

## MINISTER'S COLUMN

REVEREND LAURA THOMPSON

### JANUARY'S THEME : INTENTION

*Coming from the Latin word intentionem, intention literally means a stretching out, a stretching out of mind, of heart, of body, of spirit. When we set an intention, we are turning our attention toward something, or someone, or some idea, and stretching out to meet it.*

At the start of a new year, we often find ourselves examining where we've been and where we would like to go. Though this is a common yearly event, it is a bit peculiar. We treat this time as though it were the end of one time and the beginning of a new time; one more trip around the sun. But it's not as though anything has really ended or started. We are still spinning endlessly, timelessly around in circles. The question is not how will you finish or start a year marked in time, but how will you engage the constant spinning that is our lives?

We have certainly all had times in our lives where the spinning leaves us dizzy, off-balance, and disoriented. In those times we lose not only focus, but sometimes trust that we might ever regain our focus. In those times, perhaps the only hope we have is our **intention**. Our intention gives us back our footing and our focus. With our intentions set right, we do not fall or stumble, but rather we too spin like whirling dervishes dancing in communion with all of the fervent energy of the world rather than being knocked over by it.

And so we pause, not to mark a literal beginning or end, but to take stock of our intentions. Where have they led us? What has left us off-balance? What intentions are calling you and calling our community? Every minute of every day offers us an invitation to let go of our restraints and dance with this ever spinning experience we call life. The best intentions that could be are asking you to dance. How will you answer?

In faith and joy,  
Rev. Laura

## SUNDAY PROGRAMS

### — SUNDAY, JANUARY 7 —

**10:30am: Resolutions, Intentions, and Forming New Habits**  
Habits shape our lives far more than many of us realize. Of course there are good habits and bad habits. How can we break our bad habits and set our intentions on forming good habits which help us to more fully live our principles and values? **With Rev. Laura Thompson and Worship Associate Janet Stevens**

### — SUNDAY, JANUARY 14 —

**9:00am: Religion Ethics and Ideas: Sexual Harassment**

Our topic will be Sexual Harassment. Due to the sensitive nature of the topic everyone who attends is asked to listen respectfully as well as express their thoughts. A moderator will be present to ask everyone to raise their hand if they want to speak or ask a question so that everyone is heard. All adults in the fellowship are invited and welcome to attend. For questions, contact John Peloquin at [john17780@charter.net](mailto:john17780@charter.net).

**10:30am: Food for Thought: MLK Weekend of Service**

Following a day of community service projects on Saturday, we will have a short ingathering service in the sanctuary and then set off for a shared time of fellowship over brunch. Please see event listing in newsletter for further details and be sure to sign up early for the events that you want to participate in.

### — SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 —

**10:30am: Edict of Torda: A Celebration of Religious Tolerance**

In 1568 King Sigismund, a Unitarian, issued the Edict of Torda which declared religious freedom in the Kingdom of Hungary. Join us as we delve into the history of this event on its 450th anniversary and explore its meaning to us today. **With Rev. Laura Thompson**

### — SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 —

**10:30am: Cabbage Town**

Class bias among Unitarian Universalists has often been seen and an impenetrable reality of our association. Is it or can we explore why? This sermon will explore the history and current realities of class bias in America and pose some suggestions to address this schism. **With guest speaker Rev. Karen Hutt and Worship Associate Eve Bergmann**

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: EXPLORING INTENTION

### ARTICLES —

#### Am I in the River?

Mike Johnson

<https://findingourwayhome.blog/2015/10/27/am-i-in-the-river/>

#### Intentionally Talking to Our Children About Difference

Miguel Clark Mallet

<http://www.upworthy.com/a-viral-video-celebrating-kids-who-dont-see-difference-may-be-missing-a-larger-point?c=upw1&u=41aa6fc0057fcfd850d917bc669deaf216c544e>

#### Intentional Mealtime—UTNE Reader

<http://www.utne.com/mind-and-body/mindful-eating-ze0z1211zsau>

### BOOKS —

#### The Power of Habit

Charles Duhigg

#### The Art of Pilgrimage

Phil Cousineau

#### Where We Belong

Hoda Kotb

#### The Miracle of Mindfulness

Thich Nhat Hanh

### VIDEOS —

#### What is Your Purpose in Life?

People Ages 6—100 Answer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mK66az43EOI&t=26s>

#### Living with Intent—TED Talk

Mallika Chopra

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTwRlzl3NYI>

### SONGS & MUSIC —

#### One Life

James Morrison

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bq4Ljc6eVKs>

#### Today I'm Gonna Try and Change the World

Cover of song written by Johnny Reid

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccm\\_6HwIUbs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccm_6HwIUbs)

