

## MINISTER'S COLUMN

Minister Laura Thompson

### Transformation

When I began seminary, I was a pretty strong agnostic. I felt like there was likely some sort of spiritual force that flowed through everything, but I didn't have a name or articulation of it. For myself, I just knew that there had to be something more than that which I could see, hear or touch. I needed and wanted to believe not in something concrete, but in something open and unending. I went to a Christian seminary and we used God language a lot. When a word for God was used I would always substitute the words; potential, possibility, or love. These concepts gave me a way of holding on to something that God might be to me.

As time went on my understanding of what God was or could be to me became more clear. I came to this conclusion: the only thing that is absolute is change; the concept of God is meant to be absolute; therefor, God is change. This understanding is in line with Process Theology.

Process Theology departs from traditional beliefs mainly because of its view of the nature of God and His relationship to the universe. Many critics relate this deviance to the low view of Scripture held by Process Theologians who by and large deny the divine inspiration of the Bible. Process Theology holds a panentheistic view of God which says that God is to the world as a soul is to a body. It is believed that God is not the universe as in pantheism (God is nature), but that God is apart from the universe, yet also in it. As the world is in the process of changing, so is God. As we become what we might be, so does God.

This God concept is hard to hold onto; it's hard to hold onto something that is always changing. And yet, that is all there really is; change and transformation are the only constants in our lives. Holding on is not something we can really do within that context. But, what if we surrender to it...give ourselves over to the only higher power that exists; change is inevitable. Given into, how might we be indifferent to or agents of the transformation of our lives that is certain to come?

*In faith and joy,  
Laura*

## SUNDAY PROGRAMS

April Theme: Transformation

### APRIL 2

- 10:30am: *Transforming the Fear of Transformation*; Transformation and change is often something we all dread. How do we begin to ease our discomfort in times of change? Minister Laura Thompson with Worship Associate Linda Hayen.  
11:45am: MN350; Fireside Room

### APRIL 9

- 9:30am: *Religion, Ethics, Ideas; A free and responsible search for Truth*  
10:30am: *The Transformation of Understanding*; Guest speaker Esmé Rodríguez joins us from Outfront MN to talk about the fluidity and complexities of gender and sexuality.

### APRIL 16

- 10:30am: *Rebirth, Renewal, and Resurrection: The Transforming Power of Spring*; Minister Laura Thompson and Worship Associate Carla Ries explore the themes of springtime religious holidays and rituals.  
11:45am: Grief Circle; Fireside Room

### APRIL 23

- 10:30am: *The Choice to Save the World*; An intergenerational Earth Day service, this service will feature players of all ages and song.

### APRIL 30

- 10:30am: *Transforming Lives: Refugee Stories*; Dylan Fresco is an activist, actor and storyteller who formally worked with Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Program. He joins us to share stories from his experiences. Doug Bruce serves as Worship Associate.

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.



## April's Theme is Transformation

### Thoughts to Ponder

Nothing remains as it was. If you know this, you can begin again, with pure joy in the uprooting.  
- *Judith Minty*

All that you touch  
you change.  
All that you change  
changes you.  
The only lasting truth  
is change.  
God is change.  
- *Octavia E. Butler*

Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced.  
- *James Baldwin*

One does not become enlightened by imagining figures of light, but by making the darkness conscious.  
- *Carl Jung*

### Podcasts/Online Resources

**The Losses and Laughter We Grow Into** by *Kevin Kling*  
<https://soundcloud.com/onbeing/kevin-kling-the-losses-and-laughter-we-grow-into/sets>

**The Body's Grace – On Being Podcast**  
Transformation through the mind-body connection with author, yoga teacher and paraplegic, Matthew Sanford. Text: <http://www.necessaryshenanigans.com/matthew-sanford-the-bodys-grace/>  
Video: <https://vimeo.com/330002>

### Books

**The Great Spiritual Migration**  
by *Brian McLaren*

**Originals: How Non-Conformists Move the World**  
by *Adam Grant*

**The Autobiography of Malcom X**  
by *Malcolm X and Alex Haley*

**Hope For the Flowers**  
by *Trina Paulus*

### Activities

- ◆ Plant seeds in a cup and watch them sprout. Transplant them when it's warmer outside and watch them grow.
- ◆ Bake a loaf of bread; observe how simple ingredients transform and interact with one another throughout the process.
- ◆ Take a photo of the same outdoor space every hour of the day or the same time of day all month long; notice how the light changes

### 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

The board of trustees is firmly committed to MVUUF's mission: **a liberal religious congregation guided by democratic principles and actively engaging members in a shared quest for spiritual and intellectual growth leading to lives of service, compassion, and justice.** Every decision we make, every policy we consider, and every new direction explored is measured against that mission.

