

MINISTER'S COLUMN

REVEREND LAURA THOMPSON

What Does it Mean to be a People of Mystery?

I saw a UU bumper sticker once that said, "Unitarian Universalism; Where All Your Answers are Questioned". We UU's are an interesting bunch. On the one hand we put a lot of value into knowledge, science, reason and education. And on the other hand, we are known to be a religion which dwells in the questions, rather than one that claims to having answers. Ask one of us what happens after we die and rather than hearing a definitive answer you will more likely hear a disclaimer about what is not going to happen or a simple and honest, "I don't know and I'm okay with that." As people who value information, how do we also make space for the unknown and the unknowable?

In his TED Talk, *The Beauty of What We Will Never Know*, Pico Iyer posits, "The opposite of knowledge...isn't always ignorance. It can be wonder. Or mystery. Possibility. And in my life, I've found it's the things I don't know that have lifted me up and pushed me forwards, much more than the things I do know...." What if mystery isn't something that needs to be solved? Is there value in our unknowing?

December brings a bounty of mystery, miracles and magic through Hanukkah, Bodhi Day (celebration of Buddha's enlightenment), the Winter Solstice, and Christmas. In the darkness we celebrate light. In the midst of oppression, we celebrate hope. In spite of everything we know, we open the door to the mystery of what could be. Join us all through the month as we celebrate joy, possibility and mystery.

See you Sunday,
Rev. Laura

Dec. 2nd, 10:30am: Mystery: Fear of the Unknown: While it is certain that we fear that which we know, it is equally true that we often fear that which we don't know. How do we move through those spaces of uncertainty when we don't know how things will turn out?
Rev. Laura Thompson and Tom Ehlinger

Dec. 9th, 10:30am: What are You Waiting For: The Mystery In-between: Life is a series of events, no doubt. But, what about the time in-between those events. Is the waiting as relevant as what we are waiting for?
Rev. Laura Thompson and Fran Bohlke

Dec. 16th, 10:30am: Music Sunday: Join us for this beloved bi-annual service filled with the music of the season performed by congregants of all ages.
Sonja Johnston and a host of heavenly voices and players.

MVUUF's Interactive No-Rehearsal Christmas Pagaent: What's that Noise?: This lively service features a familiar story, favorite carols, lots of interaction and JOY! This celebratory holiday service is offered twice. We hope you can join us:
Dec. 23rd at 10:30am
Dec. 24th at 5pm

Special Collection for Minister's Discretionary Fund which goes to help local people in need throughout the year, Please give generously.

Dec. 30th, 10:30am: Fire Communion: The New Year brings us into a space of looking forward at who we want to become and what we want to create. An important first step in moving forward is taking an inventory of the things that might be holding you back. During the service we will feed the fire with those things we need to let go of and imagine how we want to arise out of the ashes.
Rev. Laura Thompson





BOARD OF TRUSTEES HIGHLIGHTS

KELLEY HUGHES

MVUUF's board has moved and approved to ordain our Minister of Congregational Programs, Andrea Johnson.

We learned in November the joyous news that Andrea received "preliminary fellowship" from the UUA. Preliminary fellowship is our denomination's way of formally recognizing the transition from a ministerial student to "minister."

A minister in the UUA becomes "Reverend" only after a congregation ordains her or him. I am delighted to say that Andrea has asked MVUUF to be her ordaining congregation.

This is an honor MVUUF has received in the past. We have "grown" and ordained both community and parish ministers, including Roberta Haskin, Mary Samuels, Carol Martinacco, and our current parish minister, Laura Thompson. A special meeting of members to hold a vote for this will occur directly after the service on December 16.

Another special highlight: We voted to approve and welcome the following people into MVUUF membership:

Alan Phillips

Kirk and Madolynn Duckwall (daughter Julianna)

JC (Jacqueline) St. Onge-Holm and John Holm (children Mamie, Frederick, and Winnifred)

Did You Know....?

