

MINISTER'S COLUMN

Minister Laura Thompson

Embodiment

What does it mean to embody your faith?

I have recently been working with a holistic coach on trying to understand my mind-body-spirit connection better. All too often in this culture, we separate these things...or we delude ourselves with the delusion that they are separate. They aren't really separate at all.

I think of spirituality as that which is the essence of my relationships to all others. Spirituality is our connection to that which is bigger than ourselves; this includes the larger community, the world, nature itself, and any concept of a larger ultimate truth that we might hold. Religion is the framework in which we tend to those relationships. And, while we may use our faith to understand our "spiritual" connection to that which is beyond ourselves, we must embody our faith to live out that understanding. What does the embodiment of our faith look like?

It looks like "Love" signs in our yards. It sounds like the songs we sing. It feels like hoarse voices from the rallies we attend or chilled noses from walks in the brisk air to witness the wakening of spring. We embody our faith when we make ethical eating choices and sound environmental choices in our consumerism. We embody our faith when we speak-up and stand-up for those things which matter most to us; those things we strive to be in better relationship with.

Take an inventory of your day. How have the things you've done today been an embodiment of your faith, of your values, and of our UU principles? You might be surprised to find out how many things you do each day are tied to living out your spirituality or faith. You may also find there are places where you fell short of those aspirations. Making time for these kinds of check-ins is the basis of any spiritual practice. And this is important because if we aren't acting on our beliefs, we aren't making any headway in creating a more just and loving world for ourselves or for others.

See if you can't pay attention this month to the ways in which you embody your faith every day. And, if you'd like share what you find with one another and with me.

*In faith and joy,
Soon-to-be-Rev. Laura Thompson*

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

May Theme: Embodiment

MAY 7

- 10:30am: *The Cultural Embodiment of Racism*: We often talk about white privilege as an individual embodiment of the racism that exists in our culture. But, what about how racism is embodied in our culture as a whole? Do we live in a white supremacist culture? Laura Thompson and Eve Bergmann reflect on these questions in a quest for honesty and hope.
- 11:45am: Fireside Room: *OASIS FOR YOUTH* is a vital community asset empowering youth at risk of homelessness to believe in bright futures filled with hope, stability, and self-fulfillment. They will be receiving half of the Sunday offerings collected in May. Come to learn more about this life saving organization.

MAY 14

- 9:00am: Fireside Room: *Religion, Ethics and Ideas*: In the last decade or two several phrases have entered or become common in our language: "political correctness", "macroaggressions", "cultural appropriation", "safe space" and "trigger warnings". We will attempt to define them, give examples and discuss them. All are invited to attend. Questions contact John Peloquin.
- 10:30am: *The Journey of Motherhood*: Motherhood itself is embodied and journeyed in many ways. We'll explore these journeys with stories and reflections from Minister Laura Thompson, Worship Associate Lorna Prell, and from Ruqiyo and Muna Muhammed of the refugee family sponsored by MVUUF. Members and friends are encouraged to bring pictures or mementos to decorate an altar honoring those who have "mothered" us on our journeys.

MAY 21

- 10:30am: *RE Sunday*: the children and youth in the RE program will present aspects of what they have explored in their RE classes this year.
- 11:45am: Fireside Room: *Grief Circle*: Grief comes in many forms. All are welcome to this circle for check-in and support.

MAY 28

- 10:30am: Everyday Sacred Embodiment: Embodiment is such a buzz word these days. What does it really mean? And what's the big deal about being in your body? We'll explore these questions and consider how this all fits into the times we are living in. Come curious and ready to inquire! With guest speaker Interfaith Minister & Holistic Life Coach Katy Taylor and Worship Associate Betsy Carter.

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.



Resources on Embodiment

Wise Words

The purpose of life is not to transcend the body, but to embody the transcendent.

- *The Dalai Lama*

If anything is sacred, the human body is sacred.

