

What Does It Mean To Be a People of Trust?

In religious circles, “trust talk” most often revolves around having faith that life will look after us. For instance, our Christian friends sing hymns about God “watching over us”. Our Jewish friends lift up the Exodus story to encourage faith that God will help us make our way even when things look bleak. Likewise, prayer practice for our Muslim friends is all about reminding oneself that you are in Allah’s safe hands. We UUs use similar sentiments in that we trust that “Love will guide us through the hard night.”

This call to trust Life’s support comes to us as a gift of comfort and security. After all, it’s all too easy to convince ourselves that life is out to get us. We look to our faith communities to remind us that life is ultimately a friend, or at least it is meant to be. We need that reassurance. We need to know that when things are bad, they can change and become better. We need to know that someone will catch us when we fall and help us back up.

But what about being pushed? Don’t we need to count on that too? A Love that won’t let us go is essential, but isn’t it just as important to have faith in a Love that won’t let us get too comfortable? Especially as we welcome in Black History Month, we certainly don’t want to forget about a Love that disturbs. We need a Love that promises to not let privilege remain hidden, and unsettles those who have it...a Love that tells those of us who are marginalized and tired, “I won’t let your pain be ignored.”

And just when that call to trust seems to be the one we all need to listen to, another voice adds itself to the mix. This one telling us to trust that it’s not all up to us. That sometimes it’s ok to rest. That doesn’t disturb but instead assures us that we can let go. That tells us to trust that we can - for a while - put the work down because others are ready to pick it up, knowing that we will be there to pick it up when rest calls to them.

So, friends, where does that leave us?
What is it?
Trust life to pick us up?
Trust life to push and poke us?
Trust that it’s ok to put the work down for a while?



It is all of them, of course. And more.

But maybe it’s mostly about trusting that we’ll know which call is right for us. Maybe it’s about having faith in ourselves and not letting anyone tell us what we need to trust.

There’s no one message this month after all. Everyone’s heart is wrestling with a loss of faith in its own way. The trust you need to repair is likely different than mine. What we both long for is safe space. Space to say how hard that work of repair is. Space to say how much it hurts to have to repair it in the first place.

So let’s remember that above all. And prove, this month, that we all can be trusted to offer each other that precious space. — from the Soul Matters Themed Ministry Team





February Sunday Services 10:30 am

February 3rd: **The Broken Trust of a Nation**; Our history is full of broken promises. Our present day is full of fake news...and the same old broken promises. Only a third of Americans now trust their government "to do what is right". Where do we go from here?

February 10th: **Building Trust**; It is often said that trust is earned. What are the things we must do in order to earn and build trust in our personal lives and in the broader community?

February 17th: **Trusting the Beauty Within, Among and Beyond Us: A Tribute to Mary Oliver**; "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" asks the late and beloved poet Mary Oliver. She believed that poetry "mustn't be fancy" and yet she invited us into a world of beauty which reminded all of us just how exquisite we are. This service will be a celebration of the gifts she gave us.

February 24th: **Trusting Pain and Anger**; Often when we witness the pain and anger of others, our immediate response is not the most helpful. Just as often, we minimize our own pain and anger to make others more comfortable. What is the cost of not giving full value to pain and anger? What do we lose personally and systematically?

Sunday Sharing Partner

Oasis for Youth is a vital community asset empowering all youth at risk of homelessness to believe in bright futures filled with hope, stability and self-fulfillment. Oasis for Youth opens doors to housing, employment, education and wellness for youth facing homelessness in the suburbs. They are celebrating 6 years of providing tools for stability and opportunities to thrive through individualized case management, onsite supportive services and connections to housing and community resources.

Oasis for Youth is built on values. These values are rooted in our organization and the people who connect with them. These values are how we will develop credible relationships. We have SIX distinct values that define our culture. They work together congruently, and not one can stand on its merit alone.

See article on page eight for further information on Oasis for Youth.

About Sunday Sharing

Our offering plate is shared 50/50 each week with our Sunday Sharing Partner, (minus pledge checks). If you prefer for 100% of your gift to go to the Sunday Sharing Partner, write "Charity Only" on your check or put cash in an envelope provided on the table in the lobby. If you prefer for your gift to go 100% to the Fellowship, write "MVUUF Only" on the check or put cash in an envelope with that written on it. Please contact the office (Kate Stomberg office@mnvalleyuu.org) or treasurer (Dale Lewellyn treasurer@mnvalleyuu.org) with any questions. Thanks!





