

Journey

*When you travel, a new silence goes with you,
And if you listen, you will hear what your heart would love to say.*
John O'Donohue

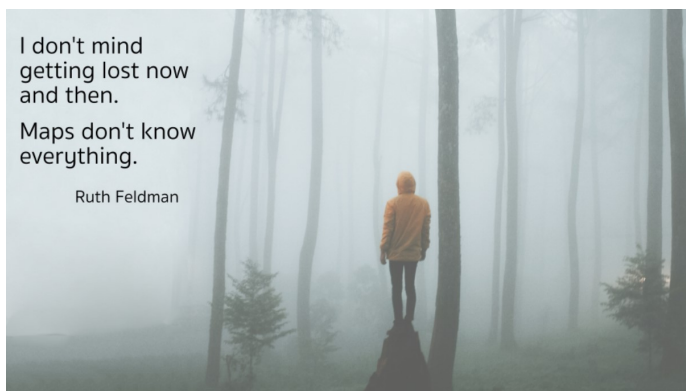
I don't think I could have imagined that life's journey would have taken me to where I am. I suppose that is true for many of us. It is true for our Fellowship as well. Fifty-three years ago, a couple of dozen folks came together to form this Fellowship. Could they ever have imagined where the journey would lead? Could they have imagined that we would be here now...that we would be a vibrant community...that we would have a strong history of doing good works...that we would still be a place where people found belonging in the kindness and care of one another. Indeed, it has been fruitful journey, so far; and so, it continues to be.

It is fitting that JOURNEY is our theme this month as we begin our stewardship campaign for the coming year. Stewardship is basically how we pack and prepare for the next leg of the journey: we take stock of what we have; we chart where we want to go; and we gather what we think we will need to get there. Of course, we know that there will be unforeseen challenges and blessings around the next bend. But still, we gather together to do our best to prepare for that next leg of our journey; to continue to grow and explore and build community together in order to reveal a more loving and just world.

As we enter into this month of JOURNEY and STEWARDSHIP, take some time if you will to think about where you might like MVUUF to go. Let your imagination run wild. Let your grandest hope and deepest longing be your guide and imagine where the journey could take us. And then let these ideas emerge from your imagination. Bring them to the surface. Talk about them with your family, with fellow members, with lay leaders and staff.

I am grateful and excited to be on this journey with you. Where shall we go from here? What will it take to get there? Together, with love as our guide we continue the journey.

See you Sunday,
Rev. Laura





MARCH SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 AM

March 3rd: **The Journey Continues; We are the Source**: As we kickoff our stewardship campaign for the coming year, we pause to reflect on where we have come from and where we are going. What lies ahead for us and how shall we prepare for it? With Linda Hayen and Rev. Laura Thompson. In celebration of the gifts we bring and share a light lunch will follow the service.

March 10th: 10:30am: **The Journey of Lent; What Do You Have to Lose?**: With the Christian season of Lent upon us, it is a good time to reflect on this ancient and ongoing tradition and practice. Is it just about giving up chocolate or meat on Fridays or is there more to it? What is to be gained by “giving something up”? Rev. Laura Thompson

March 17th: **A Song for the Journey; Music Sunday**: Raise your voice, tap your feet, share your gifts and join us for this beloved service that celebrates life’s journey through music and song. Sonja Johnston and Nicole Collins lead our traditional spring service.

March 24th: **Lost and Found**: Our journeys in life are full of twists and turns, in which we occasionally find ourselves lost. Unsure of how or where to find our way again, the experience can be frightening. Join Janet Stevens and Revs. Andrea Johnston & Laura Thompson as they explore the challenges of finding ourselves. This service is for all ages.

11:45am: Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, our Sunday Sharing Partner for March will be giving a presentation in the sanctuary. Come and learn more about them and how you can support immigrants and refugees in Minnesota.

March 31st: **Travels on My Religious Journey**: This year our “My Religious Journey” service takes itself a little more literally as Fran Bohlke and Candace McClenahan share the spiritual side of their travel journeys. Special musical guests are the Sounds of Silver flute choir.

