

## MINISTER'S COLUMN

### Reverend Laura Thompson

#### Welcome

What does it mean to be a welcoming community?

In recent weeks, we have seen our neighborhood and the nation being challenged by hate and threats that make the topic of 'welcome' seem like an illusion at times. On Saturday, August 5th a fire bomb was thrown into the imam's office at Dar Al Farooq Islamic Center during morning prayer time, here in Bloomington. A week later we all watched as white supremacist nationalists took to the streets of Charlottesville carrying loaded weapons and waving Nazi and Confederate flags. It would seem that the very notion of what it means to be welcoming is under attack.

To be fair, this is nothing new. Our country has a long history which includes racism, xenophobia, homophobia, and other forms of pushing against that which is different from whatever dominant traits we have deemed as having superior value. But, that is not our only history. We also have a history of welcoming the stranger and expanding our ideas to value diversity and traits in others that are different from our own.

This year, in addition to our monthly themes, we will have an overarching theme of Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression & Multiculturalism weaving throughout all of our programs, worship, committees, and outreach work. We are doing this because this is what it takes to be a welcoming community. It takes an ongoing effort to learn about yourself, and to learn about others, and - more importantly - to learn and explore how we might all be in better relationship together.

The word 'welcome' comes from the Old English word *wil-cuma*; *wil* means desire or pleasure, and *cumen* is the word for come or arrive. As we begin this new year let us do so with desire, with pleasure, and with joy about what is to come... about what is waiting to arrive here and about what is waiting with joy and desire for us to arrive!

Welcome to MVUUF. It is a joy to be together.

*In faith,*  
Rev. Laura

## Sunday Programs

— SEPTEMBER 3 (LABOR DAY) —

**10:30am: *If You Can't Stand the Heat;*** It's fair to say that our culture is obsessed with cooking shows. We love the fast pace, the grit, the creativity and the unscripted triumph and failure as we watch cooks and chefs do their best to please the discerning taste of the world. Come hear our own Rev. Laura Thompson reflect on the lessons she learned working in the food service industry for 25 years.

— SEPTEMBER 10 —

**10:30am: *Water Communion; Finding Our Way Home;*** As we come back together to begin another year in community, we reflect on what it means to find a place of belonging. Our rejoining will be marked by a ritual merging of the waters; our Water Communion. Please bring some water collected from your summer journey and some words to share as to why that place invited you into a place of belonging. Rev. Laura Thompson & Worship Associate; Janet Stevens

— SEPTEMBER 17 —

**10:30am: *All are Welcome; Beloved Community;*** Martin Luther King Jr. wrote, "The end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the Beloved Community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opponents into friends. It is this love which will bring about miracles in the hearts of men." Our faith and values call upon us to do the work of revealing Beloved Community. How do we take up this work? What are the risks of doing the work? What are the risks of not doing the work? Rev. Laura Thompson & Worship Associate Carla Ries. This service is part of our commitment to anti-racism and anti-oppression work.

— SEPTEMBER 24 —

**10:30am: *Come, Come Whoever You Are;*** September 30th is the birthdate of celebrated mystic and Sufi poet, Rumi. Who was he? Why do his words resonate so deeply with us? What can we do to honor the love he shared with us? Come, whoever you are to be inspired, to be curious and to be together... ours is no caravan of despair. Rev. Laura Thompson & Worship Associate Linda Hayen. This service is part of our commitment to understanding ourselves in a multicultural world.

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



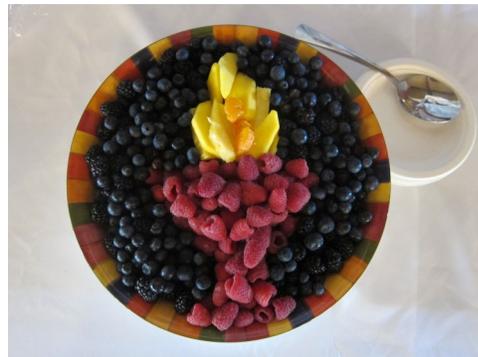
MVUUF is a liberal religious congregation guided by democratic principles whose mission is to engage members in a shared quest for spiritual and intellectual growth leading to lives of service, compassion, and justice.