BOARD OF TRUSTEES HIGHLIGHTS

KELLEY HUGHES

Hanifl property next door

The Hanifl property next door (also known as the Zimmer property) was purchased in 2013 by the Hanifl Foundation, to give us an opportunity to consider how we might grow as a congregation. At present, we are renting this property to tenants. This has generated income, but this is not the best visionary use of this rare and wonderful opportunity.

We now have a task force in place to help us decide how this property can become part of MVUUF's mission and vision. Nancy Buckman leads this task force, which is presently collecting information that will aid our decisions.

The whole MVUUF community will participate in the decision-making process. Please stay tuned for updates. Questions? Contact Nancy, or any board member.

Long Range Plan

Some goals from our 2013-2018 Long Range Plan have largely been met, especially in the area of technology, thanks to our two-year Hanifl grant, our excellent staff, and our outstanding lay leadership. Other goals that need more attention reflect our growing edges as a continually-evolving congregation.

Our consultant this year, Mark Ewert, has recommended that long range plans be reviewed at least yearly, if not more often.

Diane Bick and Judith Anderson have stepped up to examine our long range plan, and to bring recommendations to the board.



Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, February 13 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.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

KELLEY HUGHES, CHAIR

A new round of Beloved Conversations has begun. This curriculum helps us explore how all conversations are intercultural, even conversations within the same cultural group. The first day-and-a-half retreat was Friday evening and Saturday morning, January 18 and 19. They will meet on Sundays from this point on.

The MVUUF website is up! Check it out. Also check out the MVUUF Facebook page for news and information.

Our Stewardship team is looking for Visiting Stewards. Did we miss you? Are you interested? If so, please see Glenn Corliss.

Kelley Hughes, Board Chair, 2018-19

.Questions? My phone is 952-451-6376, and my email is uukelley@hotmail.com.



CONGREGATIONAL PROGRAMS

ANDREA JOHNSON

Religious Education in February

Our theme this month is Trust and we'll be exploring the following angles in our **four Religious Education Sundays this month**:

- February 3rd: Trusting life and the courage out of your hole
- February 10th: Offering our love and trust for Valentine's day
- February 17th: Trusting each other and the idea of covenants
- February 24th: Trusting oneself



I'd like to highlight one story we'll be exploring this month and that is about **Fannie Barrier Williams, a Black activist, Unitarian, and contemporary of Susan B. Anthony**. She was an extraordinary woman who deserves our recognition. Barrier Williams helped found the National League of Colored Women in 1893 and its successor, the National Association of Colored Women (NACW) in 1896. She was also among the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and was involved in the establishment and development of other reform- and service-oriented organizations, including:

- Provident Hospital, in 1891, an inter-racial medical facility that included a nursing training school that admitted Black women
- Frederick Douglass Center, in 1905, a settlement house
- the Phillis Wheatley Home for Girls.

Her story serves as a good example to me of how racism has buried the accomplishments of people of color as many of us don't know who she is.

February is also Black History month, an opportunity to introduce children and families to the idea of trusting that change is possible and reflecting on racism as a breaking of trust that has diminished our humanity. When trust is broken, we are wounded, and wounds leave scars. There are many scars and wounds caused by racism, in the past and now. Racism and oppression mean that people of color can't always trust institutions like police and banks to help them. Sometimes our own UU denomination betrayed the trust of people of color. Right now, by telling stories and understanding racism, we are trying to take steps to create the trust we wish we had.

REMINDER! HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES MOVE TO SUNDAY EVENINGS

Starting February 3rd High School Religious Education moves to Sunday evenings! Come on February 3rd at 5pm for a SuperBowl Party. Bring your friends! We'll eat pizza, watch the game and talk about plans going forward. One of the changes we are discussing is that the High School will meet on the **FIRST and THIRD Sunday evening of every month unless there is a conflicting congregation event, in which case we will reschedule one of our meetings.**



NEW FAMILY PROGRAMMING! Monthly Theme-Based Family Nights at Church
(open to all)

Starting in February we are launching Sunday evening monthly family night get togethers that are open to families and anyone who wants to come and have fun with parents and children and explore our monthly theme! The format will be as follows:

- Dinner served from 5:00 pm -5:45 pm by Revs. Laura and Andrea (a free will donation will be accepted to cover the cost of food)
- Activities for kids and adults from 5:45-7:30
- Games and activities based on the theme
- Movie based on the monthly theme
- Parenting small group discussion (facilitated by Andrea)

Sunday February 17th is Family Night at MVUUF!