#### Landslide

Stevie Nicks and Lindsey Buckingham

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IsQ7cuYgizw>

### MOVIES —

42 (PG-13)

Field of Dreams (PG)

Billy Elliot (R)

Ratatouille (G)

### MVUUF Office Hours

#### Minister

Rev. Laura Thompson

minister@mnvalleyuu.org

(612) 216-4203

Mondays: Off

Tues-Thur: Office Days\*

Friday: Writing Day (Offsite)

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

(612) 216-4224

Monday / Wednesday / Friday

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

#### Office Administrator

Tristan Jones

office@mnvalleyuu.org

(952) 884-8956 (Fellowship Phone)

(612) 216-4113 (Direct Line)

Monday - Thursday

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Please call or email ahead to make sure we don't have another appointment when you come in.

## Wise Words

It is not enough to be busy. So are the ants. The question is: What are you busy about?

-Henry David Thoreau

A person will worship something, have no doubt about that. We may think our tribute is paid in secret in the dark recesses of our hearts, but it will out. That which dominates our imaginations and our thoughts will determine our lives, and our character. Therefore, it behooves us to be careful what we worship, for what we are worshipping we are becoming.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Before you tell your life what you intend to do with it, listen for what it intends to do with you. Before you tell your life what truths and values you have decided to live up to, let your life tell you what truths you embody, what values you represent.

-Parker J. Palmer

# MLK WEEKEND OF SERVICE

JANUARY 13TH & 14TH

Join us Saturday for a day of service and come back Sunday for a quick ingathering followed by brunch and reflection on what it means to be a community of service.



## Service Projects

JANUARY 13TH

VEAP - 9:30 am

**Feed My Starving Children** - 9:00am - 11:00am - Meet at their Eagan Location  
(990 Lone Oak Road, Suite 136, Eagan, MN 55121)

**Blankets for Homeless Youth** - 10:00am - 12:00pm

**CLFUU Prison Ministry** - 10:00am - 12:00pm

**Saturday Brunch Prep** - 10:00am - 12:00pm

JANUARY 14TH

Sunday Brunch Cooking Crew - 8:00am-11:00am

Sunday Clean-up Crew - 11:30am-1:00pm

All projects meet at MVUUF unless otherwise specified.

**For more information or to sign  
up, visit our SignUpGenius at:  
[http://www.signupgenius.com/go/  
20f054baba929a2fb6-mlkweekend](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f054baba929a2fb6-mlkweekend)**

**Questions? Contact Tristan at  
[office@mnvalleyuu.org](mailto:office@mnvalleyuu.org)**





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Women's Group

**Saturday, January 6th**  
**10:30am in the Social Hall**

We will meet at 10:15am for coffee and socializing in the Social Hall. The program begins at 10:30. Our speaker will be MVUUF member Kerry Hanifl, who will be speaking about her family's experience living in India.

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 would like lunch, or you can e-mail her directly at [nancybmnuu@gmail.com](mailto:nancybmnuu@gmail.com). If not, feel free to bring your own lunch.

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.

### Men's Group

**Thursday, January 11th**  
**7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall**

This month our speakers will be MVUUF members Kerry Hanifl and Gregg Rappe, who set off in 2014 with their three children to embark on a two-year adventure in India. Their home base was Woodstock International School in the foothills of the Himalayan Mountains where they immersed themselves in the community but also managed time to trek the mountains and travel to other countries in Asia. Come hear their accounts of their travels and their take on India and its many faces.

Dinner will be offered before the talk. If you wish to come to dinner, sign up in the basement and come at 6:30pm. If you only want to hear the speakers, come at 7:00pm.

## HEAR YE, HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

**The Democratic Process (UU 5th Principle)**  
**in Minnesota 2018**

Come to a special, non-partisan 45 -minute intergenerational workshop on the "3 Steps" of Minnesota's 2018 democratic process for major parties: Caucuses, Conventions, and Voting! Get in the know, save those dates, get ready to own your government, and practice how it works! Will you be the party of cake or ice cream? Do you like vanilla, chocolate, or strawberry? Imagine if we all had to choose one type of dessert for EVERYONE TO SHARE?

Our Fifth Principle as Unitarian Universalists calls us to affirm "the democratic process." Everyone matters.

