

MINISTER'S COLUMN

REVEREND LAURA THOMPSON

MARCH'S THEME : BALANCE

What Does it Mean to Be a People of Balance?

"I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day." - E.B. White

Our theme for March brings us to the topic of balance. In our busy lives we often think of balance as finding time to rest, relax and bring some calm to our often too-busy and stressful lives. Indeed, finding time for rest and things we enjoy is very important. When we are resting we are rejuvenating and healing. Having this as part of our life is crucial to our overall wellbeing and it increases our productivity and creativity when we are working, so it is absolutely something we should strive for.

We also need to have fun, joy and engaged activities in our lives in order to find balance. Hobbies, spiritual practice and time with those we care about give us space to focus on beauty, happiness and gratitude. These activities also remind us of our relationships to the rest of the world. In this space we can find belonging, a sense of groundedness, inspiration and hope. These things bring balance to our lives because they enable us to keep going, to keep working, to keep striving; they give our lives worth. Finding balance in *your* life is great, but how do we find balance in our communities?

Too often our individualistic culture puts focus on personal balance over-shadowing our needs for balance on a larger scale. The result is indifference and oppression. The balance of how whites and people of color are treated in our country is skewed, as is the balance between LGBTQ+ and cisgender/straight folks, between disabled and abled, between rich and poor, between male and female, and between immigrant and natural born citizen. It's hard to find balance between all peoples in a culture where so many kinds of privilege exist.

(continued on page 2)

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

— SUNDAY, MARCH 4 —

10:30am: Weaving Webs

Sometimes it feels like the world is determined to tear us apart, to set us against each other, to isolate us from one another. What can we do to recognize the threads connecting us, to weave stronger strands of relationship, to value the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a small and vital part? **With Guest Speaker Dr. Rita Capezzi and Worship Associate Lorna Prell.**

— SUNDAY, MARCH 11 —

9:00am: Religion Ethics and Ideas: Enlightenment in the 21st Century

After three centuries of transformative changes to Western society, how is it holding up? Is the framework of thought that inspired Franklin, Jefferson, and Madison to break free and create our government up to the task of guiding us through these rapidly changing times? All members and friends of the fellowship are invited to attend. Ed Prell will co-moderate the session. For questions contact John Peloquin at john17780@charter.net.

10:30am: Music Sunday: Songs of Spring

Come celebrate the springtime with MVUUF as our members and friends perform songs to herald in the season!

— SUNDAY, MARCH 18 —

10:30am: It's Stewardship Sunday! Let's Talk About Someone's Money Besides Yours!

Stewardship, money, pledging, paying it forward - these are sometimes difficult topics for UUs. Why is that? Come and share the journey of one UU who figured out the connections, got past the hesitancy, and got on with living a UU life. **With Guest Speaker Bill Clontz and Rev. Laura Thompson.**

— SUNDAY, MARCH 25 —

10:30am: Change Happens: Finding Your Way in an Ever-Moving World

If you ask, most folks will tell you that they dislike change and yet change is the only thing that is constant. How do we find balance in a world that is always changing and spinning? **With Rev. Laura Thompson.**

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.



(Minister's Column—Continued from page 1)

In my line of work, we have a saying; ministry is the work of comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable: balance. Our work is to find balance for ourselves and our world. Our ministry is both pastoral and prophetic. Our faith gives us the tools we need to seek balance through our principles; if we look at them through both a personal and communal lens:

Personal Principle

I have inherent worth & dignity.
Be compassionate to yourself.
Grow spiritually.
Search for truth & meaning.
My voice matters.
Find your own peace.
I am a part of the web of life.

Communal Principle

Everyone has inherent worth and dignity.
Seek justice, equity & compassion in human relations
Accept and encourage others spiritual growth.
Accept that others' have their own search.
Everyone's voice matters.
Work towards peace for everyone.
I respect the other parts of the web of life.

I hope you'll take sometime in the coming month to ponder what balance means to you personally and what it means to you as part of the community.

In faith and joy,
Rev. Laura

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

Tuesday / Wednesday / Thursday
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Office Administrator

Tristan Hightower
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.

