitchen.

MARCH 26

10:30am: ***Hungry for Truth; A Quest For Meaning***: Despite the fact that our principles encourage us all to our own responsible search for truth and meaning, Unitarian Universalists are often better at articulating what they don't believe in rather than what they do believe in. What is it that holds us back from seeking and naming our own truths? Laura Thompson takes a bite out of life's toughest questions in search for something to satisfy the hunger for truth. Worship Associate TBA.

11:45am: ***UU 101: Our 5 Ministries***: Informational meeting for newcomers and longtime members alike to learn about the 5 ministries that drive MVUUF. Representatives from our various ministries will be on hand to let you know what they are currently working on, answer questions and let you know how you can get involved. Fireside Room.

Recordings of past Sunday programs are available for listening and download on the MVUUF website
<http://www.mnvalleyuu.org/sermon-audio>



MVUUF is a liberal religious congregation guided by democratic principles whose mission is to engage members in a shared quest for spiritual and intellectual growth leading to lives of service, compassion, and justice.



March's Theme is Risk

Resources on Risk:

Videos & Podcasts

Courage & Risking Everything to Do The Right Thing
<http://www.npr.org/programs/ted-radio-hour/368757408/courage>

Toxic, Risk, Danger...Creativity
<http://www.radiolab.org/story/107024-toxic-risk-danger/>

Walking Together
<https://themoth.org/stories/walking-together>
 A high school student takes a risk to make a friend.

Raising our Girls to be Perfect and Our Boys to be Brave ~ Reshma Saujani
https://www.ted.com/talks/reshma_saujani_teach_girls_bravery_not_perfection

Addicted to Risk – TED Talk ~Naomi Klein
https://www.ted.com/talks/naomi_klein_addicted_to_risk#t-197903
 We have become far too willing to gamble with things that are precious and irreplaceable.

Articles

Confessions of an Amateur Tightrope Walker
http://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/02/opinion/confessions-of-an-amateur-tightrope-walker.html?emc=edit_th_20161203&nl=todaysheadlines&nlid=62154555

The Warrior Tradition: Conquering Fear
<http://www.lionsroar.com/conquering-fear/>

Stay Safe or Risk Opening Your Heart? By Teresa Graham Brett
<http://tinybuddha.com/blog/stay-safe-or-risk-opening-your-heart/>

Movies & Television

Documented
<https://thedissolve.com/reviews/762-documented/>
<https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/documented>

Meru
https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/meru_2015
 An emotionally moving documentary about why three men attempt to climb one of the most challenging mountains in the world.

Books

The Exquisite Risk: Daring to Live an Authentic Life
 by Mark Nepo

Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead
 by Brené Brown

Do It Like a Woman ... and Change the World
 by Caroline Criado-Perez

We Should All Be Feminists
 by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
 Adichie's approach to the politics of gender is sharp and funny and really accessible. Without ever seeming idealistic or naive, she uses her superhuman compassion to imagine a future in which women and men have more possibilities for how to be at home in the world. ~Mandy Len Catron

MVUUF Office Hours

Minister

Laura Thompson
 minister@mnvalleyuu.org
 (651) 500-2864 (Confidential voice and text messages)

Tuesday / Wednesday / Thursday
 10:30 am - 5:00 pm or by appointment

**** I will be out of town from ****
**** March 27th - April 2nd ****

Director of Religious Education

Jan Fitzgerald
 dre@mnvalleyuu.org
 (952) 884-8956 (Fellowship Phone)

Monday / Wednesday / Friday
 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Office Administrator

Kay Lewis
 office@mnvalleyuu.org
 (952) 884-8956 (Fellowship Phone)

Monday 11:00 am - 1:30 pm
 Tuesday / Thursday 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
 Wednesday 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
 Friday 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Please call or email ahead to make sure we don't have another appointment when you come in.
 We are available other times and days by appointment.



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

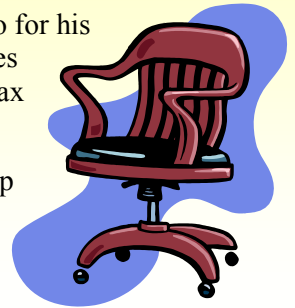
Judith Anderson, Board Chair

MVUUF has had a noticeable uptick in visitors on Sunday mornings. Some find us on the internet, others through friends or neighbors, and some as part of their quest for a liberal faith community in these particularly challenging times. It's important that we each reach out and engage these folks. Ask what brought them to us, what interests them, and their experiences with other Unitarian Universalist communities. Introduce them to other members, talk about our recently arrived refugee family, offer printed materials -- especially about our religious education opportunities for children. We are a warm, supportive place and offer a wide range of programs and services that encourage dialogue, involvement, and ways to make the world a better place. Newcomers and seekers are always welcome here.

And special thanks to Pat Chelmo for his great work on the board of trustees -- and welcome to new trustee Max Chessler who is taking Pat's spot.

If serving MVUUF in a leadership capacity interests you, give me a call.