**FOR:** Everyone! (Recommended Ages 10-100)

**WHEN:** Sunday, January 28, 9:30 -10:30 am in the Youth Room

**REPEATED:** Thursday, Feb 1, 7:00 pm in the Social Hall

**CONTACT:** Karen Wills, Social Action Committee member  
612-270-6559

If you have questions, contact Bill M c M a r t i n a t [billmcmartin@gmail.com](mailto:billmcmartin@gmail.com) or John Peloquin at [john17780@charter.net](mailto:john17780@charter.net).

### Religion Ethics and Ideas

**Sunday, January 14th**  
**9:00 am in the Fireside Room**

Our topic will be Sexual Harassment. Due to the sensitive nature of the topic everyone who attends is asked to listen respectfully as well as express their thoughts. A moderator will be present to ask everyone to raise their hand if they want to speak or ask a question so that everyone is heard. All adults in the fellowship are invited and welcome to attend. For questions, contact John Peloquin at [john17780@charter.net](mailto:john17780@charter.net).





## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

### Happy New Year Everyone!

I am very excited about 2018. We have officially called Rev. Laura as our settled minister, we are about to do some serious and meaningful work on our mission and vision, and there are many other good things happening. It is encouraging to see over one hundred attendees on Sundays and there are new ideas being brought up and people volunteering to turn them into reality. We are indeed an oasis and a beacon of liberal religion! Since I am short on time, I will share a winter poem by my favorite poet, Emily Dickinson.

It sifts from leaden sieves,  
It powders all the wood,  
It fills with alabaster wool  
The wrinkles of the road.

It makes an even face  
Of mountain and of plain, —  
Unbroken forehead from the east

Unto the east again.

It reaches to the fence,  
It wraps it, rail by rail,  
Till it is lost in fleeces;  
It flings a crystal veil

On stump and stack and stem, —  
The summer's empty room,  
Acres of seams where harvests were,  
Recordless, but for them.  
It ruffles wrists of posts,  
As ankles of a queen, —  
Then stills its artisans like ghosts,  
Denying they have been.

*Eva Mach, Chair*

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

## DECEMBER BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The Board met on Wednesday, December 13th.

Karen Wills presented an idea for "The Zenith Coffee House", a monthly Friday evening activity with the goal to inform, mobilize and unite the liberal progressive South Metro community. Social Action would be the sponsor of this and Karen Wills is willing to be responsible for organizing and monitoring the activity. The Board agreed that this would be a good idea and asked Karen and Social Action to provide further details related to food, security and potential City of Bloomington issues.

Don Park presented on behalf of the Endowment Committee. The committee wants to streamline the grant application process now that the fund has exceeded \$25,000.00 and can distribute 4% to fund church initiatives. The Board asked the committee to craft the proposed by-law change and present it to the Board.

Don also reported on a grant the UUA received from Shelter Rock congregation to promote legacy giving. The grant applies to new bequests and increases of existing bequests only. The grant will fund an immediate 10% release to the congregation with no restrictions on spending. Illustration: if a congregation receives a \$10,000.00 Endowment bequest, the grant will provide a \$1,000.00 current contribution to the congregation. This will not be deducted in any way from the \$10,000.00 future bequest. The Endowment Committee will provide further recommendation to the Board.

For further details, please read the official meeting minutes.

**Next Board Meeting Date: January 10th, 2018 at 7:00PM**

# Do You Ever Wonder...



Who are we?

Why does MVUUF exist?

Why do you and I come here?

What is it we stand for and seek to accomplish?

MVUUF is not just a community or a social gathering! We have a purpose and a sense of mission and goals for what we want to be in the future. It's time to update our Mission and Vision Statements and Bill Clontz from Stewardship for U will be conducting a SEARCH FOR THE FUTURE workshop to assist us.

Take a half day Saturday and join us.

**Date:** Saturday, February 23, 2018

**Time:** 8:30am - 12:45pm

**Location:** MVUUF

**COME HELP DEFINE WHO WE ARE  
AND SHAPE OUR FUTURE!**



## HANIFL GRANT UPDATE

With the introduction of the new hearing assist system, a number of members have asked for a recap of the **Hanifl Foundation Growth Grant** that we were generously awarded last summer, what the goals of the grant were, and what they might see changing at the Fellowship supported by the grant.

Because this is a growth grant, we are hoping to use these funds to increase membership to offset the decline we suffered due to the difficulties of the last three years. Over that period we experienced a 15-20% decrease in our membership, leading to budget issues and forcing us to reduce our support of the UUA and MidAmerica Region UUA, freeze staff wages, and delay/reduce technology upgrades and necessary maintenance of the building.