RESOURCES: EXPLORING BALANCE

VIDEOS —

Balance

An Oscar-winning cartoon. . . must watch until the very end!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wj58aLvdQ>

Existential Bummer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yb-OYmHVchQ>

Complainers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8NVLq2fGL>

Life's Symmetry

A visual meditation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zEQskIsHKT8>

ARTICLES —

Soul Time, Sabbath Time

Karen Hering

<http://karenhering.com/soul-time-sabbath-time/>

Politics of the Brokenhearted

Parker Palmer

<http://www.couragerenewal.org/parker/writings/politics-of-the-brokenhearted/>



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

As we were discussing the preliminary budget at the last Board Meeting, I was thinking about two relatively large line items: returning to our fair share contributions to UUA and to UUA MidAmerica.

We are members of this organization and have been for more than 50 years. Quoting from the UUA website: "The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is the central organization for the Unitarian Universalist (UU) religious movement in the United States." And the UUA bylaws: "the primary purpose of the Association is to serve the needs of its member congregations, organize new congregations, extend and strengthen Unitarian Universalist Institutions and implement its principles."

We are one of one of more than 1000 member congregations. Our voice is multiplied when we join with others. Our shared history speaks of love, justice and peace. And struggle.

I want to share with you a few of the more "tangible" benefits of our membership which you may not be aware of. When we rebuilt our current building, UUA gave us financial support of a more than \$30,000 grant. Over the past few years, as we experienced periods of change and transition in our own church, the UUA, specifically MidAmerica, provided us with advice and support. MidAmerica helped us find our minister, Laura Thompson, and encouraged us to follow our own process in making sure this match will be a good one. This year we received another grant of \$3,500.00 to support expanded hours of our office administrator.

We are currently working with Bill Clontz of UUA Consulting on improving our stewardship process and developing an updated vision to guide us into the future. We are using the resource of the UUA to support our RE program and our Music Minister found inspiration and fellowship with other UU music professionals over the years of serving our congregation.

UUA and MidAmerica have many resources which are available to us as publications, webinars and online groups. Both organizations have continuing education opportunities for our minister and other staff members and lay leadership development.

This is not meant to be a complete list. I just wanted to remind us that we are stronger and more effective in our work to make the world a better place as part of the UUA than we could ever be without it. The UUA and MidAmerica Region both need our financial support. By giving our fair share contribution we are also helping ourselves.

"Live your values aloud, not alone.

Our open-minded, open-hearted spiritual communities help people lead lives of justice, love, learning and hope."

-UUA homepage

Eva Mach, Chair

(emach@pro-tecdesign.com, 651-226-5949)



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Interested in going to UUA General Assembly this year? Come to meet with others for this early planning meeting. We'll go over logistics and costs and sketch out a plan. **Sunday, March 25th in the Fireside Room at 11:45.** Contact Laura for more info at minister@mnvalleyuu.org.

UUA General Assembly 2018 will be in Kansas City, MO from June 20th-24th.



FEBRUARY BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The Board met on Valentine's Day and along with working on church business enjoyed King Cake and chocolate. Chocolate helps one concentrate.

The Board discussed concerns of several members who were not aware of our policy of "sharing the plate". The change was made in March of 2017. Previously, MVUUF contributed a Second Sunday collection only to a chosen organization each month. The treasurer presented data showing that this change resulted in a larger contribution to the organization plus a larger Sunday collection for MVUUF. Other churches who adopted the same change report similar results. The treasurer proposed that those members who wish not to share their Sunday contribution with the church but want the entire amount turned over to the designated organization make checks payable to MVUUF and write "**Second Sunday Only**" in the memo line of their checks. Writing checks directly to the organization presents administrative issues for the treasurer, doesn't get counted in our "sharing" totals and doesn't get reported in the member's annual MVUUF giving statement. There will be further communication to the membership.

The Board approved a preliminary budget that will be used in our stewardship campaign.

The Board continued to discuss the need for emergency preparedness plans including medical, fire, weather, etc. David Olson will work with members who have emergency training or skills and other resources as necessary and present to the Board a proposal to develop a response plan in a form that would be accessible to staff, ushers and members.

The board welcomed new members **Tom Walkington** and **Maya Walkington-Stauber**.

For further detail, please read the official minutes.

Next Board Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 14th at 7:00PM

All are welcome to attend. If there is a topic you would like to add to the Board agenda, please contact Eva Mach at 651-226-5949 or emach@pro-tecdesign.com.



Join MVUUF for our Spring Circle Supper!

When? Saturday, March 24th, 6:30PM

What is it? A tradition of Unitarian Universalism, Circle Suppers are small, friendly gatherings that help us get to know one another better. Hosts provide the setting while guests bring a dish to share.