MARCH SUNDAY SHARING PARTNER

During the month of March, MVUUF will be sharing its Sunday offerings with Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota. ILCM occupies a unique niche among nonprofit immigration legal service providers because of the breadth of immigration legal services available, their capacity to represent clients throughout the state, and their ability to work with clients of all nationalities. Their three-pronged model—direct legal services, education, and advocacy—allows ILCM to comprehensively respond to and prevent immigration legal problems.



Supporting families and strengthening communities for more than 20 years

Learn more about their work here: <https://www.ilcm.org/> and meet a representative of their organization following the service on March 24th.

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 or treasurer with any questions. Thanks!



BOARD OF TRUSTEES HIGHLIGHTS

KELLEY HUGHES

Hanifl Grant Update

Our Technology team is preparing for the next phase of upgrades from the Hanifl grant. Video cameras, and the equipment to support them, are coming soon, so we can live-stream our minister's sermons to the web, project our Sunday services and other events in the lobby, and broadcast our services and events throughout the building. Look for completion in late April.

Service Opportunities

Have you ever wondered, "In what ways can I contribute my gifts more? How can I be more involved?"

You might find some resonance in one or more of the following: Our Welcoming Congregation (LGBTQ) status needs renewing. So does our Green Sanctuary (environmental) status. A Postcard Program also needs attention, so we can notify our legislatures about issues that matter most to us. Each of these endeavors would need only two to four hours a month. Of course, you can do more if you wish! Contact Rev. Laura at minister@mnvalleyuu.org, or at 612-216-4203 if you'd like to work on any of these items.



Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 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

Our Stewardship Committee this year, headed by Jeanne Simpson, has done a masterful job in tapping into "Why I Give" among our community.

Recently, I have been thinking at length about Why I Give. I remembered that more than 20 years ago, I walked through MVUUF's doors as a young adult for the first time. I fondly recall then-Membership Chair, Barb Gilliland, warmly greeting me at the entrance. After some welcoming chit-chat, Barb introduced me to a number of folks, including her husband, Jerry Gilliland (who, several years later, became my co-facilitator for our youth sexuality education program, *Our Whole Lives Grades 7 Through 9*).

That was the beginning of my spiritual journey at MVUUF. In my time here, I taught religious education classes to students who are now themselves young adults. I also have known the grief of losing some fellow congregants over the years, and the comfort of living through this grief within our MVUUF community.

All these years, until a few years ago, I had considered my membership pledge as...well, a commitment I make, once a year, to give some my income to the larger budget I saw simply as "MVUUF." I saw it as a "price" I paid for membership, and for the right to vote.

Today, I see my pledge as so much more than this. My pledge helps keep MVUUF alive. My pledge helps supply our programs, classes, and services, so our volunteers and staff can run them. My pledge helps our volunteers and staff keep our building and grounds attractive and maintained, and a welcoming place for visitors and long-timers alike. These are only a handful of ways my pledge helps keep MVUUF alive.

Our pledges comprise 88% of our annual budget so that we have a place to meet, a place to share our joys and losses, a place to have fun, a place to learn, and a place to nurture the next generation.

For me, giving to MVUUF is part of my legacy.

Questions or comments? Please let me know
Kelley Hughes, Chair, 2018-19

Phone 952-451-6376

Email uukelley@hotmail.com



CONGREGATIONAL PROGRAMS

ANDREA JOHNSON

NEW! Daytime Discussion Group

OPINIONS wanted.

Have you ever wanted to exchange and express your opinions with others? A few members of the Fellowship would like to start a discussion group that is open to all. The idea is to discuss issues such as immigration, assisted suicide, universal health care among other issues. The group will determine the topics to discuss and find his/her readings on the subject.

The first discussion will be at 1:00 on Thursday, March 28 and end by 2:30. Meet in the fireplace room. The first discussion topic will be immigration. Diane Bick will give a short presentation on her experience as an observer at immigration court.