Come back to church on Sunday evening at 5pm for dinner and family activities. Laura and Andrea will be serving soup, salad and bread for dinner and will be hosting the following activities afterwards:

- Trust Games (for kids and adults)
- The zipper game (trust game that doesn't involve a fall)
- Trust fall
- Rock Game
- Stories available to Read Together
- Belonging - Fannie Barrier Williams
- Nothando's Journey
- **Movie: Iron Giant.** In this animated adaptation of Ted Hughes' Cold War fable, a giant alien robot (Vin Diesel) crash-lands near the small town of Rockwell, Maine, in 1957. Exploring the area, a local 9-year-old boy, Hogarth, discovers the robot, and soon forms an unlikely friendship with him. When a paranoid government agent, Kent Mansley, becomes determined to destroy the robot, Hogarth and beatnik Dean McCoppin (Harry Connick Jr.) must do what they can to save the misunderstood machine.
- Parenting Discussion Group (supervision will be provided for those children whose parents are participating in the small group)





MUSICAL NOTES

SONJA JOHNSTON, MINISTER OF MUSIC

The choir is working on several pieces of new music at present- one which we will perform with the Children's Choir for Music Sunday, March 17. We are also singing a beautiful Elgar piece called "The Snow" on February 17 which has accompaniment by piano and two violins. Two of our sopranos will sing a piece by the late UU composer Shelly Jackson Denham who wrote the piece we sing each Sunday following "Joys and Concerns". And, you will also hear a piece called "Out of The Stars". The words sound like Carl Sagan and the arrangement is by UU composer Jason Shelton. The women's chorale will be singing a delightful arrangement of "This Little Light of Mine" with Elaine Lewellyn accompanying on cello.

SAVE THE DATE! Please join us Sunday, **March 3rd at 1:00** for an *"Afternoon at the Opera,"* an all ages family and community event featuring the Minnesota Opera. You'll be delighted to hear a performance by opera singers while learning a brief history of the art form and stories of major composers. This event is being funded by the endowment committee and will be free of charge. Light refreshments to be served after the one hour performance.



Save the Date!
Saturday
April 27
Service Auction
"Pitching in to Hit
the High Note"



MEN'S GROUP (ALL GENDERS WELCOME)

Men's Group will meet on Thursday February 14 at 6:15 PM in the Fellowship hall. Our speaker will be **Bill Wittenbreer retired Augsburg librarian and freelance historian**. Bill introduces his topic as follows: "On the evening of September 23, 1903, the business elite of Minneapolis gathered in the club rooms of the Minneapolis Club to honor a St. Paulite, James J. Hill, founder of the Great Northern Railroad, a forerunner of today's Burlington Northern Santa Fe. The guest list now reads like a gazetteer of Minneapolis streets or a listing of buildings at the University of Minnesota. All that remains from this event is the seating chart, a silver loving cup (punch bowl) and a menu card. This presentation will use these extant items **to gain insight into Minnesota 19th century business culture and the role of James J. Hill. All are invited regardless of gender.**

[If you wish to come for dinner at 6:15 email JohnPeloquin John17780@charter.net](mailto:John17780@charter.net) by Tuesday Feb 12 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 JohnPeloquin John17780@charter.net.

WOMEN'S GROUP

An Expert's View of Current US Foreign Policy MVUUF Social Hall

Women's Group is honored to have Tom Hanson as our February speaker. Tom is a former foreign service officer, Great Decisions presenter, and in-demand analyst on the state of the world. Hanson will offer his perspective on the current state of US Foreign Policy during these times of growing nationalist movements and weakened international systems. Come at 10:15 to visit and grab a cup of coffee or tea before the meeting begins at 10:30.

If you'd like to attend the February 2 meeting but are not currently on the Women's Group contact list, please contact Nancy Buckman by January 30 at nancybmnuu@gmail.com or 952-736-9586. **We welcome visitors.** Our meetings are a great way to get better acquainted with other MVUUF folks. Bring a bag lunch if you wish, or let Nancy know that you will be

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.