To help us to get past this difficult period, the Hanifl Foundation gave us a \$100,000 two-year grant to assist us in updating our technology and increasing our staffing and UUA consulting support.

With part of the grant our goal is to update technology in numerous areas. Our most visible technological improvement so far has been our new hearing assist system, which was introduced last month. We also plan to update our website and recently signed a contract for redesign of our site in Wordpress. Wordpress websites are easier to update and maintain, which will allow us to keep our virtual front door as appealing and accessible as possible. We are also beginning the process of livestreaming our services on the internet, which would allow anyone to watch our services from anywhere in the world. There are many upgrades and improvements required to do this, including improving our building wiring and wireless networks as well as acquiring cameras and new control and mixing boards. We plan to go live on this in the next church year.

Another visible change is the addition of Tristan Jones in the role of Office Manager and Membership Coordinator. This position includes responsibilities from the previous Office Manager position, but also has added responsibilities for membership support both for visitors and new members. The expansion of this position is being subsidized by the Grant.

Finally, the grant has also supported our utilization of UUA consulting to help improve our programming and the administrative functions of the Fellowship. This support began last spring with the Next Steps Visit from UUA Consultant Bill Clontz. During this visit, he reviewed all key areas of the Fellowship and gave us a report, which we sent via e-mail to all members. Since then, we have continued to work with Bill. Currently he is supporting the Stewardship Committee as well as planning work in Mission and Vision Development and Strategic Planning.

The grant has been a wonderful gift to the Fellowship, enabling us to leap into the future in the areas of technology, membership support, and our daily functioning. Their support is already assisting many members and the gains from the grant will be numerous over the next few years and felt far into the future. I would like to publicly thank the Foundation for their vision and support.

**Steve Danko**

*Hanifl Grant Committee Member*



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER

JAN FITZGERALD, DRE

My three children participated in Secret Friends (now called **Special Friends**). This positive experience helped them develop long term friendships with adults in our Fellowship. They exchanged letters, learned about each other, and then finally met each other with much excitement on a cold, February morning. My children still talk about their experiences today and how much it meant to them. They were able to make a special connection with another adult which was so essential for them.

Please take the time this year to sign up to be a special friend whether you are an adult or a child. It is so exciting for the children to receive

letters in the mail these days and they can't wait to drop their letter into the Special Friends box. The adults are given a special name to use and will be provided with the real name and address of a child (age 5 or older) who has also signed up. During January and February, adults write letters to the children, asking the children to describe themselves, their likes and dislikes. Adults sign their letters using their special names. Children write back, not knowing exactly who their special friend is, but asking leading questions in hopes of finding out. It is great if adults can use the U.S. Mail, but it isn't necessary so letters can be deposited in the Special Friends box at the Fellowship.

Children and adults eagerly await the Special Friends Breakfast so they can finally meet their Special Friends. The breakfast will be at **8:45 am on Sunday, February 25**. If you want to be a special friend, make sure you plan to be at the breakfast. We also need many helpers with the breakfast so check the list downstairs on the wall above the counter and find a way to help out that Sunday morning. It is a great time and a richly rewarding experience for all involved.

**REMINDER** – The Winter Unit starts up again on **January 7**.

## MUSICAL NOTES

SONJA JOHNSTON, MINISTER OF MUSIC

I'm sure I was smiling during the entire Holiday Music Sunday! I love hearing all our usual participants plus some new, young people. To the young people: Keep playing and practicing; you'll never regret it. This advice comes from someone who has been playing and practicing piano for 75 years – REALLY!

If you are interested in being a part of the music at MVUUF, please talk to me. I know there are other musicians and singers in the congregation because some of you have expressed an interest in joining the choir or the chorale or playing an instrument for a Sunday service. The choir rehearses Wednesdays at 6:30 and Sundays at 9:15. The chorale rehearses the second and fourth Saturdays of the month at 10:30. Hope to see you there!

May you all have a healthy, happy 2018!

**Sonja Johnston**

*Minister of Music*

## VEAP

We are still collecting non-food items for the MLK weekend volunteer event on Saturday, January 13th. Toilet paper, diapers, wet wipes, feminine hygiene products, laundry detergent, and dish soap are suggested items.



We also need 20-30 volunteers to transport the products to VEAP and to then repackage the items for placement on the product shelves. Children are not allowed to volunteer so older teens and adults are needed. Volunteers should arrive at the church by 9:30 am on the 13th to load up their vehicles. We will then drive to VEAP, unload the cars and then repackage the items as directed by VEAP staff.