For further information contact Carmen Herzog at carmjlher@aol.com or Jan Wolff at June5391@comcast.net

Religious Education in March

Our theme this month is Journey and we'll be exploring the following angles in our **three Religious Education Sundays this month**. Note there will be no class on March 17th due to Music Sunday or March 24th due to Spring Break:

- March 3rd: The Journey of Beginnings: we all begin our life as blessings and it is our task to share our gifts and blessings with the world.
- March 3rd: ESCAPE ROOM for 6-12th graders. 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm. RSVP to Sara: rey@mnvalleyuu.org
- March 10th: The Journey of Justice: Can take the form of marches and protests.
- March 31st: The Journey of Endings: Saying thank you for sharing in the life of a loved one who has died.



As your family considers this theme of journey - what places would be considered pilgrimages in your family? A special bench in a park where you shared news of a new family member? The grave site of a loved one that you visit each year? A place where a pet is buried? A National Park where a child made their first big hike? Try naming these places of pilgrimage for your family. You could even create a new one!

Resources for Rituals for the Journey of Life:

Unitarian Universalist Child Dedication Ceremonies - Marking the Beginning of the Journey of life

- MVUUF will hold a child dedication ritual during the Flower Communion service in June. If you are interested in participating in our child dedication ritual, contact Revs. Laura or Andrea.
 - <https://www.uua.org/beliefs/what-we-do/celebrations/births>
- <https://www.questformeaning.org/rites-of-passage/baby-child-dedications/>
UU Family Rituals for other times on the Journey of Life
- <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/creating-rituals-with-for-children>



REMINDER! HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES ARE ON the FIRST and THIRD SUNDAY EVENING, 6:00 pm. HOWEVER, this month, March 3rd's HSYG will be combined with middle schoolers for the 6-12th grade ESCAPE ROOM Field Trip 12:00 - 2:00 pm. Light lunch will be served 11:30-12:00 pm. Transportation provided by Andrea and Sara. Rsvp to rev@mnvalleyuu.org no later than February 26th, 2019.

NEW FAMILY PROGRAMMING! Monthly Theme-Based Family Nights at Church (ALL ARE WELCOME)

Revs Laura and Andrea wish to warmly and enthusiastically invite everyone to participate in our monthly Family Night programming. For those without children, we extend a special invitation to come and spend time with our families, perhaps volunteer to clean up after dinner or play with the children while some of the parents attend a parenting group with fellow congregants. This is one way to show that ours is a congregation that works together to support all families and their children! Please contact Andrea Johnson andrea@mnvalleyuu.org if you can help on March 31st.

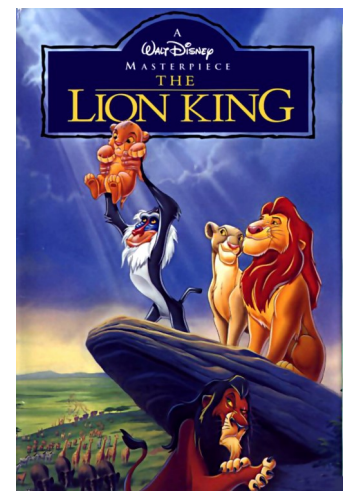
Sunday March 31st is Family Night at Church

Come back to church on Sunday evening at 5pm for dinner and family activities. Laura and Andrea will be serving a taco bar and will host the following activities afterwards:

Books to read with your kids: Journey, Quest and Return by Aaron Becker A lonely girl draws a magic door on her bedroom wall and through it escapes into a world where wonder, adventure, and danger abound. Red marker in hand, she creates a boat, a balloon, and a flying carpet that carry her on a spectacular journey toward an uncertain destiny. When she is captured by a sinister emperor, only an act of tremendous courage and kindness can set her free. Can it also lead her home and to her heart's desire?
Activity: Church Treasure Hunt. Come one, come all as we go on a treasure hunt throughout the church!

Movie: Lion King. The Lion King presents the story of a lion cub's journey to adulthood and acceptance of his royal destiny. Simba begins life as an honored prince, the son of the powerful King Mufasa. The cub's happy childhood turns tragic when his evil uncle, Scar, murders Mufasa and drives Simba away from the kingdom. In exile, the young lion befriends the comically bumbling pair of Pumbaa the warthog (and Timon the meerkat, he and lives a carefree jungle life. As he approaches adulthood, however, he is visited by the spirit of his father, who instructs him to defeat the nefarious Scar and reclaim his rightful throne.