We also look at the five shared ministries approved by the membership several years ago: **spiritual ministry, learning ministry, fellowship ministry, stewardship ministry, and outreach ministry.** This foundation guides how we look at growth and what it means for the congregation, programming, education,

acknowledging our various audiences, and sustaining necessary resources to address our options and plan for the future.

We welcome your thoughts on this critical work and encourage you to think about ways to become part of MVUUF's leadership team. This community can, should, and does make the world a better place.

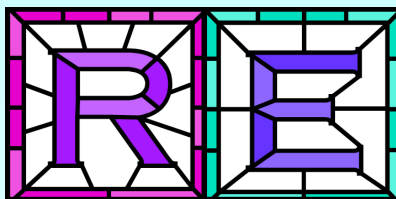


## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER

Jan Fitzgerald, DRE

In the second and third grade class the children are learning about Jesus and the story of Easter. The Middle Schoolers will soon start two sessions on Christianity. Easter is an important story for children to know because of the cultural implications and prevalence in our society. When I was raising my children I thought that the story of the crucifixion was too violent or ugly for my children to learn. I think I was wrong. Children are exposed to all sorts of violence in video games, television, and movies. I now think it is a story worth telling.

The story of Easter is told from the perspective of the Jesus Seminar Scholars. These scholars have written books that look at what is probably historically accurate about the life of Jesus and analyzed the books of the Bible to determine what scriptures were most likely



attributed to Jesus himself. They do agree that there was a historical figure named Jesus who was crucified around this time. This is up for debate again. Jesus was considered to be a brilliant, compassionate reformer who was trying to make a better world for everyone.

Jesus preached lessons of love for God and love for our fellow human beings – that we should love our neighbors as ourselves. Jesus set out to teach an ideal way to live on earth and his radical ideas of justice and love are valid today. His teachings were so powerful that his followers believed that Jesus was present in their lives even after his cru-

cifixion. Some people believe in the resurrection and other Christians do not believe in a literal resurrection. What we do know is that there were followers who believed so strongly in his message that they decided to organize themselves into a community and spread the word of Jesus' teachings. In this way they insured that the message of Jesus would stay alive.

Tell the story of Easter to your children and emphasize the positive messages of love and justice for all. Here was a man who died for his beliefs in a just and meaningful life. He created a disturbance in the temple for which he was arrested and crucified. His teachings about justice for all people and the need for unconditional love live on through the people who knew him and followed his ways. This is a story worth knowing.



## MUSICAL NOTES

Sonja Johnston, Minister of Music

We were all very saddened by the illness and death of our good friend and bass singer in the choir, Jack Herzog. He was always jovial and actually could sing both tenor and bass. He joyfully participated in my silly plays, one year having the title role of an opera singer in "The Debut/Farewell Performance of Giovanni Herzogamacaroni" (2008). Jack always arrived on time for choir rehearsals and as he walked in would say, "Start the world; I have arrived!" He will be missed.

We have a lot of special music coming in April. First of all, our wonderful Children's Choir, directed by Nicole Paul Collins, will provide the prelude on April 2. On April 9th, the MVUUF Choir is singing a special request from our minister Laura when Out Front will be our guest speaker(s). The choir will sing "I Am What I Am" from

the musical "La Cage Aux Folles." Saturday, April 22 is our annual fantastic silent auction followed by another satirical play by me – (I'm so lucky to have several hams in the choir) – this one is titled "*The First 100 Days or You've GOT To Be Kidding.*" Can you guess what it's about? The next day, Sunday, April 23, Joan Schubert, our Orff instructor will rehearse with the youngsters from 9:15 – 10:15 and they will play the prelude for the service.

Spring is in the air!



## UU Quotes

Unitarian Universalism is faith in people, hope for tomorrow's child, confidence in a continuity that spans all times. It looks not to a perfect heaven but toward a good earth. It is respectful of the past, but not limited to it. It is trust in growing and conspiracy with change. It is spiritual responsibility for a moral tomorrow.