**What's New for 2017-18?**

◆ **Food for Thought**

Who says our Sunday morning service has to be spent in the sanctuary? Food for Thought Sundays bring a new way of being together to explore a theme. On these Sundays, folks of all ages will gather around tables to share a meal. Group leaders at each table will lead your group in introductions, joys and sorrows, and sharing of thoughts around that month's theme. The first two will be October 1st and November 26th. These meals will help us all to get to know one another better and build a stronger community.



◆ **Getting to Know UU**

As Rev. Laura enters her 2nd year of ministry with us we are in the process of discerning whether or not she will serve us as our next called-settled minister. Currently, her contract with us runs out in June of 2018. We will all need to decide together if we'd like to take this relationship to the next level and make a long term commitment with one another. We'll need to make that decision by the end of December. This is an important time for us! As such, Rev Laura will be making an effort to get to know the congregation better in the coming months. If you'd like Laura to spend time with you, your family, or your group this is a good time to extend an invitation to her.



◆ **New Worship Associates!**

Please welcome Janet Stevens and Gabby Vigliaturo as new worship associates for 2017-18. They will be joining Betsy Carter, Carla Ries, Lorna Prell, Linda Hayen and Eve & Tom Bergmann to help in creating meaningful worship throughout the year.



**MVUUF Office Hours**

**Minister**

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

Monday - Wednesday: Office Days \*  
 Thursday: Writing Day (offsite)  
 Friday: Off  
 Saturday - Sunday: By Appointment

\*office hours vary due to meetings and appointments throughout the day and evening

**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.*



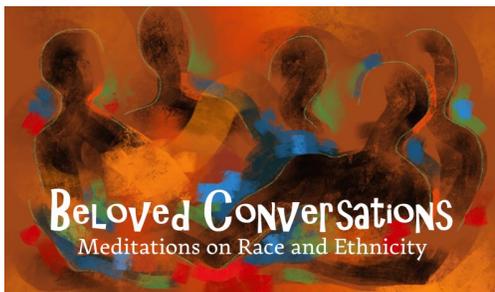
### **Transformative Collaboration:**

#### **Honoring Partnership & Prophetic Witness for Justice**

Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA) will host its Annual Fundraiser. It will feature keynote speaker, Karen Van Fossan from the Bismarck-Mandan UU Congregation. "Transformative Collaboration" comes from the name of the Inter-National Initiative for Transformative Collaboration (INITC), the indigenous-led organization that Karen is working closely with, and that MUUSJA has become a collaborative partner with. The event will also honor our interfaith/secular partnerships and all the work we're doing collaboratively. Awards will be presented to individuals and groups being recognized for living out our social justice values.

**When: Thursday October 5<sup>th</sup> 6-8:30pm**

**Where: [First Universalist Church, 3400 Dupont Ave S, Minneapolis](#)**



### **Beloved Conversations**

Beloved Conversations is an experiential curriculum that provides a space to re-form/fuse the brokenness of racism into new patterns of thought and behavior ushering in social and spiritual healing. New ways of being are learned through the actions of conversation and probing dialogue. This program begins at MVUUF in September. Click on the link below for more information and to sign-up:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044eaba823a0fe3-beloved>

### **Being a "Welcoming Congregation"**

We are a "welcoming congregation". This is both a designation and an aspiration. "Welcoming Congregation" is a status given to UU congregations who have worked through a program to help them be more welcoming and inclusive of LGBTQ folks. MVUUF is proud to be a Welcoming Congregation! We welcome and affirm our members, friends, staff and neighbors of all sexuality and gender identities. You can learn more about what it means to be a Welcoming Congregation at:

<http://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/program>



## UU Quotes

To commit to creating a prophetic congregation today is to grapple with what it means to take responsibility for co-creating the holy right here on earth.