- Judith Anderson, Board Chair



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER

Jan Fitzgerald, DRE

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Spaghetti Luncheon for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. It was a great success and we raised almost \$400. It goes for such a good cause. I would especially like to thank George Fairman, Glenn and Nan Corliss, Jean Danko, and Linda Hayen. These people stayed to the very end to help clean up afterwards. I didn't get a chance to see everyone who stayed so be sure to give yourselves a pat on the back for helping clean up. The children and youth were serious about their assignments and did a good job. Thank you to Wendy Gorman for supervising the senior high.

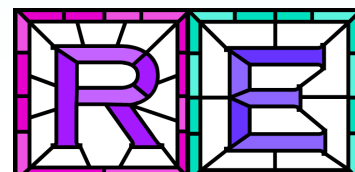
Our Spring Unit starts on March 5th and we are still short one teacher. I know how hard it is to miss out on the services, so I was wondering if two people would volunteer. Then, you would only have to miss four services instead of eight. Please consider doing this for the children. It is such important and essential work for the congregation.

In the Spring Unit,

- ♦ The youngest grades will continue with the same curriculum.
- ♦ Preschoolers will finish the year with *Chalice Children*.
- ♦ Kindergarten – First graders will use *Love Surrounds Us*.

- ♦ Third and Fourth graders will be using *Bibleodean* having to do with spring Biblical events
- ♦ Fifth and Sixth graders will continue to use *Harry Potter* and work on the horcuxes of child labor, animal cruelty, and abuse of the environment. Many challenges are left for the group to fight
- ♦ Middle schoolers will be going back to learning about World Religions, including Evangelical Christianity, Quakers, Humanism, and Atheism and Agnosticism.
- ♦ The Senior High will continue to focus on current events, with some emphasis on immigration.

It is a difficult time in the world and especially here in the United States. There is so much divisiveness and not much compromise going on. Persist if you have the time and courage, but otherwise as busy parents you just need to reassure your children that they are loved and that they will be safe. Take good care of yourselves and we will get through these challenging times. Laura Thompson and Jan Fitzgerald are available to talk with you anytime. We are here to strengthen our beloved community.





MUSICAL NOTES

Sonja Johnston, Minister of Music

Our classical concert on February 26 is yet to happen as I write this. MVUUF is so fortunate to have many members who are highly skilled in playing their instruments, whether flute, cello, clarinet, piano, or violin.

Coming up on **March 12** is our **Spring Music Sunday**. Remember, everyone is invited to participate from young children to our oldest members. If you need an accompanist, please let me know. And, because so many like to participate, our pieces should be short – less than 3 minutes for adults and between 1 – 2 minutes for youngsters.

March 17, the Friday following Music Sunday, will feature a nationally known guitarist, composer, and

singer, **Jim Scott**. Jim visited our fellowship a few years ago. This concert will focus on Pete Seeger's music and Jim's long association with Pete. The concert will begin at 7:30 and the tickets are \$10. We hope to have a big turnout – invite your friends – you'll have a wonderful time!

This year is moving along even faster than previous years and there are many new faces among the congregants. Things are going very well and spring is coming!



Our **Spring Supper Circles** will
be held on **March 25th at 6:30pm.**

Circle Suppers are a way to get to know one another better while sharing a potluck meal and conversation. Last fall, everyone who participated reported great food, conversations, and just plain fun.



Each "circle" will be 5 to 8 people depending on how many sign up. Assignments will be relatively random and you will be contacted by your host early in the week of the circle supper date to inform you of exact times, location, and a potluck item for you to bring.

Sign up on the Circle Supper Sign-Up form in the hallway to the social hall (downstairs) or on the website. Please indicate any food preferences and allergies. If you need a ride indicate that also or contact Eva Mach.

Kids: Circle Suppers are intended to be a place for adult conversation. Hosts often have their own children around, but guests find babysitters and enjoy an evening without children. If you are interested in having a circle supper with children, please contact Eva.

Please let us know how things go and if there is anything else we can do to make it better!

Questions: emach@pro-tecdsign.com or 651-226-5949

- Eva Mach



UU QUOTES

She asked, "Do you really believe all men will be saved, just as they are?"

When he said that he did, she just shook her head. (One wonders if she perhaps felt that her husband's character might need some further improvement.)

"What is that in your hand, dear woman?" Ballou asked her.

"Why my mop," she replied.

"Are you going to mop the floor just as it is?"

"Well, of course, I mop it to clean it."

"Ah," Ballou said, "you do not require it to be made clean before you consent to mop it up. Likewise God saves souls to purify them; that's what salvation is for. God does not require men to be pure in order that He may save them.

- Story about Hosea Ballou, Universalist Minister 1817.
Universalists and Unitarians in American, John A Buehrens



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF
LOVE

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Don Park, Chair

How Does Our Endowment Grow?