- *Walt Whitman*

Let me put it this way –

I am wildly, irrevocably in love
with the world.

And you –

you wonderful, beautiful, brave
spark of creation –

you are inseparable from the world.

I breathe you in.

I take your story into me,

and it lodges

in my soul.

We will never be

two separate things again –

if ever we were.

- *Rev Leslie Mills, UU Church of Elgin, IL*

Articles

The Shared Experience of Built Sacred Spaces by Sarah Smarsh

What does your church space embody?

<https://onbeing.org/blog/when-the-physical-becomes-secondary-the-shared-experience-of-built-sacred-spaces/>

Six Ways to Be Embodied While You Eat

<http://www.mindful.org/6-ways-practice-mindful-eating/>

The Body Divided

by Ona Gritz

from the Bellingham Review & Utne Reader

A woman with cerebral palsy gets comfortable in her own skin

<http://www.utne.com/arts/the-body-divided>

Movies

I Am Not Your Negro

An inspiring documentary on the legacy of African-American writer and activist, James Baldwin.

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5ZeLuVHTbq>

Captain Fantastic

An astonishing, touching and inspiring film about an unconventional father trying to make his life and parenting an embodiment of his values. Also an exploration of what happens when those values are not also embodied by the surrounding society.

https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/captain_fantastic

In Defense of Food

A documentary challenging us to embody our values and our awareness in our eating.

https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/in_defense_of_food

Books

Grounded: Finding God in the World

by Diana Butler Bass

Bass unpacks how people are finding new spiritual ground by discovering and embracing God everywhere in the world around us—in the soil, the water, the sky, in our homes and neighborhoods, and in the global commons.

<http://dianabutlerbass.com/books/grounded-finding-god-in-the-world-a-spiritual-revolution/>

A Beautiful Question: Finding Nature's Deep Design, by Frank Wilczek

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/aug/01/a-beautiful-question-natures-deep-design-frank-wilczek-review>

Landscapes of Aging and Spirituality: Essays

Nineteen UU writers reflect on embodying the experience of aging and the spirituality of aging. Alternately tender and frank, funny and wistful, these heartfelt ruminations offer companionship for those walking and embracing the journey of later life.

<https://www.amazon.com/Landscapes-Aging-Spirituality-Kathleen-Montgomery/dp/1558967591>

GA panel discussion with some of the authors:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqSLHt5seI8>

Between the World and Me, by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Although the book has been widely praised as a monumental text about black life, it's more specifically a book about how to live free in a black male body.

Review: <http://www.newyorker.com/culture/cultural-comment/ta-nehisi-coates-and-a-generation-waking-up>

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

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.



Special Message from your Board of Trustees

MVUUF had a more positive, optimistic, forward looking, and joyful year than we've experienced in a while. We were able to focus on our vision and mission, work on making additional resources available (worship associates, adult RE class, having a safe place to deal with the expected and unexpected changes in our country and the world, and welcoming a steady stream of visitors (and new members!). We want to continue building on this momentum.

With that in mind, when the finance committee and the board put together next year's budget, we set financial goals for the fellowship that include the following:

1. Retain the services of our minister on contract basis for another year;
2. Continue on the path of paying our staff fairly;
3. Maintain the level of services (childcare, janitorial) we provide;
4. Continue the financial support for our committees, volunteers, community outreach, and social justice work;
5. Return to the status of fair share congregation by paying 100% of our obligation to the UUA and MidAmerica;
6. Fund some long-postponed building maintenance.

I am happy to report that the result of our pledge drive broke through the plateau of the past four years. That is great and on behalf of the Board I want to thank everyone who worked on the pledge drive and even more importantly to everyone who contributed.

As gratifying as this was, we are still short of the goals we'd like to reach. Before we put pencil to paper and do the hard work of cutting some goals from our budget we are asking you to reach a little deeper, if you are able, and increase your pledge or make a onetime donation, if that works better for you.