- Edward Schempp

## ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Don Park, Chair

### Endowment Fund Investments

Our endowment fund is invested through the Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund. The UUCEF is a diversified investment fund seeking current income and long-term investment returns through portfolio allocation and professional asset management with UU socially responsible investing goals.

This fund seemed the appropriate place for our relatively small endowment as opposed to "doing it ourselves." Further information about the UUCEF is available on the UUA website.

It's easiest to "Google" the phrase *UU common endowment fund*.

Our balance as of February 28 was \$17,398. Once the balance reaches \$25,000 we can begin to use some of the earnings to further our vision and mission.

\$25,000

\$20,000

\$15,000

\$10,000

\$5,000

\$0







## STEWARDSHIP

Jeanne Simpson, Chair

### WOODPECKER NESTS IN OUR WOODEN EVES!

#### BUT FIRST:

Even though the stewardship campaign isn't over at the time of this writing, thank you to everyone who pledged before the deadline and to those who increased their pledge!

#### AND THEN:

We purposely avoided talking about financial need this year. It's always such a bummer and who is motivated by need to support the church? Need is someone else's issue. Isn't it?

#### NOT REALLY:

This year's budget isn't a wish list. It is a statement of what it will cost to keep programming the same as last year and to prevent major building damage.

- When **Laura** was hired, a \$2,000 **salary increase** was negotiated for a second year. If everyone's pledges combined cannot support the increase, she may choose to look elsewhere.
- Do you **want Jan**, the RE director, to go without a salary increase **again**?
- **Kay**, the office administrator, needs **more hours to keep up** with basics as **more visitors** and members add to her workload.
- The **building** needs repairs that have been **put off** for years: **Painting** the walls, **replacing** worn out carpeting in the community hall, and **relocating** woodpecker families from our eaves to the trees. Yes, we have woodpecker nests in our eaves. Perhaps this year rain will penetrate the interior walls.

#### SELF-FUNDED:

MVUUF is self-funded. Pledges are its only source of income.

#### FEEL GOOD:

**PLEASE FEEL GOOD ABOUT YOUR PLEDGE AND PAY IT WITH JOY.**



## CONGREGATIONAL CARE RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Did you know that you can not only contact the Care Resource Committee with requests for short term help with rides, meals, child and pet care, but that you also can contact us to volunteer to offer rides, meals, pet and child care, and even to knit or crochet a comfort shawl. Let us know how we can help and also if you want to be on our list of volunteers.

The Congregational Care Resource Committee has a list of members and friends who can help. 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	<a href="mailto:bobbie002@comcast.net">bobbie002@comcast.net</a>
Carmen Herzog	952-831-7988	<a href="mailto:carmj1her@aol.com">carmj1her@aol.com</a>
Donna Kopnick	952-884-1431	<a href="mailto:lkopnick@comcast.net">lkopnick@comcast.net</a>
Becky McPeck	952-887-2148	<a href="mailto:racreates@yahoo.com">racreates@yahoo.com</a>
Betty Olson	952-831-3854	<a href="mailto:bolsonflute@comcast.net">bolsonflute@comcast.net</a>
Leslie Swenson	952-881-9602	<a href="mailto:kline012@umn.edu">kline012@umn.edu</a>
Jan Wolff	952-888-4283	<a href="mailto:junebug5391@comcast.net">junebug5391@comcast.net</a>





## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

MEGAN DUFFY SANANIKONE, Chair

### April Sunday Sharing Offerings - MN Three Fifty dot org

**MN350 has been selected by the Social Action Committee to receive the April Sunday Sharing Offerings.**

MN350 is building a climate movement by inspiring Minnesotans to take collective action grounded in urgency, justice, and possibility. It is the state chapter of a worldwide organization [350.org](http://350.org). MN350 plays a role in the global movement for climate justice by engaging people in meaningful and strategic campaigns to keep fossil fuels in the ground and move Minnesota to a just transition to renewable energy.