MVUUF is chock full of stewards, people who care deeply about our congregation's community, our surrounding communities, the state of our building and grounds, and the future MVUUF holds for our children.

We see expressions of this love and care in our teachers, committee workers, and those who outreach to our wider communities. We see it in our beautiful and welcoming lobby and sanctuary, and in our gardens that provide nourishment for the eyes year-round (and this past summer, also for the entire body).

We see this love and care in the energies of people who contribute in countless ways, seen and unseen, big and small, each which makes MVUUF a vibrant presence.

We also are grateful for the support of our staff who work tirelessly to help MVUUF function and thrive, day to day.

You may have already seen the details of how MVUUF benefits from each of our efforts in "Did You Know" messages in the Friday Email and elsewhere. A river keeps flowing only as much as each drop keeps moving. Each of our efforts matter. Continue to look for "Did You Know" messages to see how each of us helps MVUUF thrive and grow.

Questions? Please feel free to contact me,

Kelley Hughes, Board Chair, 2018-19 Phone 952-451-6376 Email: uukelley@hotmail.com

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, December 12 at 7:00PM

All are welcome to attend. If there is a topic you would like to add to the Board agenda, please contact Kelley Hughes, Board Chair, at uukelley@hotmail.com.

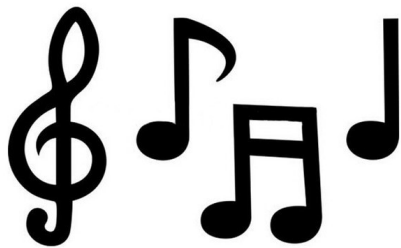


MUSICAL NOTES

SONJA JOHNSTON, MINISTER OF MUSIC

In Minnesota, winter means cold temps and snow, but it also means wonderful get-togethers with family and friends and the holiday music which warms everyone's hearts! This year, our Holiday Music Sunday is on December 16 and I already have several singers and instrumentalists who wish to participate. If YOU would like to be a part of the special Sunday, please let me know what you would plan to play or sing and let me know ASAP if you need me to accompany.

If the choir continues to grow as it has this year with two more new members, bringing the total to 22, MVUUF will have to build a choir loft! What a great sound when everyone is present!



Rather than having our kids' families come to our house for Christmas, Bob and I (and new puppy Kaylee) are meeting them at a three bedroom house (with a pool) we rented in Florida. As you know, I rarely take any time off, but I will be gone over the holidays from December 22 through January 2. I'm so fortunate to have people like Karen Moreno who are willing to sub for me and others who will provide some special music.

Happy Holidays!
Sonja

MVUUF PHOTO DIRECTORY

It's time for another photo directory, but **WE NEED YOUR HELP FIRST.**

During January, we will have spread out on tables, pages of the current directory which is based on the information we have in our MVUUF database. We know some of the information is incomplete, and/or not current. Also, many of the pictures are not up to date.

- 1.) We need you to find your name(s), make corrections (address, email address, preferred phone numbers) on those sheets (or on post-it notes), or indicate "OK"
- 2.) If a current picture is needed, there are two options. Forward electronically one of your favorites or let us take some at the fellowship on a Sunday morning. We will have people ready to do that.

If you will be gone during January (and maybe even longer), check with Kate in the office as soon as possible so your info can be updated.





CONGREGATIONAL PROGRAMS

ANDREA JOHNSON

Religious Education Program Updates

Our theme in December is Mystery! This theme seems fitting for this quiet, dark and contemplative month. But that's a paradox, isn't it? To create the holiday mood, we go crazy with the hustle and bustle of parties, gifts, decor, merriment and services. And yet at the center of the season sits the symbol of the opposite of busyness: the quiet flame of a candle standing out against the deepening of the night, capturing the mystery that it often takes darkness and silence for us to perceive, hear and connect to what matters most. Taking us to the mysterious space of clarity and connection is what this month's religious education sessions are all about. There are two Religious Education Sundays in December. December 2nd and 9th. December 16th is Music Sunday - if you and/or your child is interested in playing at this service, please contact Sonja at music@mnvalleyuu.org December 23rd and 30th are also multigenerational services.