- Meg Riley (Unitarian Universalist, clergy, activist)



## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Eva Mach, Board Chair

September still feels like a new beginning to me, more so than January, conditioned by all the years revolving around the school year and reinforced by 30 plus years of attending our church gathering in full force for the Water Communion. Let's begin another year of working on our mission, joining with our small but growing community, raising our voices in support of justice, offering respite from the angry world. I came across the following on the UUA website. Better said than anything I can write:



### THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

*By Israel Buffardi*

The road that lies ahead of us is a long one, and the pace of progress will sometimes feel glacially slow.

Never forget that glaciers over time can carve out grand canyons and great lakes.

Moving tectonic plates can rise up mountains over millennia, or they can explode awe-inspiring volcanoes in milliseconds.

Our commitment to love and justice can do the same.

- Eva Mach, [emach@pro-tecdesign.com](mailto:emach@pro-tecdesign.com), 651-226-5949

### Board Highlights August 2017

The Board of Trustees met on July 12 for the first board meeting of the new church year. The motions approved:

- Approved ministers housing allowance (now that Laura is an ordained minister, part of her salary is allocated to housing allowance. This is not a change in the compensation amount, but follows the IRS regulations of ministers' compensation. If you have questions on this, ask Eva Mach, Dale Lewellyn, or Steve Danko)
- Approved the Hanifl grant application prepared by the Grant Committee
- Appointed Judith Anderson to be the Board representative on the Nominating Committee
- Additional details are available in the minutes emailed on 07-30-17.

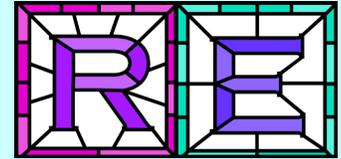
There was no regular board meeting in August. The board members, along with Rev. Laura and Jan Fitzgerald, our DRE, participated in a 5-hour board retreat held on August 12<sup>th</sup>. The topics covered church governance, finances, long range planning, and 2017-2018 goals to support our mission.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER

Jan Fitzgerald, DRE

Religious Education starts up on September 17th. Be sure to register. It is important to have an accurate record of who is here. You will be able to register on-line and the link will be posted in the Friday emails as soon as it is set up. Choir will be starting up on the 17th also. We'd love more singers! This is a great opportunity for children to see if they like singing while having fun, gaining confidence, and building relationships. Contact Nicole Collins for more info at [voicenicole@aol.com](mailto:voicenicole@aol.com) or 612-296-1622.



How can we strengthen our beloved Religious Education Community? We can start by being present in mind and body. Attending three out of four Sundays will give your child the opportunity to get to know the other children and youth better. Knowing what has been talked about and sharing with others builds a more caring environment. Invest in the program. We ask that you volunteer to teach or run a special event. We have always asked that parents volunteer at least three hours per child in the program. The children need you. Make it a point to greet someone new each Sunday and say hello to the children and introduce yourself. Join the choir! Come to the multi-generational programs. Common experiences build a more connected community. We will be having more multi-generational services. Instead of having the children up for only the first fifteen minutes we will have them up for the whole time.

We need our beloved community more than ever. A lot is happening in the United States that gives us cause for concern. A safe, caring, strong and tight community is our goal. If we all know each other better we can be here for each other. With little effort we can achieve this goal by reaching out to one another as much as possible in every way possible. We will then thrive as a cohesive beloved community.

## MUSICAL NOTES

Sonja Johnston, Minister of Music

I am anxious to resume my music responsibilities after 3 months off. I hope everyone had a pleasant summer!

First, I want to issue an invitation to those folks who may be interested in becoming involved in the music at MVUUF. I know we have 3 new mixed choir members this fall; we are always welcome to new singers in either the mixed choir or the women's chorale. Also, I'm sure there are other MVUUF musicians as well – do you play the piano, guitar, or any other instrument? Please let me know if you are interested in sharing your talents with the fellowship.