Is it fun? YES! It is an evening of sharing food, thoughts, ideas and fellowship.

How do I get started? Sign up on the paper sign-up sheet downstairs or contact Eva Mach by e-mail at emach@pro-tecdesign.com or call 651-226-5949.

Questions? Contact Eva Mach at 651-226-5949 or by e-mail at emach@pro-tecdesign.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Women's Group **Saturday, March 3rd** **10:30am in the Social Hall**

We will meet at 10:15am for coffee and socializing in the Social Hall. The program begins at 10:30am. This month our speaker is **Hyon Kim** who will be presenting the talk: **North Korean Refugees: Roadblocks to Freedom.**

North Korea is in the frequently in the news, but what is the experience of the people of North Korea? Hyon Kim, a Korean from the south who was separated at a young age from her family when the division of Korea took place, will share her personal story woven together with both the history and the current experience of the people. "This is truly an important issue – important for global stability, important for the Korean people, and important for the cause of global human rights." (Hyon Kim) This inspiring, heartfelt and passionate presentation will be followed with a Q&A. You will leave with more knowledge and increased compassion.

A catered lunch is offered after the meeting for \$7.00. If you would like lunch, you can e-mail Nancy directly at 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, March 8th** **6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall**

This month, our speaker will be **Kathleen Coate** and her topic will be **All Things Theatre**. Kathleen, a fellow MVUUF member, is well qualified to speak on this topic - she holds a master's degree in Theatre Directing, and has worked as a director, producer, administrator, performer, and teacher in various companies and schools around the country. She currently directs and teaches theatre at Normandale Community College.

Among the topics she will likely address include: is theatre universal? does it exist in all societies and time periods? trends in acting methods, the casting process, race and gender issues in selecting the cast, the relevance of musicals, basic trends in local theatre, actor pay, types of plays, and more!

As always there will be plenty of time for questions and

discussion. We especially encourage theatre lovers to attend! Dinner will be offered before the talk for \$5-\$10. If you wish to come to dinner, sign up in the basement and come at 6:30pm. If you only want to hear the speaker, come at 7:00pm. **All are invited to attend without regard to gender.** If you have questions, contact Bill McMartin at billmcmartin@gmail.com or John Peloquin at john17780@charter.net.

Religion, Ethics, and Ideas **Sunday, March 11th** **9:00am in the Fireside Room**

This month, the topic will be **The Enlightenment in the 21st Century**. After three centuries of transformative changes to Western society, how is it holding up? Is the framework of thought that inspired Franklin, Jefferson, and Madison to break free and create our government up to the task of guiding us through these rapidly changing times?

We will discuss the movement which began in early eighteenth century Europe, questioning the authority of the State and the Church to oppress the populace by imposing their dogma on them. These questions and their discussion and publication created a groundswell that led to the French and American Revolutions and paved the way for democracy, anti-slavery, human rights, the scientific revolution, and more. Can Enlightenment thought enable us to navigate artificial intelligence, genetic engineering, and the issues of birth, sex, and death?

All members and friends of the fellowship are invited to attend. Ed Prell and John Peloquin will co-moderate the session. For questions contact John Peloquin at john17780@charter.net.

Is Eating Locally a Moral Imperative? **Thursday, April 5th** **6:30pm at the home of John Peloquin**

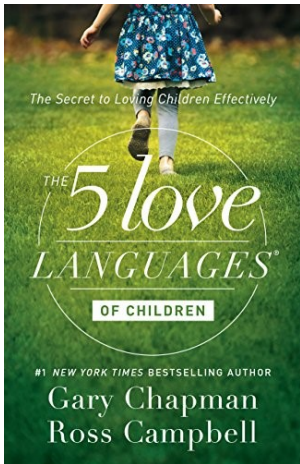
In fulfillment of an April 2017 service auction obligation, John Peloquin will make a presentation entitled, **Is Eating Locally a Moral Imperative?** The cost of attending, if you did not purchase it at the auction is a donation to MVUUF of \$20.00. The presentation will be given at 6:30pm on Thursday April 5, 2018 at the home of John Peloquin & Eva Mach in Lakeville. A free meal will be donated by John consisting of locally baked and delivered pizza, locally brewed beer and red wine purchased from a local liquor store. For questions, contact John Peloquin at john17780@charter.net.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER

JAN FITZGERALD, DRE

Recently I have been reading about the love languages of children. The book is by Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell and the title is, The 5 Love Languages of Children - The Secret to Loving Children Effectively.