Please Sign Up to Teach for Religious Education Term 2. We need teachers for all age groups! There are 13 Religious Education Sundays from February - May. You DO NOT need any previous teaching experience. All lesson materials are provided and are easy to follow. Training in January will be provided. Click on the following Google documnet link <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ycAX7-yD6Oj-g58RtUTyXEmFIYnMalWkabER-EpVZxg/edit#gid=0>

to sign-up online or contact Andrea at programs@mnvalleyuu.org to indicate your interest in teaching!

Guest at Your Table Program

Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's (UUSC) annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues. The program is an opportunity to celebrate grassroots partnership, support human rights, and learn about just four of these individuals – the “guests” in Guest at Your Table.

This year's theme is **Justice Across Borders**. We are all watching with alarm the horrific human rights abuses experienced by so many from Central America. From violence and extreme poverty at home to prolonged detention and family separation in this country, the issues facing migrants all along the migration route are devastating. Please consider giving generously to this cause and talk about the issues as a family during the month of December. The program will wrap up on Sunday January 6th with a Spaghetti Lunch after the Service - hosted by the kids!





FINANCIAL CORNER

DALE LEWELLYN, TREASURER

Charitable IRA/401K Rollovers

Did you know that giving through your IRA or 401K may help you save on taxes while providing support to MVUUF?

If you are 70½ or older and have an IRA or 401K, you are probably familiar with **Required Minimum Distributions (RMD)**. Each year after you reach 70½, the IRS requires you to withdraw an amount based upon your age from your IRA or 401K whether you need the funds or not, and you pay income tax on that withdrawal.

An IRA Charitable Rollover can be used to meet all or part of a required minimum distribution. The transfer does not generate taxable income, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions, and you can use rollovers to pay your pledge.

Contact Dale Lewellyn if you would like information about how to do this, and be sure to notify me if you make a rollover to ensure credit to your pledge as the funds will be sent directly by your plan administrator to MVUUF.
Dale Lewellyn, treasurer

BELOVED CONVERSATIONS IN ACTION

Beloved Conversations in Action is meeting on Sunday, December 9, following the service in the Fireside Room.

The meeting is only an hour long, and, in that time, we strive to check in with attendees, and we support past BC attendees and others as we DO what we can (planting and watering seeds) to bring our learning about racism and white supremacy to the congregation.

We'll get to hear about Fran Bohlke's letter writing campaign this past November, and figure out how to support the next Beloved Conversations session.

Deck the Halls

The tree is up in the lobby and needs your help. If you have a few moments when you are at the Fellowship, you are invited to hang some decorations on the tree. There is a selection on the table next to the tree. Thank you.





MEN'S GROUP (ALL GENDERS WELCOME)

Financing our Schools

Men's group will meet on Thursday December 13 at 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall. Our speaker will be Terri Yetter Assistant Director of the State Department Education Finance Division. Terri will tell you *everything you ever wanted to know about how we finance K - 12 education in Minnesota*. She will be able to answer questions such as: How much do we spend per pupil? How much is paid for by property taxes vs state general taxes? How many students attend public schools? Do some school districts spend more than others per student? How much is spent on special education? Is special provision made for areas of high poverty? **All are invited regardless of gender.**

If you wish to come for dinner at 6:15 email John Peloquin at John17780@charter.net by Tuesday December 11 with the phrase **For Dinner** (if a spouse or friend will attend with you please indicate that). Dinner will be less than \$10. If you only want to hear the speaker come by 7:00 and email me with the phrase **Speaker Only**. Questions contact John Peloquin John17780@charter.net

WOMEN'S GROUP

All women of MVUUF are invited attend our December Women's Group meeting at 10:15 on Saturday, Dec. 1. Our program will feature an entertaining talk and slide presentation called "The History of Theater" presented by MVUUF member Kathleen Coate. Kathleen teaches Performance and Introductory Theater classes at Normandale Community College. She has directed many of the student plays at Normandale and is a gifted presenter.