Several MVUUF members have pledged funds that will match dollar for dollar the first \$6,000.00 of additional money raised through this appeal. It is a challenge to ourselves to take full advantage of our own generosity. If you increase your contribution by \$100.00, MVUUF will receive an additional \$100.00 match resulting in a \$200.00 increase.

If you have any questions, please contact me, any member of the Board, Steve Danko (Finance) or Jean Simpson (Stewardship). If you would like a copy of the budget detail we will have it available Sunday or you can request a copy by email.

Eva Mach

emach@pro-tecdesign.com

651-226-5949





NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Judith Anderson, Board Chair

Many MVUUF folks are here because of their children and a commitment to liberal education and curiosity. Others come to get a proverbial "whack on the side of the head" on Sunday mornings and a reminder of why social justice matters and the role we play in that strategy. Some are here for the variety of programs and opportunities to live out our values and the ongoing quest to make the world a better place. It's also about friendships and support and collective thinking.

Whatever brings you here and keeps you coming back is why we exist and why our community is so important.

Your energy, spirit, and financial commitment are essential, deeply appreciated, and we thank you for all you do to keep us going and improving and moving forward.

Together let's keep up the good work.

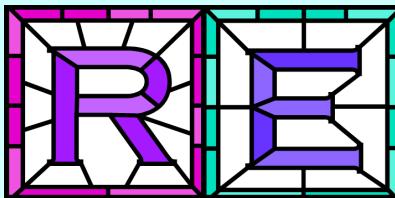


RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER

Jan Fitzgerald, DRE

Teaching. Please think seriously about helping us out. We desperately need you to help out. We need you to give your time and energy to the Religious Education program so that we can continue to do the kind of interesting and exciting program we have offered this year. Make this the year you contribute directly to Religious Education. You could be a teacher or an assistant and everything is there for you to be able to teach or assist. Think about subbing once in a while too. There is a big poster where you can sign up for one of the three units: Fall, Winter, and Spring. The poster lists the grades. For safety reasons we want to have two teachers per classroom. Our goal is to have ALL slots filled before June 4th. The sign-up sheet is downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks for doing your part. It is really appreciated by the children and youth.

Religious Education Sunday is a special service devoted to some of the topics explored throughout the year. Each group presents a crea-



tive demonstration of some aspect of the Religious Education curriculum. Third and Fourth grade Children Chalice Lighters will be recognized. We also will be honoring our graduating seniors and these seniors will be giving their Credo statement. We also recognize our teachers who have put in so much time and given so much of themselves to the children and youth. This is a fun way to learn about our Religious Education program.

Summer – For the summer we are hoping that we will be able to offer some activities for the older children, Kindergarten through fifth grade, in July and August. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to help out for a Sunday in July or August. Right now we are not planning to have Religious Education activities for older chil-

dren in June. The nursery will be open June through September.

May 7th – Each group will rehearse for Religious Education Sunday during regular Religious Education time – downstairs on the risers

May 14th – Regular Religious Education Classes – Happy Mother's Day

May 21st – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUNDAY – every group will do an interesting presentation to represent what they have explored in Religious Education classes

May 27th – Laura Thompson's ordination 10:00 am

June 4th – FLOWER Communion and end-of-year picnic.

We appreciate this very special, giving community. Each and every one of you helps make our program so successful. We look forward to seeing you at these significant events.

Yours in peace – Jan Fitzgerald



MUSICAL NOTES

Sonja Johnston, Minister of Music

You can look forward to our excellent Children's Choir to sing the prelude on May 7th, directed by Nicole Paul Collins. We also will have special music by the choir, Betty Olson, Barb Berger, and others.

I do not work during the summer, but I am sure there are musicians belonging to MVUUF who can play some music – hymns or special music – whether on piano, guitar, or simply lead the singing a capella. Please let Laura know if/when you can add music to summer services.

I will be back again for the first service after Labor Day, the Water Communion Service.