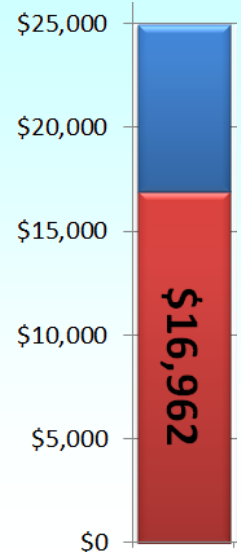
Bit by bit for the most part. Small contributions add up to create a large fund.

The Endowment Committee would like to encourage everyone to think of making a contribution to the endowment to mark life's major events. It could be in celebration of an anniversary, a birth, a birthday, a graduation, completion of some project, or it could be in memory of some person or to honor a person or institution that had an impact on your life.

Whatever might motivate you, your contribution will help secure the future for MVUUF.

The January 2017 treasurer's report shows an endowment fund balance of \$16,962. Our bylaws allow spending fund earnings on projects selected to benefit MVUUF once the balance reaches \$25,000. We're more than two thirds of the way there!

- Don Park for the
Endowment Committee





SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

MEGAN DUFFY SANANIKONE, Chair

March Sunday Sharing Offerings - The Center for the Victims of Torture

The Center for the Victims of Torture (CVT) has been selected by the Social Action Committee to receive the March Sunday Sharing Offerings.

This local organization owes its inception to a young volunteer for Amnesty International, Rudy Perpich, Jr., who asked his father – then Governor – this question: “What are you doing for human rights?” Inspired by his son’s challenge, our governor directed a committee of human rights experts to research various initiatives. The most ambitious proposal from this group was to create a rehabilitation center for survivors of torture.

Governor Perpich traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark, to visit the first treatment center in the world, the



The
CENTER for
VICTIMS of
TORTURE
Restoring the Dignity of
the Human Spirit

Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims, and appointed a task force to determine how such a center could be established in Minnesota. CVT was founded in 1985 as an independent nongovernmental organization located at the St. Paul Ramsey Medical Center. To be more welcoming to survivors, CVT moved two years later to its current home. It has domestic furnishings, large windows, and rooms with rounded or angled corners to offer an environment much different from the stark square rooms and glaring lights that most survivors experienced while being tortured.

Since its founding CVT has:

- Rehabilitated over 30,000 survivors through direct healing.
- Engaged in post-conflict community building after some of the world’s deadliest wars, working in



Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Jordan and Kenya.

- Pioneered research in torture survivor rehabilitation to better understand the effects of torture and how best to heal survivors.
- Led efforts to end the practice of torture by the US government, including President Obama’s executive order banning torture and cruel treatment.

Please join members of the Social Action Committee in the Fireside Room soon after the March 5th Sunday service to meet a CVT representative who will tell us about this organization’s work to restore survivors’ hope, dignity, and respect.

- Glenn Corliss, Social Action Committee member

VEAP News

VEAP’s Annual MARCH Food & Fund Drive!!! February 24 – April 2, 2017



Our wonderful 4th & 5th grade RE class started the Food Drive off in mid-February with a theme of **“POVERTY EXPELLIOSA!”** MVUUF continues with this theme throughout the month of March. VEAP’s overall goal this year is 100,000 pounds of food and \$130,000. MVUUF’s challenge is to beat last years total of 535 lbs. of food. ***Our goal this year is over 600 lbs. of food.***

VEAP is hosting **“A Toast to VEAP”** on Friday, March 3rd in hopes of raising \$20,000 for the fund drive. This event offers samples of food from local restaurants, wine, craft beer and soda. The event is from 6-8 pm at VEAP, 6300 Aldrich Avenue South, Bloomington. Cost is \$30 thru VEAP.org or \$35 at the door. You must be 21 to attend.



SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE (CONT'D)

Welcoming the Refugee Family

On February 7, 2017, the refugee family arrived. Although we didn't get to meet them at the airport because they caught an earlier plane, we did greet them at the apartment of their U.S. tie's family, where they stayed for 4 days until their own apartment was ready. About eight of us welcomed them. Check out the picture of the group on the board upstairs outside the sanctuary.

It has been a busy week for them and for all the volunteers who helped set up their apartment. They moved in to the apartment on Sunday, February 12th.

The family is a widow and her 4 children. They came from Egypt where they lived since leaving Somalia in 2009. They were part of a refugee community in Cairo. The children all speak English, the older ones better than the younger ones. Mom speaks no English, but she is very eager to learn.

Ruqiyo, Mother
Ali: 18
Muna: 20
Abdo: 21
Ahmed: 23

On February 14, Karen Schaub and Nan Corliss spent 10 hours with the family. First we picked them up at 8:00 AM and headed to Minneapolis to the Social Security office where they all applied for their cards. Hopefully they will arrive within the month. Then we drove to the MN Council of Churches office where they had over 3 hours of orientation. It was intense and long. At the end of the session, the Somali interpreter came with them to the bank to teach them how to cash their checks. We had brought some snacks just in case we didn't get a lunch break (which we didn't), and by 4:00 everyone was very hungry. We went to a Middle Eastern restaurant with a buffet, owned by an man

from Egypt. The family had conversations with the owner in Arabic and ate a lot of food. Back at their apartment we said good bye and took some pictures and I am sure everyone was glad to relax and chill out.