Our wonderful youth choir director, Nicole Paul Collins, will share her vocal group, "The Ages," with us on September 10. And the choir and chorale have already begun rehearsals. The choir rehearses Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Sundays at 9:15 a.m.; the



chorale rehearses the 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

We will again have Joan Schubert, Orff instrument instructor, visit us for 3 Sundays to work with the youngsters for an hour and then present the prelude. A generous donor, a longtime member of MVUUF, has donated over \$2,000 worth of these fine instruments. Information about dates and times is to be determined. Please read the article later in this issue about the Orff instruments.

If you have any questions or concerns about music at MVUUF, contact either me or the Chair of the Music Committee, Betty Olson.

Happy fall!

- Sonja Johnston, Minister of Music



## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

MEGAN DUFFY SANANIKONE, Chair

### Update on the Refugee Family - A Busy Summer for Ruqiyo, Abdo, Muna, and Ali

Our four-month commitment working with the MN Council of Churches and the refugee family is officially over, but I hope we will continue to support the family and keep our connections with them. Ongoing support and friendship is so important, especially with the racial unrest and tensions in our own community. The Islamic Center in Bloomington which was bombed a few weeks ago, once again brought to the attention of our citizens, the need to support and stand with our neighbors against violence and hate.

Ruqiyo and her family have had a busy summer. Ruqiyo is continuing her English class at Open Door in Minneapolis, taking the bus in the morning and back home in the afternoon. She now knows which bus number brings her back to St. Louis Park. She just signed up with an employment counselor, Nathan, from the MN Council of Churches, who will work with her for a month to help find a job.

Muna now has 2 jobs and will begin working her second job in a few weeks. She will be working 7 days a week between the both jobs, one at Macy's and one at Target.

Abdo has been working at Amazon and a friend with a car who also is working at Amazon drives Abdo there and back. This has been very convenient.

Ali has registered for St. Louis Park High School as a senior and hopes to graduate next year. He

would like to find a part time job on week-ends and has been interviewing with several businesses.

I hope we will have another gathering for them with a dinner and program. With their individual work schedules it is hard to find a time when they are all free to schedule an event.

The one need which may be helpful for Ruqiyo is one afternoon a week to find one or two persons who can help her with English. She arrives home around 2:00 and it is possible that between 3-4 pm one day a week she would benefit from extra help. It will depend on her job search what times she might be free. Stay tuned.

The family loves their new apartment in St. Louis Park and it is closer to our fellowship than their first home in North St. Paul.

Thanks again to everyone who helped in any way to welcome them to our country and state and community.

*Social Action Committee: Nan Corliss and Karen Schaub co-coordinators of the refugee sponsorship.*



## This Old Earth

It is Friday, August 18, 2017. One week ago, in what seems almost like a bygone era, I set out to share some climate change insights which could advance dialog on that vitally important topic. As events in Charlottesville –and its rude aftershocks- exploded, I could not turn away from the TV. Plan derailed.

By this time tomorrow, our fellow humans will have sent another 19.2 million tons of carbon dioxide up into our overloaded sky from their smoke stacks and exhaust pipes. Our children and grandchildren are already guaranteed a drastically less hospitable climate. We must do all we can to limit this carbon spree.

But, Charlottesville portends a different sort of threat: civilization unhinged be-

cause we humans have not understood and dealt with faults that are embedded in our very nature: our DNA. The urge to dominate and subjugate others, inherited from the bygone era when our survival depended on only our brawn and our wits. Some “leaders” summon that instinct to maintain their dominance. They pit us against one another by highlighting “otherness”: skin color, ethnicity, gender, sexuality. They subject their lesser brothers and sisters to suffering and unnatural stresses by issuing and enforcing directives down to coal mines and office cubicles. They order machines to displace their subjects altogether – to where? This can’t end well.



We, who desperately want the human experiment to succeed, have a two-front struggle on our hands. Everywhere our collective ignorance and hubris has created an emergency, we need to confront it. But ultimately we must grapple with the origin of these emergencies (us!), lest they recur until the oceans boil over.

Each one of us holds part of the solution. Let’s get to work.

*Ed Prell*



## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Nancy Buckman

### MAILBOXES

There should be a mailbox slot in the fellowship office for everyone who wishes one. Look UNDER your name. Try to check every time you are at the fellowship. If we neglected to make one for you, let me know.