UU Quotes

... the most important period in the shaping of our liberal theological identity was the nineteenth century when first Universalists and Unitarians and then other Protestants began to develop theological stances in opposition to the dominant Calvinism and Biblicism. They found God to be close and loving rather than distant and judgmental. They rejected the doctrine of election, which held that only a select few would be saved, claiming instead that all are saved. They believed that human beings were basically good rather than tainted by original sin, and many challenged doctrinal claims about Jesus's divinity. Despite internal disagreements they achieved a theological clarity remarkable for liberals. a clarity we have not had since.

Paul Razor, author, Reclaiming Prophetic Witness, Liberal Religion in the Public Square

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Don Park, Chair

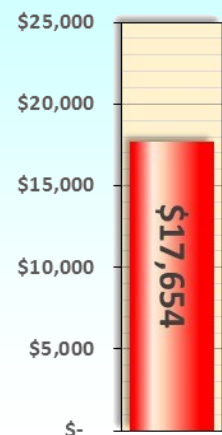
Getting Closer to \$25,000

The March 2017 Treasurer's Report lists the endowment fund balance as \$17,654.

As people continue to make contributions and as investment income compounds we could soon reach the \$25,000 balance that allows us to spend up to 4% of the balance.

The endowment committee wants to encourage everyone to think of ways to spend on the order of \$1,000 to further the vision and mission of MVUUF. One suggestion previously mentioned was to help fund anti-racism training. No doubt many of you have ideas as well.

Let's continue to grow the fund while planning the best ways to use it.





You are **Joyfully** Invited to **Celebrate** the **Ordination** of **Laura Kampa Thompson** to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry!

Saturday May 27th at 10am.
Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Reception to follow
RSVP at <http://evite.me/zUH1hCPQgP>

Childcare available on request minister@mnvalleyuu.org

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	bobbie002@comcast.net
Carmen Herzog	952-831-7988	carmjlher@aol.com
Donna Kopnick	952-884-1431	lkopnick@comcast.net
Becky McPeck	952-887-2148	racreates@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

STEWARDSHIP – Generosity Builds our Future

This year's stewardship campaign raised the largest amount of money in the history of the church. There are still a few pledges outstanding, but basically MVUUFers pledged over \$6,000 more than last year.

The number of pledge units that:

Increased..... 62

Decreased 7

Stayed the same ... 34

Does MVUUF have a bright future? It does because of the financial support of members and friends.

Thank you one and all!





A Celebration of the Life of Jack Herzog

Memorial Service and Reception

Sunday May 7th at 3pm

**Minnesota Valley Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship**

UU Quotes

...Unitarian Universalist Clergy have remained a “Dynamo ... in contemporary American Politics” by translating their theology into social and political activism.

- Political Scientist John Green, University of Akron

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.”)

- ⇒ 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. (May 4 & 18, June 1 & 15)
- ⇒ 3rd MONDAY each month, 10 am – noon at the Perkins Restaurant at 4917 Eden Ave, Edina 55424, just off of Rte 100. (May 15, June 19) **THIS IS A NEW LOCATION, DAY, AND TIME PERIOD**
- ⇒ 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. (May 23, June 27)

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.



SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

MEGAN DUFFY SANANIKONE, Chair



The next Social Action Committee meeting is at church on May 3 at 7:30pm.

We want to make it easy for you to find us! If you are interested in joining the Social Action Committee, have a question/suggestion for us or just want to talk, you can now identify our committee members by the green flag on our name tags!



COMMON READ:

We are still gathering a list of people interested in the UUA's Common Read for discussion, *The Third Reconstruction*, by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II. This discussion will build community and a foundation for conversations on engaging on justice issues. Sign up downstairs.