In the meantime, those of you who would like to donate canned or packaged food items may still do so. I will be taking food items and paper bags to VEAP as they arrive.

**Lorna Prell**





## MEMBERSHIP AT MVUUF

TRISTAN JONES, MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

### New Member Profile: Mark Lofgren and Polly Sonifer

In November, we welcomed **six new members** to MVUUF during our New Member Sunday! Because each member of our congregation brings something special and meaningful to our community, I wanted to take some time each month to highlight one (or two) of our newest members and introduce them to you. This month, please welcome **Mark Lofgren** and **Polly Sonifer**.



Mark and Polly live in Savage, where they have lived together since they married 11 years ago. Both have lived in the Twin Cities most of their lives, although they were both born in other states. Mark has worked most of his life in the construction industry. He owned his own cabinet business for about 10 years and currently works for a small company in Lonsdale that builds the interiors of restaurants like Hard Rock, Outback, and Olive Garden. Polly has worked in many different roles in non-profits and finally ended up in Corporate America. She currently works in the Quality Department of an aerospace company in Burnsville. Polly has two adult children from her first marriage, both adopted from India as infants. Tony, now 33, works as a butcher at a food co-op in Eagan. Crystal, 29, is a single mom to her adorable three-year-old, Serenity.

Mark and Polly's shared passions in life include tennis and travel. They have traveled to Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru, New Zealand, and all over the US. In 2018, they will head off for three weeks in India and Nepal! Their individual passions are quite different; Mark is a guitarist and singer, having grown up in a very musical family. Polly's creativity is focused on fabrics and fiber. She especially enjoys repurposing items that have reached the end of their life.

Both Mark and Polly have also had a physical re-birth. Mark was plagued for 15 years by chronic back pain, which was finally resolved by his fourth back surgery. This allowed him to resume his active life playing tennis and live free of pain medications. Polly endured severe hearing loss in both ears, leading to an isolated life of silence. Thanks for a cochlear implant, she has rejoined the hearing world, although still with many limitations in noisy environments. If you see her standing alone in the foyer, feel free to pull her into a quieter room to have a conversation. She's actually very social; just unable to hear sufficiently amid dozens of conversations.

Their journey to MVUUF has been a meandering one. Mark's family occasionally went to a UU church, but mostly they read the New York Times on Sunday mornings. Polly was raised in a conservative Lutheran church, which she finally escaped in her mid-20's. After they married, they joined the Dakota UU church in Burnsville for a few years, as well as belonging to Open Circle Brethren Church. Both of those communities proved to be too tiny to hold their interest. They came to MVUUF seeking connection with like-minded searchers. Mark is already connected to the musicians, while Polly has found a place facilitating Beloved Conversations. As they head into retirement in 2018, they look forward to being more involved at MVUUF.



Join us for our next **Membership Committee Meeting** on Sunday, January 28th at 11:30am in the Fireside Room.

Questions? Contact Tristan Jones at [office@mnvalleyuu.org](mailto:office@mnvalleyuu.org).



## STEWARDSHIP



**GIFT** or **G**oing **I**nto the **F**uture **T**ogether is the backbone of the 2017-18 stewardship campaign.

A **GIFT** from the Hanifl Foundation to MVUUF in the form of a two-year grant opens a unique opportunity to focus on long-term financial stability or stewardship.

### Why is this important?

Because stewardship creates the foundation that programming, staffing and brick and mortar depend on. It ensures that MVUUF is strong and vibrant for future generations.

Building a good foundation requires Stewardship to be a year-round effort with a standing committee instead of a six-week campaign, as in the past. As we **Go Into the Future Together** we **WILL** think about, and talk about, stewardship more often and more deeply this year. We will **NOT** harangue people, use guilt, or any of those other negatives too often associated with money and religious groups. We **ARE** going to celebrate our successes and good fortune, step up to living our values, and be honest with each other.

That, too, is a **GIFT**.

## COMMITTEES

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE RESOURCE COMMITTEE

The Congregational Care NETWORK is comprised of all members and friends at MVUUF who reach out to each other in times of need, crisis, sadness, or celebration. The Congregational Care COMMITTEE is responsible for connecting members and friends of the Fellowship who have a need or a request at such times with members and friends who have volunteered to help fill those specific needs. We are a committee of seven, and we need your **HELP!** This is a full-congregational activity.

The Congregational Care Committee coordinates help with rides, food, child care, pet care, visits to shut-ins, and so much more. It also maintains a list of friends who offer short term help. We welcome you to join this important congregational function and encourage you to look for future sign-up opportunities. Call anyone on the committee if you have questions. We're confident you will find it gratifying.