If you are not currently on the Women's Group mailing list, but wish to attend the meeting, please contact Nancy Buckman at nancybmnuu@gmail.com or 952-736-9586 no later than Wednesday, Dec. 28. We hope you plan to come for the program and stay for the catered lunch. It's a great way to tackle the winter blahs while getting to know more of the women of the fellowship.

COMMITTEES

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The Congregational Care Resource Committee (CCRC) helps connect volunteers in the congregation with people who need services. The CCRC looks for volunteers to help with: Meals, Rides to church/appointments, Child care, Visits (at home/hospital), Light chores (mowing, changing light bulbs, shoveling, etc), Special Equipment (crutches, wheel chairs, etc), Pet Care, and other things you might need.

Contact any one of us. We will do our best to help.

Maria Bavier, Ruth Keely,
Donna Kopnick, Betty Olson,
Leslie Swenson, Angie
Talarico, and Maya
Walkington





ENDOWMENT

Glenn Corliss, Chair

The Board of Trustees has approved the Endowment Committee's second grant recommendation which will have a musical theme and will be open to the public. It will be an afternoon performance on March 3 at MVUUF by singers from the Opera Development Program of the Minnesota Opera. Details will follow.

Our first grant was awarded for staff and congregational development. Staff and lay leaders have been attending training sessions for two months. The Endowment Committee is pleased to report that our two grants support different constituencies and needs, the first award was internal, staff and lay development and the second is external, community outreach.

As the end of the year approaches many of us will be thinking about our 2018 taxes and charitable giving. If so, we hope you will consider a contribution to the MVUUF Endowment Fund so that grants like the ones awarded this year can be continued and expanded in future years.

If you have questions relative to Endowment, please contact any committee member: Glenn Corliss, Kat Janes, Marv Gish, Holly Bruce and Rolie Hron.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

KATE STOMBERG

On December 2, We will host a "Getting to Know UU" class for new and interested members and friends at MVUUF. The class will be following service and a light lunch will be provided, please RSVP to office@mnvalleyuu.org and include if you require childcare or have any dietary restrictions.



We are pleased to announce **we are starting to serve only UUSC, Equal Exchange coffee and tea—fair trade, small batch farming.** This is an important step in standing with our UU principles. We want you to be able to have the opportunity to translate our values into action at home as well. **Each Sunday in December, I will be selling Breakfast Blend coffee (\$10 for 12 oz bag), Decaf coffee, a variety of teas (\$6 for 20 bags), and hot cocoa (\$8 for a 12 oz tin) in the entryway of the fellowship before and after service.** I will also have a variety of literature about fair trade, small batch farming and it's impact on the communities UUSC and Equal Exchange work with available, stop by and check it out!





SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE



December's Sunday Sharing Partner: The Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center (MIWRC)

MIWRC works with clients and partners to deliver a comprehensive array of services and maintain an extensive referral network to fully meet the needs of the women and families we serve. Their mission is to empower American Indian Women and families to exercise their cultural values and integrity, and to achieve sustainable lifeways, while advocating for justice and equity.

Founded in 1984, MIWRC provides a broad range of programs designed to educate and empower American Indian women and their families, and to inform and assist those who work providing services to the community. They are located in the Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis, which has the third largest urban American Indian population in the United States.



Programs are developed to reflect the needs of our families, and are tailored to address issues that significantly affect their well-being; such as family services, child advocacy, legal services, affordable housing, parenting skills, chemical dependency, mental health care, cultural resilience, historical trauma and other family and community issues. Currently, MIWRC is one of the organizations that are working both on the ground and on mid and long-term solutions for those living at the Franklin-Hiawatha Encampment in Minneapolis.