By the time you read this we hopefully will also have taken them to the library for their cards and to visit schools and Neighborhood House, where free English classes are offered.

Look at the white board upstairs for pictures and for more stories and needs.

- Nan Corliss and Karen Schaub





SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE (CONT'D)

Solar Garden Update



SOLAR GARDEN

- ☐ 115 UU solar garden subscribers
- ☐ 6 MN VALLEY subscribers
- ☐ Still open for new subscribers
- ☐ Building to begin this spring
- ☐ See Glenn Cortiss for more information



This Old Earth

There's no getting around it: the tsunami of shocking events that Donald John Trump unleashed upon his inauguration has slowed This Old Earth down to a crawl. While these events could be considered "political," they have deep humanist and social justice implications.



We all remember the "autopsy" that Republicans published following their solid defeat by Barack Obama in 2012. They attributed their losses to dismissal of minority voters, LGBTQs, and Latinos (by failing to back immigration reform). Their findings were never put into practice; the G.O.P. gained seats in 2014, and Trump doubled down with his divisive campaign in 2016. They won.

Following their rout last November, Democrats forwarded a parallel critique: they had ignored the plight of forgotten white voters in the rust belt and other neglected venues. Early indications are that this "autopsy," too, is being ignored. What lessons, albeit at such an early date, can we draw from these parallel-appearing episodes?

It is tempting to soldier on, dismissing those unhappy people. After all, they seem to have no interest in finding common cause with us; their heads are filled with false notions, and they are directing their anger our way rather than at those who have manipulated them.

Divide and conquer is the classic tool of authoritarians. Difficult and uncomfortable as it will be, I believe we must seek out ways to join forces with these alienated brothers and sisters. We may both discover our common humanity.

As always, the blog can be reached at www.thisoldearth.com.



SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE (CONT'D)

Beloved Conversations



BELOVED CONVERSATIONS

Healing conversations about race and identity.

Our congregation is exploring being part of the Beloved Conversations Network which means you are engaged in a learning community that is testing new strategies for tearing down the socially constructed walls that divide the human family.

More information to come as we prepare to launch a program this fall.

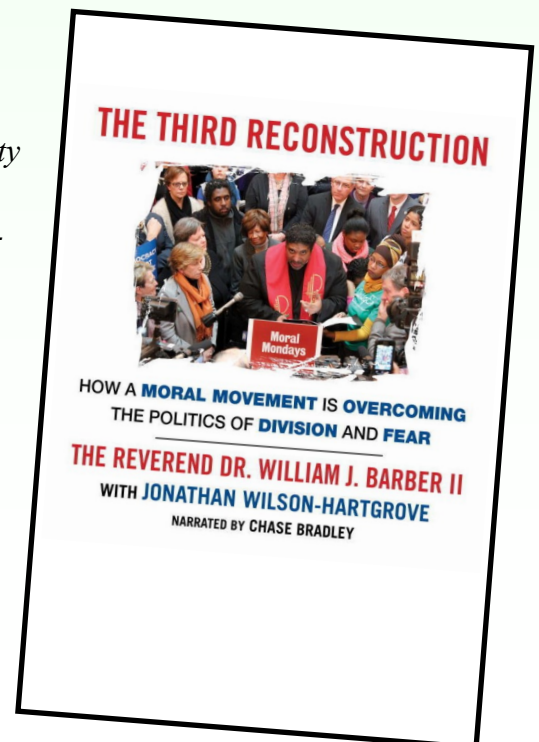
<http://www.meadville.edu/beloved>

Common Read

Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. A Common Read can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations.

The UUA has selected *The Third Reconstruction* which offers helpful, practical guidance for engaging with justice movements born in response to local experiences of larger injustices.

Please **SIGN UP** downstairs at Social Action counter to show interest in participating in a one of two facilitated book discussion sessions in April and sometime this summer. Borrow one of our copies, or find at the Hennepin or Ramsey County library. This is a short book!





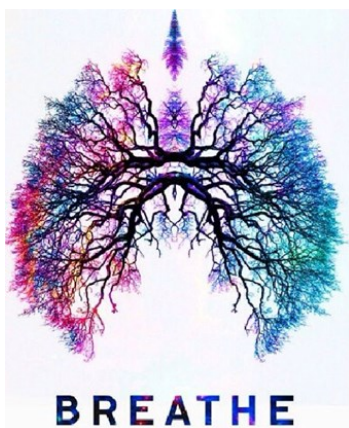
BEYOND SUNDAY MORNING - "BUILDING COMMUNITY"

These are additional opportunities to get to know each other. (We will try to have on the table where we are sitting a small triangular sign that says "UU.")