MN350 has several teams, each working on interwoven, related campaigns:

- **Education, Communications, and Outreach** conducts ongoing outreach and education through Climate Conversation workshops, doorknocking, and other events.
- **Our Corporate Accountability Team** works to convince financial institutions, especially U.S. Bank, to stop financing extreme energy projects and promote financing community-controlled renewable energy.
- **The Pipeline Resistance Team** works to protect Minnesota's water and climate by stopping the expansion of Enbridge's tar sands pipeline network. We also provide support to indigenous resistance fighting the Dakota Access Pipeline and other regional efforts.
- **Our Policy Action Team** builds grassroots support for state policies to move to renewable energy and speaks the truth about climate change. They advocate for clean energy, energy efficiency initiatives, a full Environmental Impact Statement for crude oil pipelines, and divestment from state pension funds from fossil fuels.
- In addition, some of our youth are refusing to accept a future of climate injustice and they're banding together to plan a Kids Climate March on Earth Day and to create a YouTube video to raise awareness about climate change.

For more information, see <http://www.mn350.org/> and on Facebook MN350:Building a Climate Movement in Minnesota

*Please join members of the Social Action Committee in the Fireside Room after the April 2nd Sunday service to meet a MN350 representative who will tell us about this organization's activities to confront climate change.*

# MN350



## VEAP News

The **March Food & Fund Drive** was a big success. Many thanks go to the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade RE class who opened the food drive with the theme "Poverty Expelliosa." Please remember food donations are accepted all year at the VEAP table in the entry way.

In **April** many of us are planting **gardens**. Consider planting an extra row of fruit or vegetables and designate it for VEAP. Your gardening efforts need not go to waste.

The **VEAP Gala** has been moved this year to **May 19, 2017**. More information will be available later.

In addition to the Food Program, VEAP offers a **Transportation Program**. VEAP Transportation is a no

fee transportation service for low-income, older adults and adults with certified disabilities. Rides are provided for:

- ◇ Medical, health & dental appointments
- ◇ Essential errands (such as to the bank, grocery store or pharmacy)
- ◇ Quality of life appointments (hair or general hygiene appointments and to visit a loved one in a care facility)

**Volunteer Drivers are needed.** For more information contact VEAP at 952-888-9616.

- Kat Janes & Lorna Prell





## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE (CONT'D)

### Update on the Refugee Family: Ruqiyo (Mom), Ali, Muna, Abdo, and Ahmed

It has been a busy month for the family with school, medical appointments, employment orientations, learning how to ride the bus, learning how to walk in snow, and so much more.

Ali is at LEAP school, working on his high school diploma. He has met many friends and is "loving" school. Ruqiyo and Abdo have both enrolled in Open Door School in St Paul. Mom is learning English and Abdo is brushing up on his already understandable English in hopes of furthering his education and getting a job very soon. Muna is close to registering for school so she can complete a GED degree and will now be job hunting.

The family has been reconnecting with friends they left behind in Somalia and Egypt, who also are now in the U.S. Some have been here for many years. It has been fun meeting some of these families.

Karen and Nan took Abdo and two cousins (ages 10 and 14) to the Somali Museum in Minneapolis one day. Yes, there is

a Somali Museum (located at 1516 East Lake Street) and the tour guide was excellent. After, we went to the Midtown Global Market for a bite to eat. All this in the middle of a snow storm. Clear when we went into the museum and two inches of snow on the ground when we came out. Abdo said, *"In Minnesota one minute the sun is shining and the next it is snowing. This is not like Egypt."*



Somali Independence Day is celebrated in Minneapolis. This would be a good way to learn about Somali culture and, combined with a visit to the museum, will increase your knowledge of the largest immigrant group in our state. Check the link. <https://somalaweek.org/about/somali-independence-day/>

- Nan Corliss and Karen Schaub

## This Old Earth

The Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) entered my consciousness last September. A wrenching, hard-to-watch video splashed on the national news, showing Native Americans being assaulted with pepper spray and attack dogs. The Standing Rock Sioux tribe in North Dakota obtains their irrigation and drinking water from the Missouri River, downstream of the DAPL planned river crossing, and were assembled in protest. The security crew hired by the pipeline constructors had orders to clear the work area, and the violent clash ensued. Ripples have radiated in all directions from that spark.

The final pipeline approvals were stalled by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Obama Justice and Interior Departments. This allowed court hearings and trials to proceed.

Members from at least 180 tribes joined the Standing Rock Sioux in solidarity in the largest assembly of Native American nations in one hundred years. Doubtless, much-needed networking transpired.