Your generous support of this organization is greatly needed and appreciated. Learn more at: <https://www.miwrc.org/>

Special Collection for the Minister's Discretionary Fund on December 23 and 24. All funds go to help local people in need with gas, groceries, or emergency assistance, including MVUUF congregants. Last year we were able to help a homeless family, who had a sick child, pay for lodging for a few nights.

NEWS FROM THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Have you been wanting to get more involved in the issues that matter to you most? Want to help shape the social justice issues that MVUUF engages in and supports? The Social Action Committee needs you! The committee is in a bit of a rebuilding phase and there is no better time to get involved to keep our Social Action engaged. Contact Rev. Laura for more information as to how you can get involved: minister@mnvalleyuu.org

We are pleased to announce that we surpassed our goal and raised \$1389.38 to help support Black Lives UU in our October Sunday Sharing! In November, we shared our Sunday offering with VEAP and raised \$730.25. Thank you for your generous donations!



SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Continued

As we look forward to the New Year, some of the items the Social Action Committee will be focusing on include;

- Integrating new members into the committee
- Finding new ways to engage the congregation at large in Social Action through programming
- Supporting Beloved Conversations; anti-racism dialogue programming
- Examine and “renew” our designations as a Welcoming Congregation (LGBTQ) and a Green Sanctuary.

Finally, with the holiday season upon us, we want to not only wish you all joy and peace but invite you into thinking about and sharing with others the ways that you live out your values as we turn our focus toward giving and shared community. Happy Holidays!

BELOVED CONVERSATIONS TAKE TWO

Reverend Ashley Horan will be returning to MVUUF on January 19-20 to start the second round of Beloved Conversations. After the introductory session, the ongoing 8 week sessions will meet for two hours on Sundays at noon. And, there are “graduates” of last year’s session who will be invited to help with some of the learning components.

Perhaps one person in a household is interested. If so, we’ll help arrange transportation home for you, if your ride leaves after the service. We also can have childcare available, but will need to know ahead of time, so we can make arrangements.

Snowbirds, we’ll plan to offer the curriculum next time so you can participate.

Sign up at the table in the narthex!

Here is a description of the theoretical framework of the curriculum from the UUA website:

Beloved Conversations: Meditations on Race and Ethnicity is a teaching and learning curriculum that holds both the tensions and the joys of an intentional multicultural community. The curriculum assumes that every conversation with another human being is a cross-cultural conversation, even if your conversation partner is from the same cultural group. As such, it explores the social constructs of race and ethnicity as a spiritual exercise, allowing people to give shape to their own story while learning how to honor the experience of others. It promotes resilience, challenging everyone to hear naked truths and not run away when the truth is difficult to hear. Nested inside communities of faith, Beloved Conversations creates the first step—a learning laboratory—for how to live healthily in a multiracial, multicultural, and often theologically diverse community. The curriculum differs greatly from traditional diversity workshops that suggest it is possible to “train” participants to respond to cultural differences as a matter of dos and don’ts. Matters related to the human condition are never easy to name or fully understand. There is no prescription, no magical solution that “fixes” unhealthy dispositions or personalities. That is why the curriculum invites participants into a “learning community” so they have a chance to unpack their assumptions, gently, while embedded in the robust context of cross-cultural relationships. Such a format allows for “unlearning” (Wink, 2011) patterns of thought, feelings, and emotions that contribute to walls of division. Best of all, it’s all done with an eye toward the spiritual and communal commitments we hold as people of faith.

<http://www.meadville.edu/fahs-collaborative/fahs-curriculum-catalogue/beloved-conversations/theoretical-foundations/>





BEING A STEWARD OF MVUUF

There are many ways to give back to MVUUF. One cool day in November, Will Olson found a very special one. Will spent many hours atop a rented lift changing out the parking lot lightbulbs to keep the parking lot illuminated through the long-dark winter months. Next time you see Will, be sure to thank him for giving of his time, energy, and expertise!