- 1st and 3rd THURSDAYS each month, 1-2:30 pm at the Edina Panera, 3345 Hazelton Rd next to JoAnn Fabrics and across from Target. (March 2 & 16, April 6 & 20)
- 4th TUESDAY each month, 1-2:30 pm at Jojo's Rise and Wine, located on Nicollet Ave between Route 13 and Burnsville Pkwy in Burnsville. (March 28, April 25)

Come when and as often as you like. No need to RSVP. Invite others who might be interested. We discuss a really wide variety of topics. These are intended for all genders and ages.

- Contact Nancy Buckman at nancybmnuu@gmail.com or 952-736-9586 if you have questions.



- **Group Spiritual Direction**

Begins Thursday, March 2nd and continues through April 13th, meeting on Thursdays from 7-8:30pm (no meeting on 3/30).

Participants are asked to attend all sessions. Sign-up sheets are in the upper lobby and in the social hall. More info

minister@mnvalleyuu.org.



- **Prayer Workshop**

Saturday, March 11th, 1-4pm. What is the meaning of prayer? How do we pray and to whom? Come explore the practice of prayer. The session will be informative and will engage practice. Sign-up in the upper lobby or in the social hall. More info: minister@mnvalleyuu.org.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE RESOURCE COMMITTEE

“Memories of our lives, of our works, and our deeds will continue in others” ~Rosa Parks

Wondering how to talk with folks experiencing severe memory loss and show support for their caregivers? Try this helpful link from the American Alzheimer’s Association:

http://www.alz.org/national/documents/care_10waystohelpafamily.pdf

The Congregational Care Resource Committee has a list of members and friends who can give short-term help with food, rides, and child or pet care. Call or email any of us and we will do our best to connect you with one of our volunteers.

Bobbie Gish	952-941-4417	bobbie002@comcast.net
Carmen Herzog	952-831-7988	carmjlher@aol.com
Donna Kopnick	952-884-1431	lkopnick@comcast.net
Becky McPeck	952-887-2148	rcreates@yahoo.com
Betty Olson	952-831-3854	bolsonflute@comcast.net
Leslie Swenson	952-881-9602	kline012@umn.edu
Jan Wolff	952-888-4283	junebug5391@comcast.net



STEWARDSHIP

Jeanne Simpson, Chair

READY ... SET ... HERE ... WE ... GO!

Our Stewardship kickoff has begun by handing out or mailing your packet of information with your pledge card. Please put it in your TO DO pile, not your discard later pile.

Right now MVUUF is looking into the future. The number one influence on our future is an influx of new members. The second influence, but just as important as number one, is meeting or surpassing the annual income goal. This year that is \$275,819.

As the logo says, “Generosity Builds Our Future” and our future depends on us.

Our minister Laura asked, “If you really believe in generosity and stewardship, what do we do as a steward? How do we let people know?”

That’s a hard question because acts of generosity often don’t show or aren’t celebrated. However a generous increase to your annual pledge is a good place to start. Use the Fair Share Giving Guide to see where you are.

The pledge drive ends on March 19. Please pledge earlier than that.



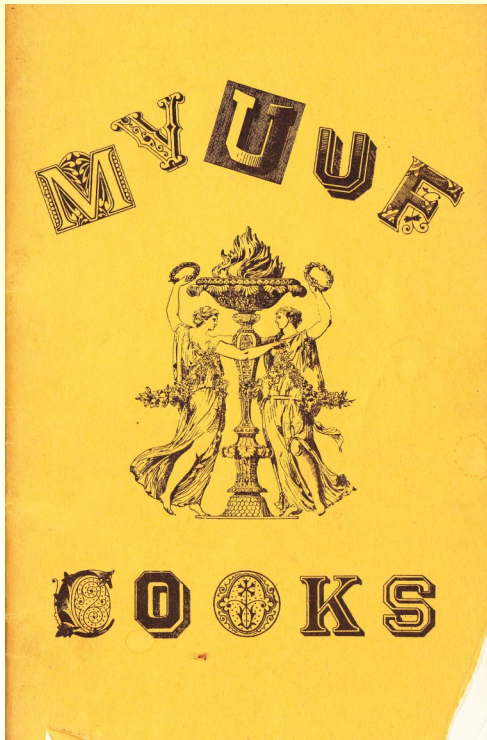


ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Beverly Schmidt and Kathy Eager, Co-chairs

Nibbles From The Past

In 1975 MVUUF printed a cookbook. Check out a classic recipe from Barb Bollag.



STUFFED CABBAGE

1 head cabbage
1 pound ground beef
sour cream
1 c. cooked rice
salt, pepper
1 onion, diced
1 can (8oz.) tomato sauce
1 can beef consomme



* * * * *

Core cabbage head and parboil for 5 minutes. Brown ground meat and onion, add salt and pepper to taste. Carefully take leaves off head of cabbage. Fill with meat mixture and rice. Hold roll together with toothpicks. Cover with tomato sauce and beef consomme and cook one hour on medium to low heat. Top with sour cream. Makes 6 cabbage rolls.