**NEW!!! Beyond Sunday Morning; 1st Thursdays Happy Hour at 5 PM**

All are welcome! This is a great way spend some time getting to know one another and build community :)

Location: Wooden Hill Brewery

7421 Bush Lake Road
Edina, MN 55439

Located in the industrial area of SW Edina on the North side of I-494 and West of Hwy 100.
There is both a front and rear entrance available.

Parking:

There is off-street parking available around the front, side, and back of our building (about 130 spots total). Some spots along the front and side of our building are reserved for building tenants Mon-Fri 8a-5p or 6p.

On-street parking is available on the South side of W 74th St and the East side of Bush Lake Road. Pay attention to the road signs as all other streets do not allow parking. ADA accessible parking is available directly in front of the taproom patio.

**Venue:**

Wooden Hills Brewing Company has a taproom and kitchen. They serve seasonal craft brewed beer and their own version of craft soda called "Steeped"; a cold, carbonated beverage made in house with loose leaf tea and spices, and served on tap and in cans to go. Their food menu includes a variety of vegetarian options.

Menus and more info: <https://woodenhillbrewing.com/>
Questions? contact minister@mnvalleyuu.org

First gathering is Thursday, February 7 at 5:00 PM! We hope to see you there!

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 Endowment Committee receives its funds from individuals through direct donations, memorials and estate planning instruments such as wills, gift annuities, IRA beneficiary designations, etc. The fund has reached a point where we are able to draw a limited amount to use for projects outside of normal fellowship requirements. These projects must be approved by the committee and the Board of Trustees.

The Endowment Committee is PROUD to fund a unique event, “Afternoon at the Opera.”

See details below. Music has been an integral part of this fellowship since it's beginning. My first service here was a Music Sunday. I was impressed by the enthusiastic support given to all, from the youngest child to the oldest singer. This event we hope will enrich our musical senses and bring us outside talent for our enjoyment.

Please join us on March 3 at 1:00 PM for an “**Afternoon at the Opera.**” This will be an all ages event presenting opera singers and musicians from the Minnesota Opera Company. These talented musicians will be performing and offering a brief history of the art form using musical excerpts to highlight major composers. This **event is free** due to the generosity of the endowment funds and committee. Children, adults, friends, and family encouraged to come to what is sure to be a highly enjoyable, unique, and informative experience. The Minnesota Opera is coming to us! Light refreshments to be served after the one hour performance.

Kat Janes, Endowment Committee member
Nicole Collins, Event Coordinator

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

KATE STOMBERG

The membership committee is busy! Hospitality teams are up and running smoothly. If you haven't signed up to be on one yet, contact Kate in the office to do so (office@mnvalleyuu.org). Hospitality teams handle greeting, ushering, and treats and clean up on Sunday mornings. There are six teams, so each team “hosts” one Sunday every month and a half.

We continue to sell coffee & decaf coffee (\$9 for 12 oz bag), a variety of teas (\$6 for 20 bags), and hot cocoa (\$8 for a 12 oz tin) in the entryway of the fellowship after service. Special orders are always welcome! You can also find a variety of literature about fair trade, small batch farming and it's impact on the communities UUSC and Equal Exchange work with, stop by and check it out!



The membership committee is currently putting together a list of opportunities to get involved in the Fellowship. We hope to have this available very soon. This will be a nice guide to help newcomers and seasoned veterans alike find out how they can contribute to the care and growth of our community.



SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE



The Social Action Committee met on January 13th with several new members and visitors in attendance. Those gathered talked about the purpose of the committee, its ongoing projects, and ideas for what the committee might be in the future.

The meeting followed a Sunday Service which was focused on disability justice. Information on the UUA's Accessibility and Inclusion Ministries Certification (AIM) were discussed. Renewal of our Welcoming Congregations (LGBTQ) Certifications and Green Sanctuary (Environmental Sustainability) Certifications status were also talked about. The committee will likely form working groups to explore AIM certification and work towards renewal criteria on our Welcoming Congregations and Green Sanctuary certifications. You don't need to be a member of the Social Action Committee to be in one of these working groups. If you are interested in joining a working group, contact Rev. Laura; minister@mnvalleyuu.org.

Social Action Committee will next meet on Saturday February 16th at 10am in the Fireside Room.