Environmentalists, particularly climate activists (including MN350, which will be our April Sunday Sharing Recipient) gave huge support in many forms: financial, publicity, lobbying, and site visits and encampment. Justice and rights organizations as diverse as the ACLU and Black Lives Matter lent their support.



Support for the DAPL resisters spread worldwide. Activists of all stripes and indigenous and marginalized folk voiced their solidarity.

General public awareness was frequently reawakened by assaults on peaceful protesters, such as the use of rubber bullets, tear gas and water cannon spray in freezing temperatures last November.

Meanwhile, the sweeping Republican election victories has all but assured greenlighting of DAPL, the Keystone XL pipeline, and more, in disregard of the Earth, First Americans, and the less affluent.

Despite the setbacks, we can't help but to be optimistic about our future. Observe the ruckus kicked up by one short length of pipeline and one little-known Sioux tribe in North Dakota

Ed Prell

<http://www.thisoldearth.com/standing-rock-spinoffs-2017-03-10/>



## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE (CONT'D)

### Citizens' Climate Lobby

The Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) originated in the United States in 2007 after founder Marshall Saunders recognized the need for progressive climate legislation. Saunders, a successful businessman turned philanthropist, internationally recognized for his work in micro-credit, became increasingly concerned about climate change. Saunders increasingly recognized that while it was necessary for individuals to change their own behavior in the face of climate change, it would never be enough; the time had come for Congress to discontinue subsidizing the fossil fuel industry. With ever-rising energy production and increased use Saunders believed effective legislation was necessary to cut carbon emissions, by putting a price on carbon.

CCL is a non-partisan organization with members throughout the United States, Canada, and other countries, which advocates for effective climate legislation. Its key purposes are to create a political will for a sustainable climate, while empowering individuals to exercise their personal and political power. Citizens' Climate Lobby is composed of local volunteer groups who lobby their elect-

ed representatives and work through local outreach and media. The goal is to cut greenhouse gas emissions and promote a transition to a renewable energy economy through a market-based approach: a revenue neutral 'carbon fee and dividend' approach to pricing carbon pollution from fossil fuels, and simultaneously ending subsidies to fossil fuel companies. CCL believes that a revenue neutral carbon fee and dividend is a bipartisan solution that would effectively address carbon emissions, while not relying on a complex regulation approach.

Since the initial development of Citizens' Climate Lobby, this organization has grown from 3 local groups in 2007 to 327 groups as of May 2016. Groups are located throughout the United States and Canada, and in more than 20 other countries. Volunteers in local chapters meet monthly for teleconference lectures by climate experts and communication with other groups, to discuss coordinated actions to be undertaken by members, to practice skills involved in lobbying politicians, and to plan local outreach. These activities support the ongoing goals of the organization and

contribute to progress toward effective carbon pricing including:

- Legislation to place a fee on fossil fuels at the source—well, mine, or port of entry.
- Legislation to distribute the net revenue to U.S. households to offset higher energy costs.
- Legislation to establish a border tariff adjustment to discourage businesses from relocating where they can emit more carbon dioxide. (This will also encourage other nations to adopt equivalent carbon pricing.)

The next meeting of the Bloomington CCL chapter will be held on Saturday, April 8 at 11:45 am at the Izaak Walton League, 6601 Auto Club Rd, Bloomington, MN 55438.

Please let me know if you are interested in attending the meeting and in learning more about CCL. Also see CCL literature on the Social Action Committee counter downstairs.

Glenn Corliss (952-835-6832,  
[gcorliss16@aol.com](mailto:gcorliss16@aol.com))

## MVUUF PICTURE DIRECTORY

We now have a new MVUUF Picture Directory available electronically and in paper form if you wish a copy. Hopefully, this will aid you in getting to know each other. My apologies if there are errors or you were not included, but would have liked to have been. Let me know if that is the case.

If you have not received information on how to download the directory or had difficulty doing so, contact me and we will work with you on it. Also, contact me if you do not have the ability to access an electronic copy and/or wish to have a printed copy.