The MVUUF Congregational Care Resource Network

Bobbie Gish	952-941-4417	<a href="mailto:bobbie002@comcast.net">bobbie002@comcast.net</a>
Carmen Herzog	952-831-7988	<a href="mailto:carmilher@aol.com">carmilher@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>
Ruth Keely	952-237-7136	<a href="mailto:raipkeely@gmail.com">raipkeely@gmail.com</a>





## ENDOWMENT

### UUA “Wake Now Our Vision” Program (10% Match of Legacy Gifts)

The UUA has received a \$5,000,000 grant from the Shelter Rock Congregation to incentivize legacy giving to UU organizations (like MVUUF). The full details of how this works are best found at [wakenowourvision.org](http://wakenowourvision.org). You can also contact Laura Randall, Legacy Campaign Director, via e-mail at [lrlandall@uua.org](mailto:lrlandall@uua.org) or by phone at (617) 948-6511 for more information. I'll summarize the program here.

People who include a UU organization in their estate plans – wills, trusts, charitable gift annuities (such as a UUA charitable gift annuity), beneficiary designations of an IRA, 401(k), or 403(b) for example – would submit an easily completed form to the UUA. The UU organization will “immediately” receive 10% of the value of the legacy gift from the UUA grant. (By “immediately” the UUA means mid 2019 to sometime in 2020.) Of course the full value of the legacy gift will go to the organization in the end as well. Gifts that we already

have on record do not qualify, but any increase will qualify both the previous donation value and the additional value.

If you have been thinking of including MVUUF in your estate planning, now is a wonderful time to take action. Simpler methods work too such as including MVUUF as a beneficiary to an IRA, 401(k), or 403(b). Of course it's best to do this in conjunction with a competent financial planner or another qualified person.

This is not current giving. It's a proportion of what you have saved over a lifetime that you would like to leave as a legacy to further the mission and vision of MVUUF.

Rita Phillips is the first MVUUF member to participate in the program. She found it was easy to do, and was pleased that MVUUF will get an immediate benefit.

Any member of the endowment committee – Don Park, Delores Roeder, Marv Gish, Kat Janes, or Glenn Corliss – would be happy to talk to you about this. Don, Delores, and Glenn were able to attend a seminar covering this topic last June. They can provide additional information as well as a form required by the UUA that gives details of your gift.

## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

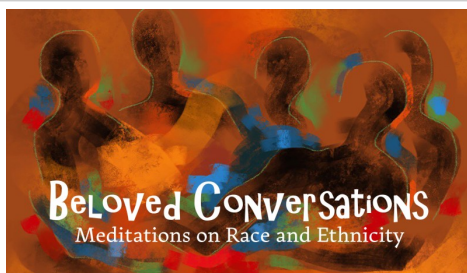
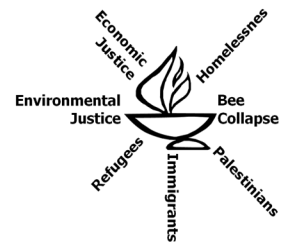
Megan Duffy Sananikone, Chair

## GET INVOLVED!

Our next committee meeting is  
**Monday January 8th, 6:30pm in the Fireside Room.**

The Social Action Committee meets the second Monday of each month from  
6:30-8:30 PM.

All are welcome to attend the meetings!



**Beloved Conversations** is having their first alumni meeting on **Sunday, January 7th at 11:30am** in the Fireside Room. This will be the first alumni meeting and they will be discussing future actions resulting from the training they have received.



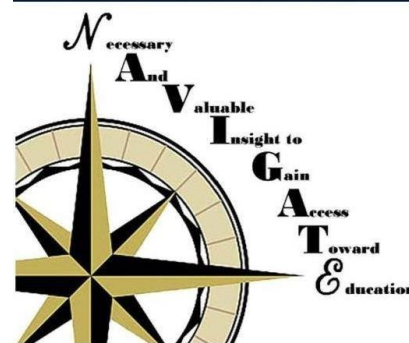
## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Continued

### JANUARY SUNDAY SHARING: NAVIGATE MN

NAVIGATE was created to address the growing need for resources that help immigrant students, regardless of immigration status, in Minnesota to pursue higher education.

Our team is made up of college students ranging from freshman to seniors and graduates of high schools and universities. Each member of NAVIGATE brings different skills, experiences, and ideas to the organization. We strive for fair consideration of all immigrants in pursuit of higher education. We have focused our work on addressing the lack of information and bad information that currently exists in MN schools around immigrant students' right and means to pursue a college education.