### NEWSLETTER

The most current copy of our MVUUF monthly newsletter, the Uni-Sun, is usually available by the Sunday before the first of the next month. Even if you don't receive an email informing you that it is available, you can always check MVUUF's website [www.mnvalleyuu.org](http://www.mnvalleyuu.org), click on Calendar at the top of the homepage and then click on the issue that you wish to view, download, and/or print. If you have problems doing so, contact me (952-736-9586, [nancybmnuu@gmail.com](mailto:nancybmnuu@gmail.com)) or the office (952-884-8956) for help.



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A limited number of printed copies are usually on the Welcome Table which are intended for our Visitors and Newcomers. If you wish a printed paper copy of each month's newsletters (whether you are able to access it electronically or not), let me know and I will have one for you in your fellowship mailbox (look UNDER your name). If you have not picked up your copy from that mailbox after two weeks, we will then mail it to you.

## ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

### CHALLENGE GRANT! CHALLENGE GRANT! CHALLENGE GRANT!

An anonymous donor has offered us the exciting opportunity to bring our endowment to the level where we'll be able to spend a portion of the endowment earnings. If we raise \$5,000 for the endowment by December 31, our donor will contribute a matching \$5,000, putting us at the level where our endowment can start to help us fund our mission together.

This is a great opportunity to give to the endowment and see the results of your generosity.

Let's rise to the challenge!

To give, simply write a check to MVUUF with Endowment Challenge in the memo line.

If you have questions talk to Don Park -- (612) 836 8485 or email at [donfpark@comcast.net](mailto:donfpark@comcast.net)

The July treasurer's report shows the endowment fund balance as \$20,576.

- Don Park, Chair



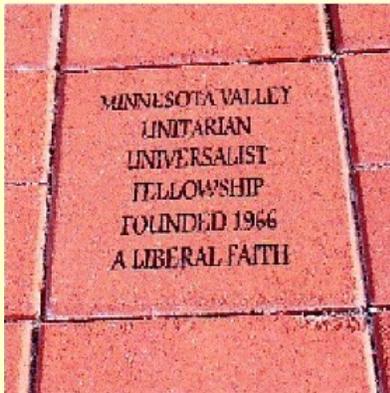


**ARCHIVES COMMITTEE**

BEVERLY SCHMIDT AND KATHY EAGER

**THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER FEATURES**

**ARCHIVE'S  
ILLUMINATING RETROSPECTIVE  
OF  
MVUUF'S FABULOUS HISTORY**





## UU Quotes

Unitarian Universalism is a fierce belief in the way of freedom and reverence for the sacred dignity of each individual. With Jefferson we “have sworn eternal hostility against every tyranny over the mind.”

Unitarian Universalism is cooperation with a universe that created us. It is a celebration of life. It is being in love with goodness and justice. It is a sense of humor about absolutes.

Unitarian Universalism is faith in people, hope for tomorrow's child, confidence in a continuity that spans all time. 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.

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## RUMMAGE SALE RESULTS

So far the net income from the rummage sale is about \$3,000. Additional items will probably bring the final total closer to \$3,500.

Given the amount of work involved that may not be what we were hoping for, but fund-raising isn't the whole story. Our minister frequently reminds us that we need to live our values. We should not forget that the rummage sale is a major example of us doing just that. Because of the sale:

- Nearly two truckloads of merchandise will not end up in a landfill.
- Well over a truckload of clothing, toys, and household items was donated to charity.
- Many needy people were able to buy things inexpensively.
- The piles of stuff our heirs can't imagine why we kept will now be smaller.
- We worked together toward a common goal, and that's the best way there is to build community.

Thanks to all of those who worked so hard to make this happen. I won't mention names because inevitably I would leave out someone who worked their tail off, but there were many who helped a lot. We should be proud of ourselves.