BARBARA BOLLAG

These recipes have been collected from the members of the Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to celebrate MVUUF's acquisition of its own building at 10715 Zenith Ave., So. Bloomington, MN in July 1975.



Compiled, designed, and typed by Jane Parrish and Betty Gutmann.

REMEMBER WHEN

Beacon Press (UUA) published the full text of the Pentagon Papers, 1971, so that readers could see the contradictions between U.S. Government statements about the war in Vietnam and its own internal analysis of the conflict.

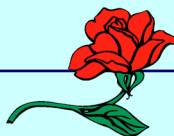
US Senator Mike Gravel of Alaska, a Unitarian, provided the text.



COMMUNITY LIFE

Sondra Smalley

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS



BARBARA LEE

My spiritual journey began late in my life. Prior to that time I was born, raised, and schooled in the Catholic faith. We were taught that we belonged to the one, true, holy, catholic, and apostolic faith. That was it. There was no reason to think about looking at alternative religions.



I married young, had three daughters, and lived my life-long dream in the suburbs. Twenty-five years later my husband and I separated. I was still Catholic and would not deny our marriage by having an annulment, so we divorced. Because of that, I needed and wanted to find another faith community.

For many years, I searched for a more positive, non-denominational religion and visited several different churches. One day, while talking with a friend about our life journeys and beliefs, she mentioned a new church and thought I might “like” it there. The next Sunday I attended my first Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship service. I was warmly greeted by many individuals who introduced themselves and welcomed me. The service that day was given by three members who each talked about how they found MVUUF. They also shared their experiences and feelings of being a part of the fellowship. I couldn’t have picked a more perfect Sunday to be there. And now I’m a grateful member.

MAX AND CHRISTINE CHESSLER

We live in Apple Valley with our daughters, Ethelyn (age 12), Annabelle (age 10), Aria (age 7), and our two cats, Moonboots and Gypsy. Christine grew up in Mendota Heights, Minnesota and Max in Princeton, New Jersey.

We met, married, and lived in the Denver, Colorado area for over 10 years and moved to Minnesota in 2010. We were members of a Fellowship in Colorado and have been attending MVUUF since 2010. After more than 6 years, we finally got around to becoming members here.

Christine grew up with Catholic traditions and Max’s family is Jewish. We enjoy the UU point of view and use the UU principles as our guide through life and as a way to teach our children how to navigate their lives.

We enjoy road trips, camping, good music, and pizza. You may have seen us depositing our empty pizza boxes in the compost bin. 😊

Max has worked for a web/phone conferencing company for the past 13+ years. He works from home and his work pants are pajama pants. Christine is a Special Education Paraprofessional in Apple Valley.





RELIGION, ETHICS, AND IDEAS

Guaranteed Minimum Income

Religion, Ethics and Ideas will meet on Sunday, March 12 at 9:00 AM in the Fireside Room.

Our question will be: Should the US adopt A Guaranteed Minimum Income for all Americans? In recent years this topic has come to the forefront. Libertarian and conservative proponents see it as a replacement for the welfare state. Proponents on the political left see it as a partial replacement and a supplement to the "safety net." And many who fear "technological unemployment" see it as a partial solution to the problem.

All are invited and welcome to attend.

Questions contact John Peloquin.



BRIDGE GROUP

March bridge will be on Saturday, March 18 at 1 p.m.

The bridge group meets the third Saturday of every month from 1-3 p.m. We are always looking for new players! Beginner to expert, all are welcome.

If you are interested, please contact Barbara Hanson, 952-937-5905, or bnehanson@comcast.net.

Come join the fun!

- Barbara Hanson, Coordinator



MVUUF

PICTURE DIRECTORY

Thank you to all who have cooperated with us to update and complete the information needed to put together our next MVUUF Picture Directory. Once we can complete our records, information will be distributed on how you can download the directory electronically. (You do not have to be an official voting member to be included or receive a copy.)

Those of you who do not have the ability to access an electronic copy or just wish to also have a printed copy, should contact either Kay Lewis in the office or Nancy Buckman. We would rather not send it by snail mail, but instead have it waiting for you in your MVUUF mailbox at the fellowship.

IMPORTANT: This directory is not intended to be distributed outside of the congregation.

*- Nancy Buckman,
nancybmnuu@gmail.com,
952-736-9586*

PITCHING IN TO HIT THE HIGH NOTE

Our annual service auction will be **Saturday, April 22nd**. The auction committee will ask for your donations during March. Look for updates in the Friday emails and the Sunday bulletins. We'll also have an auction table set up outside the sanctuary where you can find info about the event and donation forms. Watch for a link on the church website or email us at mvuufauction@gmail.com.

Remember that we also have a "Help Wanted" section. Need help with odd jobs, learning to use your technology or need a pet sitter? You can list it in the auction and get the help you need.

If you are not familiar with our Service Auction, it is an evening of food, fellowship, and entertainment while

raising money for MVUUF.