### THIS OLD EARTH

*This Old Earth* ([www.thisoldearth.com](http://www.thisoldearth.com)) started up in mid-2016 to highlight topics surrounding the increasingly grave threat to Earth's biosphere posed by irresponsible human-directed activities. Climate change stood at the head of the list of threats. The Paris Climate Accord had just been reached, and we were looking forward to a long, hard slough ahead, cutting fossil fuel emissions to the bone.



Then, the November election heaped a tall speed bump across our path toward restoration of our habitat. The largest "contributor" to climate change – the U.S.A. – was now headed by a man who had pledged to withdraw from the Paris Accord, and was intent to roll back all progressive advances of recent decades, particularly those identified with President Obama. Worse yet, the Government was now in the hands of a single party which exploits and enables his authoritarian urges. Given this unfortunate turn of events, advocates for a habitable Earth now have two hot spots to address: confronting the clear and present danger of "bad apples" infest-

ing our Government; and dealing with the ever-present specter of an uninhabitable Earth.

I believe that we are best served when each of us chooses to address the area of concern which most animates us. The A.C.L.U., MN350, Greenpeace, and MoveOn, to name only a few, are eager to welcome new friends – whether we donate time, energy, and talent, or simply write them a check. They will be very grateful. So will your grandchildren.

Happy New Year!

Ed Prell - <https://thisoldearth.com/>

## CLASSES & GROUPS

### BRIDGE GROUP

**December bridge will be on Saturday, January 20th 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 at 952-937-5905, or [bnehanson@comcast.net](mailto:bnehanson@comcast.net).

**Come join the fun!**

- Barbara Hanson, Coordinator





## BEYOND SUNDAY MORNING - "BUILDING COMMUNITY"

These are small informal 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".) We meet on:

- **1ST AND 3RD THURSDAYS** each month from 1:00-2:30 pm at the Edina Panera, located on 3345 Hazelton Rd next to JoAnn Fabrics and across from Target. (January 4 & 18, February 1 & 15, March 1 & 15)
- **4TH TUESDAY** each month from 1:00-2:30 pm at Jojo's Rise and Wine, located on Nicollet Ave between Route 13 and Burnsville Pkwy in Burnsville. (January 23rd, February 27th, March 27th)

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.

## EVENING BOOK GROUP

The best way to unwind after a busy holiday season is to grab a book (or Kindle) and find a quiet spot to settle in. January is a month of deep breathing and renewal. No more feeling guilty about all the stuff you need to do. If you need ideas for books, feel free to use our reading list and join us lively (and informative) discussions. Alternating fiction and nonfiction, our upcoming choices are:

- January 16, 2018— *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right* by Arlie Russell Hochschild
- February 20, 2018— *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng
- March 20, 2018— *Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America* by James Foreman, Jr.
- April 17, 2018— *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas
- May 15, 2018— *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* by Matthew Desmond

The Evening Book Group meets throughout the year on the third Tuesday of every month in the Fireside Room at **7:00pm**. 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).

## YOGA

Join us for a gentle yoga class open to all. No preparation or experience needed— just bring a mat and wear comfortable clothes! We meet on **Wednesdays at 5:00pm** and **Saturdays at 9:00am**. Classes cost \$4 each, or you can buy a set of 15 classes for \$50.

This session, we are meeting for classes on the following dates:

Saturdays:

- January 6th
- February 3rd, 10th, and 17th

Wednesdays:

- January 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 31st
- February 7th and 14th

**This means we will not be having class on January 13th, 20th, 24th, and 27th.**

Direct any questions to Fran Bohlke, Yoga instructor — email : [bryawnte@msn.com](mailto:bryawnte@msn.com)



## NOTES TO THE COMMUNITY



Between welcoming Rev. Laura as our next settled Minister, our fantastic Holiday Music Sunday, and two warm and well-attended Christmas Eve services, MVUUF left 2017 on a very high and hopeful note. Join us in greeting 2018 with the intention of continuing our important work and making MVUUF a vital and vibrant part of our community.

Are you friendly? Do you like meeting new people and helping them feel welcome at MVUUF? Then we have the perfect volunteer opportunity for you! **We are currently looking for volunteers to be Greeters on Sunday mornings.** We ask Greeters to commit to volunteering one Sunday a month from about 10:00am until after the service. You will be paired up with a team of other volunteers, so don't worry about being alone! If you are interested or want more information, please e-mail Tristan at [office@mnvalleyuu.org](mailto:office@mnvalleyuu.org) to let him know which Sundays you are available.