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

Nancy Buckman, [nancybmnuu@gmail.com](mailto:nancybmnuu@gmail.com), 952-736-9586





## 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 sign that says "UU."*)

- ⇒ 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> THURSDAYS each month, 1-2:30 pm at the Edina Panera, 3345 Hazelton Rd next to JoAnn Fabrics and across from Target. (April 6 & 20, May 4 & 18)
- ⇒ 3<sup>RD</sup> MONDAY each month, 10 am – noon at the Perkins Restaurant at 4917 Eden Ave, Edina 55424, just off of Rte 100. (April 17, May 15) **THIS IS A NEW LOCATION, DAY, AND TIME PERIOD**
- ⇒ 4<sup>TH</sup> 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. (April 25, May 23)

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](mailto:nancybmnuu@gmail.com) or 952-736-9586 if you have questions.

### UU Quotes

We Unitarian Universalists have inherited a magnificent theological legacy. In a sweeping answer to creeds that divide the human family, Unitarianism proclaims that we spring from one source; Universalism, that we share a common destiny. Unitarian Universalists are neither a chosen people nor a people whose choices are made for them by theological authorities-ancient or otherwise. We are a people who choose.

- Forrest Church, Minister

## ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Beverly Schmidt and Kathy Eager, Co-chairs



**Archives has been busy organizing our new home.**

We have found a few treasures. Look for LRP note books, some interesting UU booklets and other treasures in the fireside bookcase.





## PITCHING IN TO HIT THE HIGH NOTE 2017

**COME FOR FUN AND FELLOWSHIP, STAY FOR THE SHOW**

~ OR ~

**(ALMOST) EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE SERVICE AUCTION**

- ◆ Saturday, April 22 from 5 - 9 PM
- ◆ You will be given a bid number that allows you to bid anonymously. Watch the bid sheets, there are some very popular items!
- ◆ We've kept the admission at \$5 adult / \$15 family. At the door it will be \$7 / \$18. Tickets are on sale before and after church on April 2nd, 9th, and 16th.
- ◆ Bring an appetizer or dessert - sign up through the MVUUF website or on the auction table by the fireplace.
- ◆ Sign up to help at the event - through the MVUUF website or on the auction table outside the sanctuary.
- ◆ Wine or Beer welcome, if you'd like to donate some to the event, let us know.
- ◆ This year's raffle drawing is a 50/50 pot. If you win, you get 50% of the money collected. Raffle tickets are \$5 each.
- ◆ ALL DONATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY APRIL 1
- ◆ If you want to donate, but can't be a part of the event, then Sponsor a Note (i.e., make a cash donation). Give your check to anyone on the committee or put it in the offering basket with a note on the memo line.
- ◆ On April 10 we will email a rough draft of the catalog. We ask you to proof your listing for accuracy.
- ◆ On April 17 we will email the final catalog.
- ◆ Can't attend, but want to bid? Ask a friend to bid for you or give us your list.
- ◆ All bidding closes at 6:45 PM, although some categories will close earlier.
- ◆ While results are being tabulated, help clean up, then watch a wonderful play written and directed by Sonja Johnston and starring our talented choir.
- ◆ After the show, check out and pick up your winnings - we prefer cash or check, but credit card payment will be available.
- ◆ Childcare will be available.

This is a major fundraiser that helps MVUUF meet its budget. We appreciate your support in any way you can. It's also a very fun evening. Come for part or all, you won't be sorry.

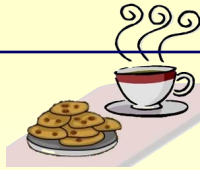
Questions? [mvuufauction@gmail.com](mailto:mvuufauction@gmail.com), Jean Danko, Holly Bruce, Karen Olson, Barb Olson, Leslie Swenson





## KITCHEN

To the people who helped with our after Sunday service social hours in March by bringing and serving treats, making beverages, and / or helping clean up afterwards:



- ♦ Beth Smith
- ♦ Carly Anderson and daughter Sydney
- ♦ Anthony & Janean Lukes and their daughters Francesca and Hazel
- ♦ Barbara Lee
- ♦ Ed and Lorna Prell
- ♦ George Fairman
- ♦ Glenn Corliss
- ♦ Pat Chelmo & Missy Krouth and their sons Sully, Liam and Connall

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!!**

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

## BRIDGE GROUP

**April bridge will be on Saturday, April 15 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](mailto:bnehanson@comcast.net).

***Come join the fun!***

*- Barbara Hanson, Coordinator*

## UU Quotes

We accept the world for the joyous place it was meant to be. We like it, despite the fact that belated theologians look upon it with inherited suspicion. It is no longer, "the world, the flesh and the devil," but "the world, the flesh, and God." The dominant motive is no longer to escape from earthly existence, but to make earthly existence as abundant and happy as it can be.