Sunday Sharing Partner

Oasis for Youth is a vital community asset empowering all youth at risk of homelessness to believe in bright futures filled with hope, stability and self-fulfillment. Oasis for Youth opens doors to housing, employment, education and wellness for youth facing homelessness in the suburbs. They are celebrating 6 years of providing tools for stability and opportunities to thrive through individualized case management, onsite supportive services and connections to housing and community resources.



Oasis for Youth is built on values. These values are rooted in our organization and the people who connect with them. These values are how we will develop credible relationships.

We have SIX distinct values that define our culture. They work together congruently, and not one can stand on its merit alone:

Innovation-oriented - Oasis for Youth is innovative, recognizing that young people's lives are often complicated and the environment can quickly shift, requiring creative responses to address barriers to healthy development.

Bridge builders - Oasis for Youth leverages its efforts and extends its reach through partnerships and collaborations.

Community leaders - Oasis for Youth is a leading advocate for youth in our communities.

Youth focused - Oasis for Youth understands that each youth is an individual with unique strengths, challenges, life experiences, and desires for the future.

Youth development - Oasis for Youth uses youth development best practices in all its work.

Evidence-based - The work of Oasis for Youth embraces high standards for quality and excellence based upon national research, academic studies and its own metrics achieved through solid evaluation.

****For Further information on Sunday Sharing, see page 2 ****



SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Continued

MLK Weekend of Service

Our 3rd annual MLK Weekend of service was a big hit! Nearly 4 dozen members and friends participated in volunteer opportunities off-site on Saturday and 75 people attended our MLK Brunch Service and our 1st Service Fair. Activities at the fair produced;

- 4 dozen treat bags and toys for pet fosters
- 2 dozen breakfast bundle bags folks at Cornerstone Shelter
- 3 dozen Valentines for Oasis Youth
- 2 dozen Homemade Cards for MVUUF's Congregational Care Team

A great time was had by all!



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Saturday night, January 19th, MN Valley UU Fellowship families and friends packed food at Feed My starving Children in Eagan, Minnesota in honor of MLK weekend. Over the course of 2 hours, we packed 323 boxes of Manna Packs— made of dry vitamins, veggies, soy and rice. 323 boxes of food is 69,768 meals, or enough to feed 191 kids for a year! All of the food we packed this night will go to Haiti and Nicaragua.





SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

CONTINUED

VEAP DONATE AND DO

LORNA PRELL

I want to thank everyone who donated to the VEAP "Donate and Do" paper drive. We had a large donation of diapers and toilet paper products which amounted to 450 pounds. Additionally, 15 pounds of food items and a \$20 bill were donated. I also want to thank the 14 volunteers who joined me at the VEAP location on January 19th. We filled almost 4 bins with re-bagged diapers and toilet paper.

During our tour of the facility we learned that VEAP purchases basic food products, such as Macaroni & Cheese, dried beans and dry pasta, canned vegetables and canned fruits, etc. from Second Harvest at a greatly reduced cost. In addition, excess produce, including fresh fruits, vegies, bread, and bakery products are donated to VEAP by local grocery stores. What is needed from individual donations are paper products, hygiene products, and food products that are different from what Second Harvest provides. Examples of food products would be spices and herbs of all kinds, ethnic sauces, and cake, brownie, or sweet bread mixes. Cake mixes are used for birthday baskets given out to families who have a child with a birthday that month. Canned soups (chucky style, especially), and other canned products are appreciated by elderly folks who have few or weak teeth. An elderly person living alone cannot benefit from a whole bag of apples but might appreciated several cans of apple sauce or other canned fruit. We also learned that shelf items that have exceeded their "sell by" limit can still be donated for up to a year past that date.

Finally, volunteers are needed for sorting fresh produce, shelving packaged items, baking banana bread, driving people home with their groceries or picking up Senior Citizens and bringing them to and from VEAP to obtain groceries. Volunteers are also needed to do data entry and client assistance. If you are interested in becoming a VEAP volunteer you can contact Courtney Flug, the volunteer coordinator at courtneyf@veap.org or call 952-888-9616.



Do you order from Amazon.com?
If so, they will contribute to MVUUF
for each order you place.
Go to Smile.Amazon.com to set it up.



SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

CONTINUED

THIS OLD EARTH

ED PRELL

The huge amount of discarded plastic littering our oceans is just one more disheartening mess that we humans have visited on This Old Earth. So, when I saw the TV commercials run by 4Ocean, an enterprise founded by two surfers, Alex Schulze and Andrew Cooper, I got curious. Their stated mission is to clean up the world's oceans, one pound at a time. Their operating funds are derived from the sale of bracelets made from recycled materials. This enterprise was hatched by the pair on a surfing vacation in Bali, when they observed fisherman pushing through mounds of plastic to get their boats out to open waters. Back home in Boca Raton, FL, they rolled up their sleeves and dived in. No matter that they are not collecting the trash nearly as fast as it is being dumped: since they started operations in January 2017, they have removed 1000 tons; humanity has added at least 46 MILLION tons. So, is this gambit only giving us a sugar high of optimism, waiting to be dashed when the sobering reports continue to roll in? Shall we retreat back into pessimism?

Searching for better stories, I learned of a Dutch company, Ocean Cleanup, which claims it will subdue the monster "Great Pacific Garbage Patch", a 600,000 square mile, 80 million ton concentration of floating plastic debris, in five years! That claim was made by Ocean Cleanup's CEO, 24 year old Boyan Slat, at a dazzling inauguration reminiscent of Apple Computer's iPhone rollouts. Impressive graphic animation depicted the flotsam being gobbled up like Ghosts and Dots by a PAC-MAN fleet. The company, funded by \$31.5 million from American venture capitalists, launched its prototype rig into the "Garbage Patch" last fall. After four months, it failed to collect any trash and broke in two. Leading oceanographers, whose doubts about Slat's scheme fell on deaf ears at its outset, are now being interviewed. They opine that he should have finished his engineering studies and learned more about our complicated oceans.

It would be easy to conclude that our oceans are doomed to choke in a mound of plastic. I prefer to believe that a workable solution is waiting to be hatched – by a clear-eyed genius who learned his lessons well. Meanwhile, we need to recycle our trash, and encourage its retrieval – even if it's only one pound at a time.



CLASSES & GROUPS

AMERICAN MAH JONGG



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.



BRIDGE GROUP

February bridge will be on Saturday, February 16 at 1 p.m.

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



BEYOND SUNDAY MORNING - "BUILDING COMMUNITY"

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 **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.

NEW: Beyond Sunday Morning 1st Thursdays Happy Hour! Thursday, February 7 at 5 pm at Wooden Hills Brewery in Edina

See page 8 of the newsletter for more information!

RELIGION ETHICS AND IDEAS

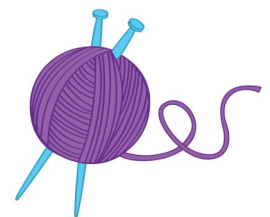
Patriotism vs Nationalism

Religion Ethics and Ideas will meet on Sunday, February 10 at 9:00 AM in the Fireside Room. Our questions will be: What is Patriotism? What is Nationalism? Is there a difference between the two? All are invited to attend. Questions contact John Peloquin (John17780@charter.net).

ITCHY FINGERS SALON

"Persons Inclined to Experiment in Fiber Arts" or "PIEFA". I also want to invite those that are of a mind to "Zentangle" or "PIEFAZ". Of course, this includes those liable to draw, sketch, and color with pencil, charcoal, pens, and crayons. Bring your own projects. Teaching and guidance is provided as needed. The salon will meet on Saturday afternoons in the Fireside Room at MVUUF September through March. FIBER ARTS, i.e.: intertwine, sew, bind, unite, mend, fasten, bond, weave, web, intermingle, join, secure, cable, repair, heal, affix, interlace, link, connect, tie, net, ally, spin, loop, knit, crochet, purl.

Submitted by "Itchy Fingers Salon" hostess, Becky McPeck, rcreates@yahoo.com, text to 612-201-3442.





EVENING BOOK GROUP

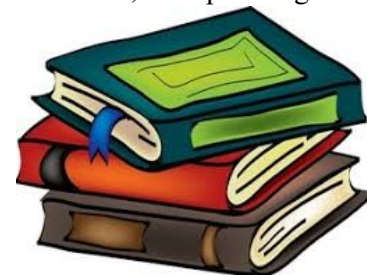
The Evening Book Group is taking a break in February. We hope that everyone continues to read and enjoy themselves. We will return in March, and hope you can join us for a lively discussion. Alternating fiction and nonfiction, our upcoming books are:

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.