HOSPITALITY TEAMS

NANCY BUCKMAN

In the lobby outside of the sanctuary, you will find a table with lists on clipboards. At the top of each sheet is the name of a current **TEAM LEADER**: Kate Stomberg, Candace McClenahan, Jody Gray, Linda Hayen, Nancy Buckman, or Steve/Jean Danko.

Other people / families have already committed themselves to one of these teams and they are also listed.

THE GOAL is to have at least 10 people (more is even better) on each team.

During the course of 6 weeks (because there are currently 6 teams), each team will take a turn covering the **HOSPITALITY JOBS** for one Sunday. The jobs include: Greeting, Ushering, making coffee and setting up downstairs, bringing treats, and cleanup / washing dishes afterwards. By having more people on a team, the jobs can be spread out and people can do the jobs they prefer. Also, extra people allows for substitutions.

Eventually, we would like there to be more teams so that each team would only have to cover a Sunday 4-5 times a year.

The teams will begin rotating with Sunday, January 6. Nancy Buckman's team will do that Sunday. Her team will do it again 6 weeks later.



EVENING BOOK GROUP

Are you still full from Thanksgiving pumpkin pie? Need help with your Christmas list? The Evening Book Group is here to help whether you just need a book to relax with or fill your wish list. Our selections follow with several new additions. If you read one of our choices, we hope you will join us for a lively, informative discussion. Alternating fiction and nonfiction, our upcoming choices are:

On December 20, 2018, *What Alice Forgot* by Liane Morairty

On January 17, 2019, *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover

NO MEETING IN FEBRUARY

On March 21, 2019, *There There* by Tommy Orange

On April 18, 2019, *Earning the Rockies: How Geography Shapes America's Role in the World* by Robert D. Kaplan

On May 16, 2019, *A Terrible Country* by Keith Gessen

On June 20, 2019, *When Republicans Were Progressive* by Dave Durenberger, Lori Sturdevant and Norm Ornstein (Please note that this book is not available in Audio or Kindle form)



NO MEETING IN JULY

On August 15, 2019, *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver

On September 19, 2019, *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty* by Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson

The Evening Book Group **USUALLY** meets on the third Thursday of the month throughout the year in the Fireside Room at 7PM. **PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL NOT BE MEETING IN EITHER FEBRUARY OR JULY.** 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.

RELIGION, ETHICS, AND IDEAS

Bible Stories

Religion Ethics and Ideas will meet on Sunday December 9 at 9:00 AM in the fireside room. Our topic will be **Bible Stories**. We will talk about Bible stories that we remember and made an impression on us. If there is a Bible story you would like to discuss bring it with you, and a Bible if you have one. If you have a story or reading from another religious tradition feel free to bring and present it. If you don't have a Bible Story don't worry, I have plenty of stories we can discuss. All are welcome and invited to attend. Questions contact John Peloquin.



VEAP—DONATE AND DO

During the month of December and first half of January we will be collecting paper goods (diapers and toilet paper) for our annual “Donate and Do” project for VEAP. The “Do” portion of the project will be one of several projects in honor of the Dr. Martin Luther King holiday which takes place on Saturday, January 19th. You can donate any size baby diapers in any quantity and toilet paper in any quantity. Volunteers from the church will take all the donations to VEAP on January 19th and divide the larger quantity packages into smaller packages.

All donations will be collected at the church.

MVUUF Office Hours

— Minister —

Rev. Laura Thompson
minister@mnvalleyuu.org
(612) 216-4203

Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday
9:00 am — 5:00 pm

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

— Minister of Congregational Programs —

Andrea Johnson
Programs@mnvalleyuu.org
(612) 216-4224

Tuesday / Wednesday / Thursday
10:00am—3:30 pm
Sunday 9:00 am — 1:00 pm

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

— Communications Manager and Membership Coordinator —

Kate Stomberg
office@mnvalleyuu.org
(952) 884-8956 (Fellowship Phone)
(612) 216-4113 (Direct Line)

Sunday - Thursday
9:30 am — 1:30 pm

— RE & Youth Coordinator —

Sara Sweeney
REY@mnvalleyuu.org
(612) 216-4318
Sunday and Tuesday 9:00 am — 1:00 pm

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

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.