Offerings at the silent auction include dinners in members homes, food, tickets to theaters, and other entertainment, restaurant gift certificates, getaways, and a wide variety of services.

The evening is capped with a musical skit put on by Sonja and the choir, always creative and fun.

Families are welcome.

*- Jean Danko, Holly Bruce, Leslie Swenson,
Barb Olson, and Karen Olson*



SPRING ARTIST EXHIBIT AND RECEPTION

Our spring artist exhibit is a sampling of photographs by member **Jack Herzog**. You are invited to attend a reception for Jack on Sunday, March 5, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm in the Fellowship lobby, immediately following the Sunday service. Jack will be available for questions, comments, and general accolades.

The exhibit is a selection of Jack's photographs from the 1980's through current work and includes four vibrant

Cibachrome prints that Jack developed in his home photography studio. Find out how he captured the deep blues not only in the sky at Yosemite, but within the valley behind El Capitan and how he captured the sun sparkles on the water at River Park in New York State.

- Submitted by Becky McPeck (952-887-2146)

WOMEN'S GROUP

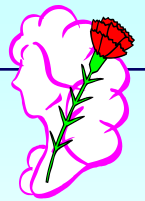


Please join the MVUUF Women's Group Saturday, **March 4th** in the Social Hall at the Fellowship.

Lorna Landvik, author and comedian, will speak. Lorna is the author of several novels, including *Patty Jane's House of Curl* and *Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons*. She has written a sequel to *Patty Jane's House of Curl*, titled *Best to Laugh*. Lorna lives in Minneapolis.

Following a brief business meeting, a catered lunch will be served for \$7.00, or feel free to bring your own lunch.

- Carmen Herzog and Brenda Daly,
Co-Chairs



MEN'S GROUP

Men's Group will meet on Thursday March 9, at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.



Our speaker will be **John Solensten**, husband of member Brenda Daly, and author of numerous poems, novels, and short stories. John's topic will be his recent novel, *The Gibson Boy*, a work of historic fiction that recounts the story of the famous and dashing journalist Richard Harding Davis (1864 – 1916). John's method of presentation will be informal and discussion-based as opposed to lecture. This promises to be a very interesting presentation.



All members of the fellowship are invited to attend regardless of gender. If you wish to eat dinner, come at 6:30. If you only wish to hear the speaker, come at 7:00.




Questions? Contact John Peloquin.



EVENING BOOK GROUP



Hopefully, winter is winding down. Wind down with it by grabbing a book and a place in front of a warm fire. Read one of the selections on our list and join the Evening Book Group for a lively discussion. We always have cookies. Not as good as cake, but another reason to come. Our list, alternating fiction and nonfiction, includes:

-  On March 21, 2017, *Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic*, by Sam Quinones
-  On April 18, 2017, *Commonwealth*, by Ann Patchett
-  On May 16, 2017, *Valiant Ambition: George Washington, Benedict Arnold, and the Fate of the American Revolution*, by Nathaniel Philbrick

The Evening Book Group continues to meet throughout the year on the third Tuesday of every month in the Fireside Room at 7PM. The only requirement is that you read, or attempt to read, the monthly selection.

Feel free to come to any or all of the meetings. We welcome newcomers!

Questions? Call Joyce McMartin at 952-942-7143 or email at joyceamcmartin@gmail.com.

KITCHEN

- ♦ If you have an upcoming big event at your house and need additional items, MVUUF offers such things as tables, chairs, silverware, dishes, etc. for you to borrow.

If you would like to borrow something, contact either

Kay Lewis in the office, office@mnvalleyuu.org, 952-884-8956, or
Nancy Buckman, nancybmnuu@gmail.com, 952-736-9586.

- ♦ To the people who helped with our after Sunday service social hours in February by bringing treats, making coffee, and/or helping clean up afterwards:
 - Beth Smith
 - Matt & Susan Van Dyke and their children, Walter and Matilda
 - Max & Christine Chessler and their children Annabelle, Ethelyn, and Aria, plus George Fairman
 - Glenn & Nan Corliss
 - Barbara Lee
 - Missy Krouth & Pat Chelmo and their sons Sully, Liam, and Connall;
 - and Lorna & Ed Prell, who continue to volunteer where needed.



(There are additional opportunities to sign up for April and May.)

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!!

Change of Address

Be sure to let Kay Lewis, Office Manager, know if any information regarding your address, phone, email, etc., has changed. You may reach Kay either by calling (952) 884-8956 or emailing her at office@mnvalleyuu.org.