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

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



TOGETHER WE ARE PURSUING OUR MISSION INSPIRED BY A SHARED VISION

Creating an Inclusive community by:

Educating 23 people in the Beloved Conversations series

Developing the new Mission & Vision Statements in March 2018

Involving everyone in our Stewardship program

Making each Sunday's words and music accessible to those with hearing impairments

Fostering spiritual and intellectual growth by:

Calling our new minister whose words inspire and challenge us

Creating the position of Minister of Congregational Programs to develop new ways to educate all children, youth and adults. Current RE enrollment is 46



Building a better world through love and service by:

Supporting our larger community in addressing racism, immigration justice, hunger and poverty as we shared the plate (\$6,500)

Making the Unitarian Universalist principles and values live through our actions

Nurturing one other so that we may collectively and effectively express our fire of commitment. The Congregational Care committee coordinates rides, delivers meals, makes visits, and coordinates memorials.

LED LIGHTS AT MN VALLEY

We have started installing LED lights in the Fellowship. We are replacing all of the fluorescent bulbs with line voltage LED bulbs, rewiring the fixtures and getting rid of the ballasts. This process will replace all of the fluorescent bulbs in the Fellowship. We expect payback in 2-3 years from savings in electricity and repair costs. This will cut our electric usage per light by 50%.

Do not repair any fluorescent lights from this date. If we erroneously put a fluorescent light in a fixture wired as an LED the light will explode. Within the next few months we will be discarding all of the fluorescent lights to prevent this happening.

A huge thank you to Will Olson for all of his hard work on this project!

**BOARD OFFICERS OF THE FELLOWSHIP**

Chair & Board Member	Kelley Hughes	(952) 831-0032 uukelley@hotmail.com
Chair-elect & Board Member	Nancy Buckman	(952) 736-9586 nancybmnuu@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

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

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

Minister 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

Internet
Home Page: www.mnvalleyuu.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/mnvalleyuu

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



Calendar February 2019

Today < > February 2019

Month

Calendar

February 2019

S M T W T F S

27 28 29 30 31 1 2

3 4 5 6 7 8 9

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

24 25 26 27 28 1 2

3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Add calendar

My calendars

Other calendars

Holidays in United States

SUN 27	MON 28	TUE 29	WED 30	THU 31	FRI Feb 1	SAT 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Choir 9:30am Linda Hayden- Hospi 10:30am Sunday Services 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm Mah Jongg 5pm Yoga 6:30pm Choir 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Women's Spirituality Gr 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:30pm Meditation Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Yoga 10:15am Women's Group 1pm Itchy Fingers Salon 5pm Private Event
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Choir 9:30am Kate Stornberg- Hos 10:30am Sunday Services 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm Beyond Sunday Mornir 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Yoga 5:30pm C.O.S.M. meeting 6:30pm Choir 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Women's Spirituality Gr 9am Private Event 5pm Beyond Sunday Mornir 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:15am Blue Highways 3:30pm Meditation Group 7pm Friday Night Poker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Yoga 10am Women's Chorale 1pm Itchy Fingers Salon 5pm Private Event
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Choir 9am Religion Ethics and Ide 9:30am The Danko's- Hospi 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Women's Book Group 6:30pm Private Event 7pm Finance Committee Me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm Mah Jongg 5pm Yoga 6:30pm Choir 7pm Board of Trustees Mee 	Valentine's Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15pm Men's Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:30pm Meditation Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Yoga 10am Social Action Metting 1pm Bridge Club 1pm Itchy Fingers Salon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Choir 9:30am Nancy Buckman Ho 10:30am Sunday Services 	Presidents' Day (regional holi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm Beyond Sunday Mornir 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Yoga 6:30pm Choir 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Women's Spirituality Gr 9am Private Event 7pm Evening Book Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:15am Blue Highways 3:30pm Meditation Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Yoga 10am Women's Chorale 1pm Itchy Fingers Salon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Choir 9:30am Candace McClenah 10:30am Sunday Services 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Private Event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm Mah Jongg 1pm Beyond Sunday Mornir 5pm Yoga 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Women's Spirituality Gr 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:30pm Meditation Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Yoga 10:15am Women's Group 1pm Itchy Fingers Salon 5pm Private Event

To View the MVUUF Calendar online, go to:

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

Remember to buy your fair trade coffee on Sunday mornings! Contact Kate in the office (office@mnvalleyuu.org) for special orders!