Did You Know...

MVUUF's special Sunday collections raised \$6,526

Living our Values Through the Fellowship

We Are the Source





REGULAR EVENTS

Men's Group

A Preview Men's Group topics 2018 -2019

Men's group meets the second Thursday of each month . All members of the fellowship are invited regardless of gender. A tentative but not complete or final list of topics is shown below:

Financing K thru 12 education in Minnesota

Looking at Organized labor from WWII to the present.

Questions contact John Peloquin. See Page 6 for more information on this month's meeting.

American Mahjongg

If you are interested in playing, or learning how to play, we have a small group meeting every other Wednesday in Social Hall at the Fellowship from 1-3 pm. Contact either Bobbie Gish or Nancy Buckman for more information.

Beyond Sunday Morning

You are invited to attend some of our upcoming small, informal gatherings at the following locations and times. These are opportunities to visit with and get to know others better and have some interesting conversation. No need to RSVP. Just come if you can. (Note: Some times and locations have changed from the past.)

Tuesdays, 1-2:30 pm on **December 4 and 18, January 15, February 5 and 19** We are meeting at the Richfield Panera (980 W 78th).

Wednesdays, 1-2:30 pm on **January 23, February 27:** we are returning to Jojo's Rise and Wine in Burnsville. It is on Nicollet Blvd between Rt 13 and Burnsville Pkwy. Contact Nancy Buckman at nancybmnuu@gmail.com, if you have questions, need a ride and/or if you would like an email reminder.

Yoga

Yoga classes on the mat are on Wednesdays at 5:00 pm and Saturday yoga is at 9:00 am,. Classes are 50 minutes and include gentle stretches and beginning yoga poses. All are welcome. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat. Cost is \$3 per class or \$40 for 15 classes. Not sure if this is for you? Call Fran Bohlke, instructor, at 952.445.9131 or email her bryawnte@msn.com.

Meditation

Meditation group meets on Fridays at 3:30 in the Fireside room. We begin with a short reading, then a few minutes of centering music, 25 minutes of silence , then conversation. Not sure if this is for you? Contact Fran Bohlke bryawnte@msn.com or Richard Duffin rwduffin@comcast.net

Women's Group

Saturday, December 1 at 10:15 am. See article on page 6

Bridge Club

December bridge will be on Saturday, December 15 at 1 p.m.

The bridge group meets the third Saturday of every month from 1-3 p.m. We are always looking for new players! Beginner to expert, all are welcome. If you are interested, please contact Barbara Hanson, 952-937-5905 or bnehanson@comcast.net. Come join the fun!

**BOARD OFFICERS OF THE FELLOWSHIP**

Chair & Board Member	Kelley Hughes	(952) 831-0032 uukelley@hotmail.com
Chair-elect & Board Member	Nancy Buck-man	(952) 736-9586 nancymbnuu@gmail.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
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

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	Open	Andrea Johnson programs@mnvalleyuu.org
Aesthetics	Karen Olson	(952) 888-6527 luzzcatz@comcast.net
Archives	Beverly Schmidt Kathy Eager	(952) 884-7262 gypsyleap@gmail.com (952) 888.8427 Kathy@darrelleager.com
Congregational Care	Open	office@mnvalleyuu.org 952-884-8956
Committee on Shared Ministry	Tom Ehlinger	(612) 840-8905 tomehlinger@gmail.com
Endowment	Glen Corliss	(952) 835-6832 gcorliss16@aol.com
Finance	Steve Danko	(952) 884-9099 jsg@jsgalleries.com
Kitchen	George Fairman	((612) 669-3952 geofairman@gmail.com
Membership	Kate Stomberg	(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	Open	Andrea Johnson programs@mnvalleyuu.org
Social Action	Open	office@mnvalleyuu.org 952-884-8956
Stewardship	Jeanne Simpson	(612) 239-1240 jems.ellen@gmail.com
Technology	Richard Duffin	(707) 696-6406 rwduffin@comcast.net