May Sunday Sharing Offerings - Oasis for Youth

Oasis for Youth Resources Center for homeless and at-risk youth began as a vision of community members who saw a need for services of the youth in Bloomington, Richfield, and Edina who were experiencing homelessness or were at risk of becoming homeless. Two of our members were among the 7 women whose vision became a reality. With the support of Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, Oasis opened its doors in July of 2010 as a completely volunteer organization with the local financial support of community members, churches, friends, and civic organizations. Working closely with the school districts of the three communities, youth, initially between the ages of 15-21, were identified and connected to the services they needed to support them during difficult times.



Since 2010, Oasis has experienced steady growth. From 90 visits the first year to 1,462 visits in 2014 to 2,481 visits in 2016 the service are reaching more youth each year.

From an all-volunteer organization from 2010 thru 2012 to a paid staff of seven, Oasis continues to grow and provide more programs and outreach to the youth they serve.

Jasmyn Green, lead case manager at Oasis, will tell us more about who these youth are and the exciting new outreach programs at Oasis on May 7th at 11:45 after the service. Come to the Fireside room to hear Jasmyn and check out the table in the foyer for information on volunteering.

Oasis is a local organization, helping youth in our back yard. The need has always been here, but often times those in need have been invisible and sometimes our communities have closed their eyes and said, "We don't have any homeless youth here." These youth often want to be hidden and don't want to admit they are homeless or need help. They need a safe and secure place to go for help. Oasis has become that special place for many.

The month of May will share the collection basket with Oasis for Youth. If you want to write a check to MVUUF with the entire donation going to OASIS, please write "Oasis for Youth" in the memo section of the check. Your donations will be greatly appreciated.



SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE (CONT'D)

VEAP News

March Food and Fund drive raised \$150,000 and 66,000 lbs. of food. Of that, MVUUF donated 567 lbs. This is more than we donated last March and does not include the paper goods donated in January. Thanks to all of you.

Donation drop off hours at VEAP have changed to 9:00 am–5:00 pm Monday-Friday and until 7:00pm on Thursday. Donations may be left at MVUUF whenever the building is open.

Planting your garden? VEAP can always use your fresh vegetables or fruit. Consider planting a row for VEAP.

Teens, are you looking for something to do over the summer? Volunteer a few hours at VEAP. They would love to have you. Contact Kial at kialn@veap.org or call 952.388.6410.

The VEAP Gala is Friday, May 19th at the Hyatt Regency in Bloomington. Registration is open at <https://veap.org/events/gala/>

- Kat Janes & Lorna Prell



This Old Earth

We Americans (and empathetic friends in many other nations) are reminded almost daily of the setback suffered by environmental and societal causes with the election of Donald John Trump. Our path of least resistance may be to be depressed or in denial, or to set our calendar for 2020 and the possibility of a return to responsible governance. But we, and our Earth, don't have the option of waiting this out. Dedicated State and Federal Judges, activists of the Indivisible movement, MoveOn, and the many environmental and justice organizations have made their voices heard – and slowed the onrush of really terrible initiatives by this President.

With clashes between the White House and its adversaries hogging the spotlight, we have to do a little digging to find rays of sunshine peeking through the storm clouds. One such source of brightness is up in Little Falls, MN. Last month, the National Guard's Camp Ripley unveiled their huge new solar farm, a 65-acre facility



which generates enough electricity to power 1900 homes. Closer to home, our UU Community Solar Garden is due to go on stream later this year. A typical family's share (or "plot") will prevent 190 TONS OF CARBON DIOXIDE from being dumped up into our atmosphere over its 25 year life.

But, the bigger news is the impetus behind the vitality of the solar, windpower, and electric vehicle industries: the cost of renewable energy is falling below the rising fossil fuel costs. Regardless of speed bumps placed in their path by states from Arizona to the Carolinas, and Trump's preference for coal mines over the Paris Climate Accord, fossil fuels are being priced out of the market. Good ride!

UU Quotes

Universalism was a movement different in kind, not merely in degree from the ...other dissenting groups that "democratized" American Christianity in the early 19th century. Universalism effectively set aside the traditional psychological foci of religious belief - sin, guilt, repentance, and judgment - that absorbed and channeled human anxiety.... Universalism was not for the fainthearted, for it dismantled the common mental structures of faith and the security found within.