Most of us have heard of the five languages of love for our own relationships with adults, but it is also true of our relationships with our children. When you speak the child's love language it is possible to fill the "emotional tank" of the child and, when feeling loved, that child can face the challenging days of childhood and the teen years more easily. Foremost the love needs to be unconditional love and

then we need to find the languages of love that are most effective. The five languages of love are: physical touch, words of affirmation, quality time, gifts and acts of service. There are clues all around to help us find your child's primary language of love and the preferred language may change over the years. There will be a stronger family relationship when we can work with the most meaningful language for your child.

It is of the utmost importance to have unconditional love for your child before anything else. Unconditional love can be challenging, but your child always needs to know that the unconditional love will be there. Saying that you are upset with behavior and not the child is of utmost importance. This is the true foundation of our sacred love for our child.

There are five ways that the authors say you can learn your child's love language: "observe how the child expresses love to you, observe how your child expresses love to others, listen to what your child requests most often, notice what your child complains about most often and give your child a choice between two options." Children may use several love languages so be open to more than one preference.

If you don't know the five language types then get the book or even an adult one to better understand these five languages. All are important to you and your child. Once you figure this out then communication and emotional challenges should soften. This is just one tool of many to help be in better touch with your child. It can be useful with young children and adult children. Pay attention to what your child is saying and it can help strengthen our relationships.

MUSICAL NOTES

SONJA JOHNSTON, MINISTER OF MUSIC

When I start writing about Spring Music Sunday, I realize that spring is very near. This spring our Music Sunday will be on March 11th, just a few weeks away. I hope everyone who wishes to participate will be able to. First, you must get the title and composer to me no later than March 4th; second, in order to accommodate all who wish to be a part of the program, adult pieces should be no longer than three minutes; and third, youngster pieces must be two minutes or under. It's very difficult for me to tell someone there's no room on the program!

It was great fun to help Rita Phillips' song "Always to Love" get notated and to create harmony for One Voice to sing back-up. Rita had never written a song before, and what a joy to experience the enthusiastic response the congregation gave her after it was presented!

Special music coming in March besides Music Sunday will be Betty Olson and Christine Chessler, the choir, the chorale, Steve Koehler, et al. And before you know it, April will be here with the auction and another silly Sonja show where all the members of the choir become hams!



MEMBERSHIP AT MVUUF

TRISTAN HIGHTOWER, MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

New Member Profile: Susan Jack and Kim Kammeier

Susan and Kim have been married for 5 years and life partners for more than 30. They raised two daughters together and now have four granddaughters they adore. They have lived in Bloomington since 2012, when they moved here to be closer to one of their daughters and her family.

Kim loved her job as a nurse anesthetist at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, but she had to retire a few years ago due to some health issues. She can no longer bike, hike and garden as she did in the past, but she now helps with grandchildren and spends time reading, swimming, walking their dog, Zoey, and helping Susan as she faces some health related challenges. Susan just retired from her work as a psychotherapist in private practice. She spends her time with grandchildren and reading, quilting, and painting.



They attended First Universalist Church in Minneapolis for many years, but they starting coming to MVUUF because they wanted to become involved in a like-minded community closer to their new home. The words that best describe MVUUF for them are “welcoming” and “intimate.” Welcome to the community, Susan and Kim!

Membership Announcements:

The **Membership Committee** will be meeting **Sunday, March 4th** immediately after the service in the Fireside Room.

I just changed my last name in preparation for my wedding in May! Beginning in March, my legal name will be **Tristan Hightower**. If you see any e-mails or communications from that name, you'll know they are from me.

NEW THIS YEAR IN STEWARDSHIP

1. **Transitioning** from the word “pledge” to the word “**commitment**” to describe our annual financial giving.
2. Pledge card is now a commitment card and a full sheet of paper.
3. We now have **three ways** for you to assess how your financial commitment affects MVUUF.
 - **GIFT's ladder** – allows you to compare where your commitment is in relation to others.
 - **Quartile chart** – This chart tells the church if its combined giving is healthy. It lets leadership evaluate financial stability.
 - **Fair Share chart** – This chart helps you determine if your commitment is at a Fair Share level. (You will find the charts on the wall outside the sanctuary and in your commitment packet.)
4. **Encouragement to commit** at a Fair Share level. One of our goals is to have 50 people commit at a Fair Share level.



Service Auction Items Needed!