-Dale Lewellyn, Treasurer



## STEWARDSHIP

Jeanne Simpson, Chair

### NEW FISCAL YEAR BEGAN JULY 1

**Be sure to pay your pledge.**

If you pay your pledge each month by check or cash, you may be behind in paying your pledge. Since it is easy to fall behind, be sure to catch up as soon as possible. It is very important to write pledge on your check or put cash in an envelope with your name on it or it won't count as your pledge.

- Jeanne Simpson, Stewardship chair



MINNESOTA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES  
**RESPECTFUL** *Conversations*

## Join a Respectful Conversation about our Muslim neighbors

*A coalition of Bloomington churches and the Minnesota Council of Churches invite the community to join a series of conversations designed not to change minds, but soften hearts.*

Conversations about significant issues can sometimes be emotional, pick-a-side and fight-it-out discussions that leave us feeling worse about the people we disagree with, and sometimes worse about ourselves. Isn't there another way to talk? Join us to learn and practice how we can discuss significant issues without disliking each other more, but instead by understanding each other better.

*"This was a wonderful experience."  
—previous participant*

**Monday, September 11, 6:00pm – 8:30pm**  
**Atonement Lutheran Church**  
**601 E 98<sup>th</sup> St, Bloomington, MN**

**Pre-registration required on the MN Council of Churches website:** [www.bit.ly/RegisterRCP](http://www.bit.ly/RegisterRCP). Event starts with a meal at 6:00 p.m. No cost for participants.

The Respectful Conversations Project is a program of the Minnesota Council of Churches designed to strengthen civic life. Congregations throughout Minnesota are hosting conversations that explore issues through the lens of deeply held convictions while maintaining, even enhancing, relationships among those who disagree.



## LET'S MAKE MUSIC WITH ORFF INSTRUMENTS!

In 2006, one of our longtime members (who prefers to remain anonymous) offered to buy a few Orff instruments for the RE kids to learn to play and perform for the congregation. After much reading and talking to knowledgeable people regarding which instruments to buy and where to buy them, I ordered 3 instruments from West Music in Iowa for a total of \$775.22. We were able to hire Jody Petter, a teacher in the Bloomington schools, to visit MVUUF three times a year and prepare the children to play the prelude each of the 3 Sundays.

In 2010, our generous donor wished to purchase more Orff instruments for the fellowship. I spoke with several people regarding which instruments we should add and in April, 2010, I ordered three more for a total of \$1225.80 and was able to pick these instruments up at St. Thomas where they discount the prices after a workshop.

Ms. Petter had to cease her activity with us in 2012 but we were able to secure the services of Joan Schubert shortly after that and she comes three times a year for an hour before fellowship to work with the youngsters and then present the prelude. Attendance for her classes has been very spotty and I am strongly urging parents to bring their youngsters. Learning to play music is a joy – children learn scales, listen to harmony, experience rhythm, and have the great satisfaction of collaborating with others in creating something others can listen to and appreciate.. Remember: making music is something you can enjoy all your life!

The original use of Orff instruments was to teach beginning music students rhythm, harmony, and ensemble. This program is world-renowned and part of many college music education courses. MVUUF is offering sessions with a trained Orff teacher to any interested young person at no cost to you.

And yes, older children are welcome

- Sonja Johnston, Minister of Music



## BRIDGE GROUP

September bridge will be on Saturday,  
September 16 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.

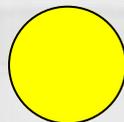


If you are interested, please contact Barbara Hanson,  
952-937-5905, or [bnehanson@comcast.net](mailto:bnehanson@comcast.net).

*Come join the fun!*

- Barbara Hanson, Coordinator

## NAME BADGES



Please wear your name badges/name tags on Sunday mornings. We are a large enough congregation that most of us don't know everyone else's names. If you need one, look for the signup sheet or contact Nancy Buckman at [nancybmnuu@gmail.com](mailto:nancybmnuu@gmail.com) or 952-736-9586.

In case you don't know or remember, the colored dots broadly indicate where you live. Look for someone else who has the same colored dot as you and talk about how close you do, or maybe don't, live to each other.