No experience? Don't worry! We will be having an instructional meeting on Sunday, January 21st right after the service to demonstrate the ins and outs of greeting or being an usher, and to answer any questions. If you are planning to come to the meeting, please let Tristan know by e-mailing him at [office@mnvalleyuu.org](mailto:office@mnvalleyuu.org).

### The Kitchen

After the Sunday services, come downstairs to socialize and get to know each other. Usually there are hot beverages and snacks available.

Now, to have these beverages and snacks, 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. There is a signup sheet downstairs by or on the snack table.



### NAME BADGES



Please wear your name badges on Sunday mornings. If you need either a new one or a replacement, look for the signup sheet in the entrance hall. In case you don't know or remember, the colored dots indicate where you live. Besides being colorful, they can be conversation starters! Look for someone else who has the same dot as you and talk about how close you live.

**BOARD OFFICERS OF THE FELLOWSHIP**

Chair & Board Member	Eva Mach	(651) 226-5949 emach@pro-tecdesign.com
Chair-elect & Board Member	Kelley Hughes	(952) 831-0032 uukelley@hotmail.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
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**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 luzcatz@comcast.net
Archives	Beverly Schmidt Kathy Eager	(952) 884-7262 gypsyleap@gmail.com (952) 888.8427 Kathy@darrelleager.com
Congregational Care	Jan Wolff	(952) 888-4283 junebug5391@comcast.net
Committee on Shared Ministry	Tom Ehlinger	(612) 840-8905 tomehlinger@gmail.com
Endowment	Don Park	(612) 836-8485 donfpark@comcast.net
Finance	Steve Danko	(952) 884-9099 jsg@jsgalleries.com
Kitchen	Nancy Buckman	(952) 736-9586 nancybmnuu@gmail.com
Membership	Tristan Jones	(612) 216-4113 office@mnvalleyuu.org
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	(612) 382-2654 Meganduffysananikone@gmail.com
Stewardship	Jeanne Simpson	(612) 239-1240 jems.ellen@gmail.com
Technology	Richard Duffin	(707) 696-6406 rwduffin@comcast.net

**BOARD TRUSTEES**

Trustee & Board Member	Max Chester	(952) 388-1186 maxchessler@gmail.com
Trustee & Board Member	Judith Anderson	(952) 941-7047 andersonkj@earthlink.net
Trustee & Board Member	Tom Schoenbauer	952-808-7714 tschoenbauer@hotmail.com
Trustee & Board Member	Diane Bick	952-250-9559 dianeebick@gmail.com

**MVUUF**

**Office Phone Number  
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**Custodian & Operations**

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**Internet**

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/mnvalleyuu

**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 ~ JANUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 10:30am Sunday Service	Jan 1	2	3 5pm Yoga Class 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4 9:30am Women's Spiritu 1pm Beyond Sunday Mc	5	6 9am Yoga Class 10:30am Women's Group
7 10:30am Sunday Service 11:30am Beloved Conver 1pm MUUSJA Retreat	8 6:30pm Social Action Co	9 7pm Finance Committee	10 5pm Yoga Class 5:30pm C.O.S.M. meetin 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Board of Trustees	11 9:30am Women's Spiritu 10:30am Women's Book 6:30pm Men's Group 6:30pm Social Action Co	12 10:15am Blue Highways 7pm Friday Night Poker	13 MLK Weekend of Serv
14 MLK Weekend of Serv 9am Religion, Ethics, an 10:30am Sunday Service	15	16 7pm Evening Book Club	17 5pm Yoga Class 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	18 9:30am Women's Spiritu 1pm Beyond Sunday Mc	19	20 7:30am National Federat 1pm Bridge Club
21 10:30am Sunday Service 11:30am Sunday Greete	22	23 1pm Beyond Sunday Mc	24 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	25 9:30am Women's Spiritu	26 10:15am Blue Highways	27
28 9:30am Caucus Training 10:30am Sunday Service 11:30am Membership Co	29	30	31 5pm Yoga Class 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	Feb 1 9:30am Women's Spiritu 1pm Beyond Sunday Mc 7pm Caucus Training Ev	2	3


 10715 Zenith Avenue South  
 Bloomington, Minnesota 55431

**We are a Welcoming Congregation**

More information on Uni-Sun articles and MVUUF in general can be found at the MVUUF Fellowship website [www.mnvalleyuu.org](http://www.mnvalleyuu.org).  
 Click on Calendar at the top of the home page and use the arrow to go to the month you want.