Your Service Auction Committee has been busy getting ready for April 28th's **Pitching in to Hit the High Note**. This is our biggest and most fun fundraiser each year. We have sent letters to over 100 theaters, museums, restaurants and entertainment venues asking for donations. We've also asked prior donors if they'd like to donate the same or a similar item. Now it's your turn. We need your donations. Don't know what to do?

- Dinners always sell the best and it's a great way to get to know others. You control the number of people attending.
- No room for company? Maybe you have a great recipe for cake, pie, bread, jam. The food does not have to be at the auction. You can specify that it will be made at a time convenient for donor and buyer.
- Not a cook? How about a service - mending, cleaning, light repairs, child care, yard work.
- No ideas or time? Then what do you need help with: computer know-how, cleaning, yard work? Tell us what you need and how much you'll pay. We'll offer your item. The buyer does the work for you and the church gets the money.
- Still no ideas whatsoever? Then come anyway and bid on all those dinners, services and entertainment.

Donation forms will be available on the auction table outside the sanctuary. Or you can email us at mvuufauction@gmail.com. It's a fun night of potluck appetizers, silent auction and a theatrical presentation by Sonja and the choir. More info in the April newsletter.

THE VALUE OF MVUUF IN OUR LIVES

Both Easter and our 2018-2019 Stewardship campaign are in March this year. Easter is a time of rebirth, a harbinger of spring and renewal, and Stewardship is much the same. It's the time to look ahead and decide how much MVUUF means to us – the value it adds to our lives – and what kind of a financial commitment we can make that reflects its meaning and value in our lives. **The Stewardship kickoff is Sunday, March 18 and Commitments are due by April 8.**

COMMITTEES

CONGREGATIONAL CARE 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 | bobbie002@comcast.net |
| Carmen Herzog | 952-831-7988 | carmilher@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 |
| Ruth Keely | 952-237-7136 | rajpkelly@gmail.com |





ENDOWMENT

Don Park, Chair

The Endowment Committee would like to change the endowment bylaws so that projects can be funded quickly. As things stand no action would be taken on requests for funds until November 1, with funds distributed the following April. The Finance Committee feels that for the foreseeable future any endowment-funded project can be immediately funded from savings with reimbursement shortly thereafter from the Endowment. We also made some changes to clarify the intent. The Board gave preliminary approval to these changes at its February meeting. They will have to be approved with a congregational vote at the annual meeting in May. **If you have concerns, talk to any member of the endowment committee or of the Board.**

Here are the original sections we want to change with strike through or underline on the parts to be deleted and additions in bold:

DETERMINATION OF INCOME DISTRIBUTION

A. The income money from designated gifts in the fund, which also shall not exceed 4% in a given year, shall be distributed by the Committee as directed by the donors at the time their gift is accepted by the Committee, or as directed by will or other gift document if such direction is in conformity with the general purposes set forth herein. **Distributions shall not exceed 4% of the balance of a fund in any given year.**

B. The income money from Non-designated gifts in the Fund will be reinvested until distributions of \$1,000 or more can be made without exceeding the 4% maximum distribution (~~based on the averaged Fund values as of 3/31, 6/30/ 9/30 and 12/31 of the prior year~~). ~~Distribution of income shall be made annually on April 15 of each year until income exceeds \$10,000 at which time income will be distributed quarterly on January 15, April 15, June 15, and October 15 of each year.~~ (based on the fund value **at the approval of the first withdrawal in the MVUUF fiscal year.**) Distributions shall fulfill MVUUF's Mission and Vision as determined at the sole discretion of the Board of Trustees.

APPLICATION FOR AND DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME

Non-designated gift income shall be available for distribution by the MVUUF Board of Trustees in response to applications for funds from regular MVUUF ministry groups. Applications for funds must be written **and submitted to the Board of Trustees** ~~and received in the MVUUF office not later than November 1 of each year for award the following year.~~ Applications should describe the purpose of the use of the requested funds, applicable budget information and proposed result of the funded project. Application for funds does not guarantee award of funds. Funds not awarded on an annual basis will be available for distribution during the two following years and if not awarded in the third year they will revert to and become part of the principal of the Fund.

Here is what the final text looks like:

DETERMINATION OF INCOME DISTRIBUTION

A. The money from designated gifts in the fund shall be distributed by the Committee as directed by the donors at the time their gift is accepted by the Committee, or as directed by will or other gift document if such direction is in conformity with the general purposes set forth herein. Distributions shall not exceed 4% of the balance of the fund in any given year.