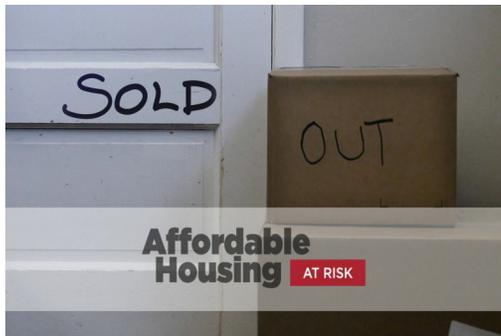


**COMMUNITY FILM NIGHT  
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 22 @ 7PM**

**MN VALLEY UU FELLOWSHIP  
10715 ZENITH AVE SOUTH  
BLOOMINGTON, MN 55431**



SPONSORED BY BHC



**SOLD OUT: AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT RISK**

Affordable housing is under constant threat from changing economic forces and urban development that break up vital communities. Low-income residents have fewer and fewer options, and local businesses and schools must deal with the impact of losing those families. Produced with the MN Housing Partnership.

## BEYOND SUNDAY MORNING - "BUILDING COMMUNITY"

These small informal get-togethers are opportunities to get to know each other better and discuss a wide variety of topics. (*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. (Sept 7 & 21, Oct 5 & 19)

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. Take the exit toward Vernon Ave / W 50th / Eden Ave. (Sept 18) *Depending on attendance, this one might not continue to be offered after September.*

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. (Sept 26, Oct 24)

Come when and as often as you like. No need to RSVP. Invite others who might be interested. 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.



Do you order from Amazon.com?  
If so, they will contribute to MVUUF  
for each order you place.  
Go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://Smile.Amazon.com) to set it up.



## WOMEN'S GROUP



Women's Group will meet **Saturday, October 7, 2017** at 10:15 for coffee and socializing in the Social Hall.

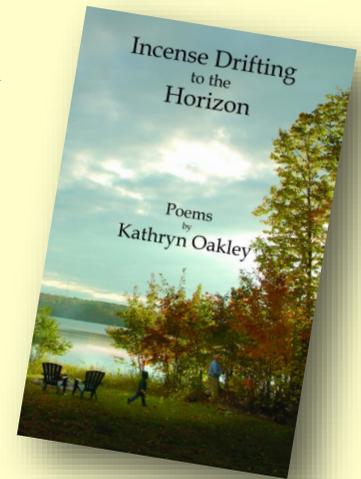
We welcome all MVUUF women, whether members or non-members, to attend our monthly meetings. We meet the first Saturday of each month from October through May. Program begins at 10:30.



Our opening speaker will be **Kathryn Oakley** who has written *Incense Drifting to the Horizon: Poems*. This is a collection of poems where Minnesota writer Kathryn Oakley holds up a perceptive, vivid, and sometimes humorous mirror to the joys and sorrows, beauty and awkwardness of our humanity. She is a member of Unity Church-Unitarian in St. Paul. She is a friend of Kat Janes who will introduce her.

A catered lunch is offered after the meeting for \$7.00. Nancy Buckman will e-mail you and you can respond to her notice if you want lunch. Feel free to bring your own lunch if you wish.

- Carmen Herzog and Eve Bergmann, co-chairs



## EVENING BOOK GROUP



Summer and all its glories and annoyances is here in full force. Do you find road construction trapping you? Does the heat you dreamed about in January, now seem stifling? Too many days of 90 degree plus temperatures keeping you indoors? Reading a good book may alleviate the doldrums. Our group is here to help. Our list follows. If you find a book that interests you, read it and join the Evening Book Group for a lively discussion. We also have cookies. The choices, alternating fiction and nonfiction, are:

-  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 meets 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).



## THE KITCHEN

On most Sundays (September – May) right after service, there are hot beverages and snacks available downstairs. Come down to socialize and get to know each other.

Now, to have this available we do need your help. Volunteers (individuals, families and children) are needed to make coffee and plug in the teapot and/or take turns to bring some treats (which can be store bought or homemade) and / or stay after to help clean up and wash some dishes (mostly cups). There is a signup sheet downstairs by or on the snack table.