MVUUF
Office Phone Number
(952) 884-8956

Minister
Laura Thompson
minister@mnvalleyuu.org
(612) 216-4203

Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday
9:00am-5:00pm

Director of Congregational Programs
Andrea Johnson, programs@mnvalleyuu.org
(612) 216-4224
Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 10am-3:30 pm
Sunday 9:00-am-1:00 pm

Minister of Music
Sonja Johnston, music@mnvalleyuu.org

RE and Youth Coordinator
Sara Sweeney
612-216-4318, REY@mnvalleyuu.org
Sunday and Tuesday 9:00-1:00 pm

Communications Manager and Membership Coordinator
Kate Stomberg office@mnvalleyuu.org
(612) 216-4113
Sunday-Thursday 9:30-1:30 pm

Custodian & Operations
Mark Clary, cust@mnvalleyuu.org

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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 ~ DECEMBER 2018

December 2018	<	>	Sun 25	Mon 26	Tue 27	Wed 28	Thu 29	Fri 30	Sat Dec 1
S M T W T F S			• 9am Choir • 10:30am Sunday Services 2 more		• 9am Private Event	• 1pm Beyond Sunday Morning • 5pm Yoga 3 more	• 9am Women's Spirituality Gr	• 3:30pm Meditation Group	• 9am Yoga • 10:15am Women's Group 2 more
25 26 27 28 29 30 1			2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15			• 9am Choir • 10:30am Sunday Services 2 more		• 1pm Beyond Sunday Morning	• 1pm Mah Jongg • 5pm Yoga • 6:30pm Choir	• 9am Women's Spirituality Gr	• 3:30pm Meditation Group	• 9am Yoga • 10am Women's Chorale 3 more
16 17 18 19 20 21 22			9	10	11	12	13	14	15
23 24 25 26 27 28 29			• 9am Choir • 9am Religion Ethics and Idea 4 more		• 10am Women's Book Group • 7pm Finance Committee Meeting	• 5pm Yoga • 5:30pm C.O.S.M. meeting 2 more	• 6:15pm Men's Group	• 10:15am Blue Highways • 3:30pm Meditation Group • 7pm Friday Night Poker	• 9am Yoga • 1pm Bridge Club • 1pm Itchy Fingers Salon
30 31 1 2 3 4 5			16	17	18	19	20	21	22
			• 9am Choir • 10:30am Sunday Services 2 more		• 1pm Beyond Sunday Morning	• 1pm Mah Jongg • 5pm Yoga 2 more	• 7pm Evening Book Club	• 3:30pm Meditation Group	• 9am Yoga • 10am Women's Chorale • 1pm Itchy Fingers Salon
			23	24	25	26	27	28	29
			• 9am Choir • 10:30am Sunday Services • 11:30am Children's Choir	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day • 9am Private Event	• 5pm Yoga • 6:30pm Choir • 6:30pm Soul Matters Small G		• 10:15am Blue Highways • 3:30pm Meditation Group	• 9am Yoga • 1pm Itchy Fingers Salon
			30	31	Jan 1	2	3	4	5
			• 9am Choir • 10:30am Sunday Services • 11:30am Children's Choir	New Year's Eve	New Year's Day • 1pm Beyond Sunday Morning	• 1pm Mah Jongg • 6:30pm Choir		• 3:30pm Meditation Group	• 9am • 10:15am Women's Group 2 more

To View the MVUUF Calendar online, go to:

<http://www.mnvalleyuu.org/calendar>

Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange

Downstairs in the Social Hall, we have a collection of puzzles waiting for people to solve them. They are in the bookcase next to the drinking fountain (near the piano). Feel free to take one home to solve, 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.



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