B. The money from non-designated gifts in the Fund will be reinvested until distributions of \$1,000 or more can be made without exceeding the 4% maximum distribution (based on the Fund value at the approval of the first withdrawal in the MVUUF fiscal year). Distributions shall fulfill MVUUF's Mission and Vision as determined at the sole discretion of the Board of Trustees.

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Non-designated gift income shall be available for distribution by the MVUUF Board of Trustees in response to applications for funds from regular MVUUF ministry groups. Applications for funds must be written and submitted to the Board of Trustees. Applications should describe the purpose of the use of the requested funds, applicable budget information and proposed result of the funded project. Application for funds does not guarantee award of funds. Funds not awarded on an annual basis will be available for distribution during the two following years and if not awarded in the third year they will revert to and become part of the principal of the fund.



SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Megan Duffy Sananikone, Chair

GET INVOLVED!

Our next committee meeting is

Monday March 12th, 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!



SAVE THE DATE!

Screening of the Movie "13th"
Saturday, April 7th at 2:00pm

In preparation for our Sunday Guest Speaker on April 15th, we'll be showing this film at the congregation. Filmmaker Ava DuVernay explores the history of racial inequality in the United States, focusing on the fact that the nation's prisons are disproportionately filled with African-Americans.

Recommended for older teens and adults. Join us for popcorn and discussion.



Sunday Service Special Guest Speaker— Mary Moriarty
Saturday, April 15th at 10:30am

The Social Action Committee and Beloved Conversations participants are excited to announce that our Sunday service speaker for April 15, 2018 will be Mary Moriarty, Hennepin County Chief Public Defender. For two decades Mary has tried many murder and serious felony cases, including a number that set important state court precedents. She has acquired a national profile as a gifted courtroom advocate with a talent for training others in the creative, powerful trial skills she uses to secure acquittal after acquittal.

Besides being a core faculty member of Gideon's Promise and a recipient of the Steven B. Bright Award, Mary is on the public defender trial skills programs in many states. She teaches at the Harvard Law School Trial Advocacy Workshop and the National Criminal Defense College.

Recognizing that our state's incarceration rates are among the most disparate in the nation (blacks are 10 times more likely to be incarcerated than whites), Mary will talk to how racial bias distorts our criminal justice system.



Several books have also been suggested for reading which will give a little background on this subject.

- **Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson**
- **The Color of Wealth: The Story Behind the U.S. Racial Wealth Divide by Lui, Robles, et al.**
- **The White Racial Frame: Centuries of Racial Framing and Counter-Framing by Joe Feagin**
- **The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander**

The Advocate, Macalester College Newsletter, profiled Mary and her work in their August 2017 issue. Copies of this article have been printed for you reading and may be picked up either downstairs on the counter or upstairs on one of the tables.

**SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

Continued

MARCH SUNDAY SHARING:VEAP

Once again, we want to thank everyone who contributed non-food items to the VEAP MLK Holiday drive. You helped to make it a very successful event.

Normally we donate food to VEAP during their March Food/Fund drive but this year, because we just had a product drive, we are going to focus on a financial drive, postponing our food drive until May. During March, the non-designated Sunday offering will go to VEAP as well as any additional financial offerings that you wish to give. This year VEAP's financial goal for the March drive is \$150,000.

Although we usually think of VEAP as a food pantry, it is much, much more than that. This is why our generous giving next month is so important. On-site Social Workers, Job Counsellors, transportation services, office and pantry space, computers, and more all rely on our financial donations.

But money is also needed to buy food in bulk to supplement our food donations. According to VEAP staff person, Patty Schultz, VEAP can provide enough food for 1 person for 1 week at a cost of \$1.50....the cost of one can of beans. So, a \$15 donation will feed 10 people for a week....far more than 10 cans of beans.

Please remember how important this agency is to the people in our community and bring a little extra during March for the offering....it will go a long way to improve the lives of people around us who are struggling.

Lorna Prell, VEAP Rep

**Racial Justice—Beloved Conversations**

The Alumni group of Beloved Conversations participants will be meeting again **March 11 at 11:45am.**

Caucus Training

Thanks to those who attended the informational sessions recently hosted by Karen Wills. If you missed out but are interested in any information, contact Karen Wills, Social Action Committee member, at starship.dodecahedron@gmail.com.