## RELIGION, ETHICS, AND

**Religion, Ethics, and Ideas will meet on Sunday, September 10 at 9:00 AM in the Fireside room.**



We will talk about potential topics for the coming year and, time permitting, we will pick a topic to discuss.

All members of the congregation are invited to attend.

- *Questions contact John Peloquin.*



**Like us on Facebook**

Use social media to keep track of happenings at MVUUF and the UU movement. To do that, “like” the MVUUF organizational Facebook page.

Here’s how:  
 Visit [www.facebook.com/mnvalleyuu](http://www.facebook.com/mnvalleyuu).  
 When the page appears, click the small white “Like” box with the thumbs up icon, located in the large horizontal cover photo at the top of the page.



You’re not done yet! Now, to receive ongoing notices whenever new content is published on our Facebook page – that happens often – hover your cursor over that same white “Like” box, or click the tiny downward facing arrow there, to reveal a pull-down menu.

When that appears, click the words **“Get Notifications.”**

*Now you are in the  
MVUUF Facebook loop!*

### 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       | Eva Mach      | (651) 226-5949<br>emach@pro-tecdesign.com  |
| Chair-elect & Board Member | Kelley Hughes | (952) 831-0032<br>uukelley@hotmail.com     |
| Secretary & Board Member   | David Olson   | (952) 888-6527<br>olson199@umn.edu         |
| Treasurer                  | Dale Lewellyn | (952) 432-9459<br>treasurer@mnvalleyuu.org |

**BOARD WORKGROUPS**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Zimmer Property | Doug Bruce, Mark Clary, Steve Danko, Eva Mach |
|-----------------|---|

**MVUUF STANDING COMMITTEES**

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

**BOARD TRUSTEES**

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| Trustee & Board Member | Max Chessler    | (952) 388-1186<br>maxchessler@gmail.com    |
| Trustee & Board Member | Judith Anderson | (952) 941-7047<br>andersonkj@earthlink.net |
| Trustee & Board Member | Tom Schoenbauer | 952-808-7714<br>tschoenbauer@hotmail.com   |
| Trustee & Board Member | Diane Bick      | 952-250-9559<br>dianeebick@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**  
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**Youth Coordinator**  
Wendy Gorman

**Office Manager**  
Kay Lewis, office@mnvalleyuu.org

**Custodian & Operations**  
Mark Clary, cust@mnvalleyuu.org

**Internet**  
Home Page: www.mnvalleyuu.org  
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 ~ SEPTEMBER 2017

| Sun  | Mon                         | Tue | Wed   | Thu                          | Fri  | Sat                          |
|--|-----------------------------|-----|---|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 27<br>Rev. Laura on Vacation<br>10:30am Sunday Service                             | 28                          | 29  | 30<br>6:30pm Choir Rehearsal                            | 31                           | Sep 1  | 2                            |
| 3<br>10:30am Sunday Service  | 4                           | 5   | 6<br>6:30pm Beloved Convers<br>6:30pm Choir Rehearsal   | 7<br>1pm Beyond Sunday Mo    | 8<br>10:15am Blue Highways<br>7pm Friday Night Poker | 9                            |
| 10<br>9am Religion, Ethics, an<br>10:30am Sunday Service<br>11:45am Sunday Discuss | 11<br>7pm Finance Committee | 12  | 13<br>6:30pm Choir Rehearsal<br>7pm Board of Trustees M | 14<br>10:30am Women's Book c | 15   | 16<br>1pm Bridge Club        |
| 17<br>10:30am Sunday Service   | 18<br>10am Beyond Sunday M  | 19  | 20<br>6:30pm Choir Rehearsal                            | 21<br>1pm Beyond Sunday Mo   | 22<br>10:15am Blue Highways                          | 23                           |
| 24<br>10:30am Sunday Service   | 25<br>1pm Beyond Sunday Mo  | 26  | 27<br>6:30pm Choir Rehearsal                            | 28                           | 29<br>5:30pm Beloved Convers                         | 30<br>8am Beloved Conversati |


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