Ann Lee Bressler, author, The Universalist Movement in America, 1770-1880



MEN'S GROUP



Men's Group will meet on Thursday, May 11, 2017 at 6:15 at the Fellowship.

Our speakers will be **Waldo Asp**, **Professor James Bradley** of the University of Wisconsin, and **Anthony J. Pearson** whose work has been highlighted by Los Alamos National Laboratory. Their topic will be the three most important developments in human genetic history and the three most important upcoming developments in human genetic destiny.

All are welcome and invited to attend regardless of gender.

If you wish to come for dinner sign up in basement – if you only want to hear our speakers come at 7:00.

Questions - contact John Peloquin john17780@charter.net or 952 200 1846.

BRIDGE GROUP



May bridge will be on Saturday, May 20 at 1 p.m.

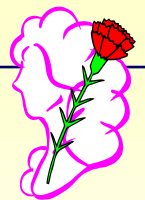
The bridge group meets the third Saturday of every month from 1-3 p.m. We are always looking for new players! Beginner to expert, all are welcome.

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

Come join the fun!

- Barbara Hanson, Coordinator

WOMEN'S GROUP



The final Women's Group meeting of the year will be held on May 6th at 10:30 a.m. (or come at 10:00 to enjoy coffee and conversation).

A few of the group's writers will read samples of their work and there will be songs by the warbling Boa Trio - accompanied by Sonja Johnston.

Reserve lunch for \$7.00 or feel free to bring your own. Our servers will be Barb Lee, Elaine Lewellyn, and Beth Smith.

- Carmen Herzog and Brenda Daly, Co-Chairs

Fore !

Sunday golf is on 2017 beginning June 11 at 8:00 A.M.

- Birmanwood Golf Course in Burnsville, \$14 a round.
- Sign up or contact Darrell or Kathy Eager for info.
- All skill levels welcome.
- And scorecard is optional (lack of one makes for some really good rounds).

- Submitted Darrell and Kathy Eager





RELIGION, ETHICS, AND IDEAS

Religion, Ethics, and Ideas will meet on Sunday May 14 at 9:00 AM in the Fireside room.

In the last decade or two, several phrases have entered or become common in our language:

- political correctness
- macroaggressions
- cultural appropriation
- safe space
- trigger warnings



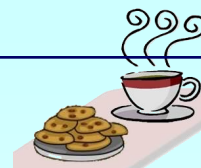
We will attempt to define them, give examples, and discuss them.

All are invited to attend.

- Questions contact John Peloquin.

KITCHEN

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










- ♦ Kim Kammeier
- ♦ Susan Jack
- ♦ Maria Bavier
- ♦ Barbara Lee
- ♦ Amy Harms Hoad and her children, Aaron & Brooke
- ♦ 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!!!

EVENING BOOK GROUP

The Group has a new book list of books to dive into. It contains something to stretch the mind as well as entertain. If you find a book that interests you, read it and join the Evening Book Group for a lively discussion. The new selections, alternating fiction and nonfiction, are:



-  On May 16, 2017, *Valiant Ambition: George Washington, Benedict Arnold, and the Fate of the American Revolution*, by Nathaniel Philbrick
-  On June 20, 2017, *The Sympathizer: A Novel*, by Viet Thanh Nguyen
-  On July 18, 2017, *In the Darkroom*, by Susan Faludi
-  On August 15, 2017, *My Brilliant Friend: Neapolitan Novels, Book One*, by Elena Ferrante
-  On September 19, 2017, *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*, by J. D. Vance
-  On October 17, 2017, *Underground Railroad*, by Colson Whitehead
-  On November 21, 2017, *Lower Ed: The Troubling Rise of For-Profit Colleges in the New Economy*, by Tressie McMillan Cottom

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.