*- Clarence Skinner, Universalist Minister and Theologian*



## MEN'S GROUP

### All You Wanted to Know About GDP But Were Afraid to Ask

On Thursday evening April 13, at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall there will be a presentation by John Peloquin entitled: **All you wanted to know about GDP but were afraid to ask.**

In order to attend this presentation you must

A.) Have purchased it at the **April, 2016** service auction  
**OR**

B.) ***Make a donation of \$20 to MVUUF for this purpose.***

**Included with the presentation**

**will is a meal donated by John Peloquin and Eva**

**Mach.** If you plan to make a \$20 donation to attend contact John Peloquin by the evening of Tuesday April, 11.

Questions - contact John Peloquin  
[john17780@charter.net](mailto:john17780@charter.net) or 952 200 1846.





## EVENING BOOK GROUP



Spring is almost here! The snow is hopefully gone. We are now entering the Twilight Zone of seasons in Minnesota: Too warm to ski, yet too cold to plant. As always, it is a superb time to read a book! Read one of the selections on our list and join the Evening Book Group for a lively discussion. We always have cookies and coffee (or something more adult). Our list, alternating fiction and nonfiction, includes:



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

Look for more choices next month. If you can think of a book we should discuss and are willing to come and support the selection, let us know. We will consider putting the book on our list.

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](mailto:joyceamcmartin@gmail.com).

## RELIGION, ETHICS, AND IDEAS

### The Fourth Principle

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



The topic will be our fourth principle - *a free and responsible search for truth and meaning*. Potential questions are

- Is the truth relative?
- Is falsehood relative?
- What is the relationship between truth and fact?
- How can we determine if something is true?
- What does a "responsible search" mean?

All are invited and welcome to attend.

Questions contact John Peloquin.

## WOMEN'S GROUP



Please join the MVUUF Women's Group **Saturday, April 1** at 10:15 in the social hall at the Fellowship. We will celebrate **UU Women in history**.

Women from the Fellowship will tell us of several UU women who worked hard to advance UUism. Our minister, Laura Thompson, will tell us about the Iowa Sisterhood.

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

### 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](mailto: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

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Stewardship	Jeanne Simpson	(612) 239-1240 jems.ellen@gmail.com
Technology	< open >	< open >

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**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](mailto:newsletter@mnvalleyuu.org)

# MVUUF CALENDAR ~ APRIL 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9am Sunday Discussion 10:30am Sunday Service 11:45am Adult RE - Long 11:45am Endowment Cor 11:45am UU101	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
2 9am Sunday Discussion 10:30am Sunday Service	3	4 5:30pm Social Action Dir	5 5pm Yoga for Active Ad 6:30pm Choir Practice	6 10am Bloomington Minis 1pm Beyond Sunday Mo	7	8 9am Yoga for Active Ad 10:30am Women's Chora
9 9am Religion Ethics and 10:30am Sunday Service	10	11 7pm Finance Committee	12 5pm Yoga for Active Ad 5:30pm COSM meeting 6:30pm Choir Practice 7pm Board of Trustees I	13 10:30am Women's Book 6:30pm Men's Group	14 10:15am Blue Highways 7pm Friday Night Poker	15 9am Yoga for Active Ad 10am Photo Composition 1pm Bridge Club 1pm Knitting Clinic
16 9am Sunday Discussion 10:30am Sunday Service	17	18 7pm Evening Book Club	19 5pm Yoga for Active Ad 6:30pm Choir Practice	20 1pm Beyond Sunday Mo	21	22 9am Yoga for Active Ad 10:30am Women's Chora 5pm MVUUF Service Auc
23 9am Sunday Discussion 10:30am Sunday Service 11:45am UU101	24	25 1pm Beyond Sunday Mo	26 5pm Yoga for Active Ad 6:30pm Choir Practice	27	28 MidAmerica Regional Assembly 10:15am Blue Highways	29 9am Yoga for Active Ad
30 MidAmerica Regional 9am Sunday Discussion 10:30am Sunday Service	May 1	2	3 5pm Yoga for Active Ad 6:30pm Choir Practice	4 1pm Beyond Sunday Mo	5	6 9am Yoga for Active Ad 10:15am Women's Group


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