**BRINGING BACK VISITING STEWARDS —
THEY ARE NOT ASKING FOR MORE MONEY!**

Once again each household will be asked to welcome a Visiting Steward. This practice allows MVUUF to evaluate the experience of each member and gives members an opportunity to share thoughts and ideas with someone who can pass them along.

When your steward calls, agree to meet with them during the week of March 18.



SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Continued

THIS OLD EARTH

Rev. Karen Hutt, who spoke at MVUUF on Jan. 25, would seem to be an unlikely advocate on behalf of “poor white trash”. But, her African-American heritage has given her a unique platform. She artfully juxtaposes the injustices imposed upon the white underclass with the yoke of slavery and Jim Crow. Although these injustices have been carried out by radically different means, the effect has been the same: humiliation, resentment, and

overwhelming barriers to rising out of a lowly status.

Many middle and upper middle class whites are lately becoming aware of (and trying to end) the ongoing racial wrongs which did not end after the ‘60s civil rights reforms, but morphed in many subtle and less visible ways. Now, we are on the cusp of being onto the ways that we keep the white underclass in their place – without being aware of them. (When did you last strike up a conversation with a “redneck”?). Our “classless” society has been isolating them from the rest of us since we landed on these shores. Only the titles of nobility were left

behind. Even the “newly rich” aren’t welcome at the country club.

This social isolation is wrong in many ways. It is plain wrong to slam the door to the wider world on our sisters and brothers. Exasperation has finally led them to give up on governance and throw their lot in with charlatans who would settle old scores – but are actually scuttling everybody’s chances for a healthy society and a livable Earth.

It would be great if we had a formula to correct this situation, but none is apparent. Somehow, we all must set aside our barriers and join forces. We are all on the same boat (planet).



CLASSES & GROUPS

BRIDGE GROUP

March bridge will be on Saturday, March 17th at 1pm.

The bridge group meets the third Saturday of every month from 1:00—3:00pm. 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.

Come join the fun!

- Barbara Hanson, Coordinator

MEDITATION GROUP

The Meditation Group will meet **every Saturday morning** throughout March at **8:00 am** in the Fireside room. Anyone interested in possibly making mindfulness a part of your life is welcome.

One book we are using as a guide is MINDFULNESS: An Eight-week Plan for Finding Peace in a Frantic World by Mark Williams and Danny Penman.

Questions? Email Fran Bohlke bryawnte@msn.com.



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 1:00-2:30pm. For **March 1 & 15** we will meet at the Edina Panera, 3345 Hazelton Rd, next to JoAnn Fabrics and across from Target. For April we will probably meet at a different location. Details next month.
- **4TH TUESDAY** each month from 1:00-2:30pm at Jojo's Rise and Wine, located on Nicollet Ave between Route 13 and Burnsville Pkwy in Burnsville. (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.

Contact Nancy Buckman at nancybmnuu@gmail.com or 952-736-9586 if you have questions and/or if you would like an email reminder for each date.

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Winter drags on. Will it ever get warm again? We have an activity to help get you through the winter that barely requires living the house. Read one of our book selections, and join us for a lively, informative discussion. Alternating fiction and nonfiction, our upcoming choices are:

- March 20, 2018— **Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America** by James Foreman, Jr.
- April 24, 2018— **The Hate U Give** by Angie Thomas (Please note the change in date!)
- May 15, 2018— **Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City** by Matthew Desmond

The Evening Book Group usually meets throughout the year on the third Tuesday of every month in the Fireside Room at 7PM. **Please note the change in date for April.** 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.

YOGA

Join us for a gentle yoga class open to all. We meet on **Wednesdays at 4:55pm** and **Saturdays at 9:00am**. Anyone is welcome to attend these 50 minute classes. Just bring a mat, wear comfortable clothes, and arrive five minutes before the start of class. Classes cost \$4 each, or you can buy a set of 15 classes for \$50.

Our "Spring's Just Around the Corner" sessions began on February 21st. The classes for March and April are:
Saturdays:

- March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
- April 7, 14

Wednesdays:

- March 7, 14, 21, 28
- April 4, 11

Direct any questions to Fran Bohlke, Yoga instructor — email : bryawnte@msn.com



NOTES TO THE COMMUNITY



GOTTA CASSETTE TAPE PLAYER?

Archives is purging our cassette tapes of our MUSIC. If you want to take one (or more) please let Beverly know and she will put the tape(s) in your MVUUF mailbox. **FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE!** For questions, contact Beverly Schmidt at gypsyleap@gmail.com.