A Next Steps Visit is Coming in June

We have requested a *Next Steps Visit* through the UUA and are pleased to announce that *Stewardship for Us Team* Consultant Bill Clontz will be with us during the period June 2-4 (Friday – Sunday). Bill is a long-time member of Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, in Alexandria, VA and is in the process of relocating to Asheville NC, where he is already known to and will be joining the Unitarian Universalist congregation there.



The purpose of the visit is to provide our congregation and our leaders with an objective eye in gathering information and identifying strengths, opportunities, and areas needing improvement. This visit will examine all areas of the congregation; Bill will meet with the staff, lay leaders, and volunteers throughout the visit.

We are in correspondence with Bill and we are providing him a great deal of background information on our congregation, our aspirations, and our operations. Following the visit, Bill will develop recommended priorities and actions, and will provide guides, examples, and links to help us on our way. These will be designed to help us attain our long-term goals and to address our near-term requirements and opportunities.

Summary observations and recommendations will be shared at the end of the visit, to be followed by a detailed written report within two weeks.

There will be a full day of meetings on Saturday, June 3. The agenda is being finalized now and will be available before the visit for all to review. While meetings focus on particular areas and those who are most engaged in them, any member is welcome to observe any meeting.

You will note there is also an open session at the end of the day on Saturday, during which Bill is available to talk with anyone about any issue that may be of interest.

On Sunday, June 4, we expect Bill will speak briefly to the congregation during the service and he will remain afterwards to meet and talk with members of the congregation. We hope you will take this opportunity to meet our consultant and to share your views and hopes about our future.

Questions? Please contact (Steve Danko, 612-978-2587/sjdanko71@gmail.com or Eva Mach, 651-226-5949/emach@pro-tecdesign.com). Thank you for helping our congregation get the most out of this visit; it's a great opportunity for us to see where we are and where we are going, and to learn what is working for others that may be relevant to us.

Steve Danko, Jody Gray, Kerry Hanifl, Eva Mach, David Olson, Laura Thompson - Grant Committee



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@mnvalleyuuu.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

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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 ~ MAY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 MidAmerica Regional 9am Sunday Discussion 10:30am Sunday Service	May 1	2	3 5pm Yoga for Active Adults 6:30pm Choir Practice 7:30pm Social Action Co	4 1pm Beyond Sunday Mc	5	6 9am Yoga for Active Adults 10:15am Women's Group
7 9am Sunday Discussion 10:30am Sunday Service 11:45am Oasis presentat 12:45pm "Go Directly to 3pm Celebration of Life:	8	9 7pm Finance Committee	10 5pm Yoga for Active Adults 5:30pm COSM meeting 6:30pm Choir Practice 7pm Board of Trustees I	11 10:30am Women's Book 6:30pm Men's Group	12 10:15am Blue Highways 7pm Friday Night Poker	13 9am Yoga for Active Adults 10am Love Reaches Out 10:30am Women's Chora
14 9am Religion Ethics and 10:30am Sunday Service	15	16 7pm Evening Book Club	17 5pm Yoga for Active Adults 6:30pm Choir Practice	18 1pm Beyond Sunday Mc	19	20 9am Yoga for Active Adults 1pm Bridge Club 1pm Knitting Clinic
21 MVUUF Annual Meeting 9am Sunday Discussion 10:30am Sunday Service 6pm Music recital (Ric C	22	23 1pm Beyond Sunday Mc	24 5pm Yoga for Active Adults 6:30pm Choir Practice	25	26 10:15am Blue Highways	27 9am Yoga for Active Adults 10am Ordination of Laur 10:30am Women's Chora
28 9am Sunday Discussion 10:30am Sunday Service 11:45am UU101	29	30	31 5pm Yoga for Active Adults 6:30pm Choir Practice	Jun 1	2	3 9am Yoga for Active Adults


 10715 Zenith Avenue South
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We are a Welcoming Congregation