**BOARD OFFICERS OF THE FELLOWSHIP**

Chair & Board Member	Judith Anderson	(952) 941-7047 andersonkj@earthlink.net
Chair-elect & Board Member	Eva Mach	(651) 226-5949 emach@pro-tecdesign.com
Secretary & Board Member	David Olson	(952) 888-6527 olson199@umn.edu
Treasurer	Dale Lewellyn	(952) 432-9459 treasurer@mnvalleyuu.org

BOARD WORKGROUPS

Zimmer Property	Doug Bruce, Mark Clary, Steve Danko, Eva Mach
50th Anniversary Celebration	Delores Roeder, Joan Miller

MVUUF STANDING COMMITTEES

Committee	Chair(s)	Phone & Email
Adult Education and Enrichment	Steve Danko	(952) 884-9099 jsg@jsgalleries.com
Aesthetics	Karen Olson	(952) 888-6527 luvzcatz@comcast.net
Archives	Beverly Schmidt Kathy Eager	(952) 884-7262 gypsyleap@gmail.com (952) 888.8427 Kathy@darrelleager.com
Communication	Nancy Buckman	(952) 736-9586 nancybmnuu@gmail.com
Congregational Care	Jan Wolff	(952) 888-4283 junebug5391@comcast.net
Endowment	Don Park	(952) 412-4409 robert.boucher@lfg.com
Finance	Steve Danko	(952) 884-9099 jsg@jsgalleries.com
Kitchen	Nancy Buckman	(952) 736-9586 nancybmnuu@gmail.com
Membership	Sondra Smalley	(952) 922-2829 sondrasmalley@gmail.com
Music	Betty Olson	(952) 831-3854 bolsonflute@gmail.com
Nominating	Carla Ries	(952) 500-8526 cwr_uu@hotmail.com
Operations	Mark Clary	(952) 830-1971 mlfe@aol.com
Personnel	Tom Traub	(952) 435-5855 Tomtraub@charter.net
Religious Education	Steve Danko	(952) 884-9099 jsg@jsgalleries.com
Social Action	Megan Duffy Sananikone	socialaction@mnvalleyuu.org
Stewardship	Jeanne Simpson	(612) 239-1240 jems.ellen@gmail.com
Technology	< open >	< open >

BOARD TRUSTEES

Trustee & Board Member	Lee Swenson	(952) 881-9602 swensl26@gmail.com
Trustee & Board Member	Kelley Hughes	(952) 831-0032 uukelley@hotmail.com
Trustee & Board Member	Linda Hayen	(952) 949-1368 linda590@earthlink.net
Trustee & Board Member	Max Chessler	(952) 388-1186 maxchessler@gmail.com

MVUUF

Office Phone Number
(952) 884-8956

Minister

Laura Thompson

minister@mnvalleyuu.org
(651) 500-2864

Director of Religious Education

Jan Fitzgerald, dre@mnvalleyuu.org

Minister of Music

Sonja Johnston, music@mnvalleyuu.org

Youth Coordinator

Wendy Gorman

Office Manager

Kay Lewis, office@mnvalleyuu.org

Custodian & Operations

Mark Clary, cust@mnvalleyuu.org

Internet

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/mnvalleyuu

Newsletter Coordinator

Jay Crashell, newsletter@mnvalleyuu.org

Website Coordinator

Michael Baynton, webmaster@mnvalleyuu.org

The Board of Trustees meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The meetings are open to all members of the Fellowship.

UNI-SUN Item Submission Information

The submission deadline date for the UNI-SUN is the 20th of each month.

Submit articles to the Newsletter Editor via email to newsletter@mnvalleyuu.org

MVUUF CALENDAR ~ MARCH 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9am Sunday Discussion 10:30am Sunday Service 1pm Classical Music con	27	28 1pm Beyond Sunday Mo	Mar 1 5pm Yoga for Active Ad 6:30pm Choir Practice	2 1pm Beyond Sunday Mc	3	4 9am Yoga for Active Ad 10:15am Women's Group
5 9am Sunday Discussion 10:30am Sunday Service	6	7	8 5pm Yoga for Active Ad 5:30pm COSM meeting 6:30pm Choir Practice 7pm Board of Trustees I	9 10:30am Women's Book 6:30pm Men's Group	10 10:15am Blue Highways 7pm Friday Night Poker	11 9am Yoga for Active Ad 10:30am Women's Chora
12 9am Religion Ethics and 10:30am Sunday Service	13	14 7pm Finance Committee	15 5pm Yoga for Active Ad 6:30pm Choir Practice	16 1pm Beyond Sunday Mc	17	18 9am Yoga for Active Ad 1pm Bridge Club 1pm Knitting Clinic
19 9am Sunday Discussion 10:30am Sunday Service	20	21 7pm Evening Book Club	22 5pm Yoga for Active Ad 6:30pm Choir Practice	23	24 10:15am Blue Highways	25 9am Yoga for Active Ad 10:30am Women's Chora 6:30pm Circle Suppers
26 9am Sunday Discussion 10:30am Sunday Service	27	28 1pm Beyond Sunday Mo	29 5pm Yoga for Active Ad 6:30pm Choir Practice	30	31	Apr 1 9am Yoga for Active Ad 10:15am Women's Group

 10715 Zenith Avenue South
 Bloomington, Minnesota 55431
We are a Welcoming Congregation