1983

April 17

The First MVUUF Musical Dinner

1998

January 31

Cabaret (2)

2004

March 14

Music Sunday

2007

January 28

Request Concert

March 11

Music Sunday

April 28

Bachman Meets Tom Jefferson Show

December 16

Music Sunday

2008

March 16

Music Sunday

November 16

Gershwin Concert

December 21

Music Sunday

2009

March 15

Music Sunday

December 13

Music Sunday

2010

March 14

Music Sunday

December 19

Music Sunday

2011

March 20

Music Sunday

December 11

Music Sunday

2012

March 18

Music Sunday

VIDEO CASSETTES

1986

April 27

MVUUF Choir—Fellowship Dinner

1996

Budget Talent Show

1999

April 24

Moments to Remember

2001

December 16

Music Sunday

2008

The Big Event

Great Debate

CDs

2014

December 14

Christmas Music

2015

March 15

Music Sunday

SOMETHING NEW! - A JIGSAW PUZZLE EXCHANGE

In the bookcase along the drinking fountain wall downstairs in Social Hall we have set up a collection of puzzles. Feel free to take home a puzzle from the shelves, solve it, bring it back and take another to enjoy. If you have any of your own that you are ready to let go of, we'd love for you to add them to the collection.

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.

HELLO! I AM

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 to one another.

**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 TRUSTEES

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Trustee & Board Member | Max Chester | (952) 388-1186 maxchessler@gmail.com |
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| Trustee & Board Member | Diane Bick | 952-250-9559 dianeebick@gmail.com |

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 jsg@jsgalleries.com |
| Aesthetics | Karen Olson | (952) 888-6527 luzvcatz@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 Hightower | (612) 216-4113 office@mnvalleyuu.org |
| Music | Betty Olson | (952) 831-3854 bolsonflute@gmail.com |
| Nominating | Robyn Schoenbauer | (952) 808-7714 robyn.schoenbauer@gmail.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 Meganduffyasananikone@gmail.com |
| Stewardship | Jeanne Simpson | (612) 239-1240 jems.ellen@gmail.com |
| Technology | Richard Duffin | (707) 696-6406 rwduffin@comcast.net |

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Website Coordinator
Michael Baynton, webmaster@mnvalleyuu.org

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

UNI-SUN Item Submission Information

The submission deadline date for the UNI-SUN is the 20th of each month.
Submit articles to the Newsletter Editor via email to newsletter@mnvalleyuu.org

MVUUF CALENDAR ~ MARCH 2018

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
| 25 Mission and Vision W 10:30am Sunday Service 4:30pm AFS Meeting | 26 | 27 1pm Beyond Sunday Mc | 28 4:55pm Yoga Class 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal | Mar 1 9:30am Women's Spiritu 1pm Beyond Sunday Mc | 2 | 3 8am Meditation Group 9am Yoga Class 10:15am Women's Group |
| 4 10:30am Sunday Service 11:45am Membership Co | 5 | 6 | 7 4:55pm Yoga Class 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal | 8 9:30am Women's Spiritu 10:30am Women's Book 6:30pm Men's Group | 9 10:15am Blue Highways 7pm Friday Night Poker | 10 8am Meditation Group 9am Yoga Class |
| 11 9am Religion, Ethics, an 10:30am Sunday Service 11:45am Beloved Conver | 12 6:30pm Social Action Co | 13 10am Book Club 7pm Finance Committee | 14 4:55pm Yoga Class 5:30pm C.O.S.M. meetin 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Board of Trustees | 15 9:30am Women's Spiritu 1pm Beyond Sunday Mc | 16 6pm Stewardship Specia | 17 7:30am Visiting Steward 8am Meditation Group 9am Yoga Class 1pm Bridge Club |
| 18 10:30am Sunday Service 11:30am Stewardship Ki | 19 | 20 7pm Evening Book Club | 21 4:55pm Yoga Class 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal | 22 9:30am Women's Spiritu | 23 10:15am Blue Highways | 24 8am Meditation Group 9am Yoga Class 6pm Circle Suppers |
| 25 10:30am Sunday Service 11:45am UUA General As | 26 | 27 1pm Beyond Sunday Mc | 28 4:55pm Yoga Class 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal | 29 9:30am Women's Spiritu | 30 | 31 8am Meditation Group 9am Yoga Class |

Events shown in time zone: Central Time




 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.mnvalleyuuu.org.
 Click on Calendar at the top of the home page and use the arrow to go to the month you want.