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

Lots of musical excitement in March beginning with the opera performance and discussion by opera students at the U of MN this Sunday at 1:00 pm for one hour - and it's **FREE!**

On March 10, Steve Koehler and John Holm will provide all the special music.

March 17 is our Spring Music Sunday. Everyone can participate. Talk to me.

We have a special performance on March 24 by an elite young people's choir from the Heartbeat Performing Art School.

March 31 will again feature the Flute Choir with our own Betty Olson. They will play all the special music.

We are also pleased to announce that Nicole Collins is beginning her training as Incoming Music Director!



GETTING TO KNOW UU: AN INTRO TO MVUUF AND UUISM

This session is intended for newcomers who are interested in learning more about MVUUF and Unitarian Universalism. The afternoon includes brief insights into UU history and theology alongside introductions to MVUUF's history and the focus of its current ministries including Congregational Care, Social Action, and Religious Education. We'll also have time to get to know you and a little bit about your faith journey.

DATE: Sunday, March 31

TIME: 12:00pm - 3:00pm

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED!

Please RSVP to Kate at office@mnvalleyuu.org if you plan to attend.

When reserving your spot, please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions or if you will need childcare.



MEN'S GROUP (ALL GENDERS WELCOME)

Men's Group will meet on Thursday March 14 at 6:15 at the Fellowship. Our speaker will be (fellow UU) Brian Newhouse, the Classical Music Director at Minnesota Public Radio. Brian will talk about the joy of classical music, the classical music scene in Minnesota and the challenges of running a classical music service. Brian looks forward to lots of questions and discussion on the general topic of classical music. All are invited and welcome to attend regardless of gender.

If you wish to come for dinner at 6:15 email John Peloquin John17780@charter.net by Tuesday March 12 with the phrase **For Dinner**; 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.

classical
MPR

WOMEN'S GROUP

Legalize Recreational Marijuana in Minnesota?



Our program this month will be presented by Kert Severson, a pharmacist at Fairview Ridges Hospital and someone who has followed the issues surrounding legalizing both medical and recreational marijuana. He promises to give us his views on the pros and cons of legalizing recreational marijuana as well as some of the complications of legalized medical marijuana. Come at 10:15 for a few minutes of coffee and conversation before the program starts at 10:30.

If you'd like to attend the March 2 meeting but are not currently on the Women's Group contact list, please contact Nancy Buckman by February 27 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 staying for the catered \$7.00 lunch.



M N O U E U A

Join artists from the Minnesota Opera as they present ***An Afternoon at the Opera***, a fun and interactive, musical journey through the history of the operatic art form. Teaching Artist and operatic baritone, **Pablo Siqueiros** and mezzo-soprano, **Christina Christensen** will be joined by collaborative pianist, **Jared Miller**, in an hour-long program that will explore how opera began, where it has been, and where it is going. Whether you are an opera lover or an opera newbie, **you won't want to miss this opportunity to learn about opera from the source itself!**

An Afternoon at the Opera

Sunday, March 3 at 1:00 pm

**Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
10715 Zenith Ave S
Bloomington, MN 55431**

This is a Community Event - All Are Welcome!

Minnesota Opera changes lives by bringing together artists, audiences and community, advancing the art of opera for today and for future generations.



**MINNESOTA VALLEY
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP**

**MVUUF Office Hours****Lead 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.*

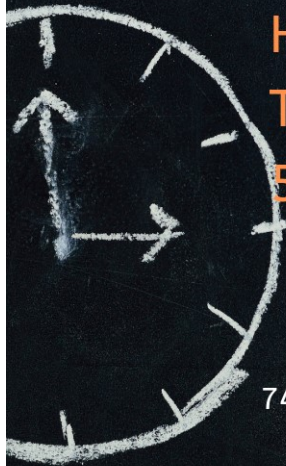
SUNDAY, MARCH 31 AT 5:00 PM

FAMILY NIGHT!

- Dinner prepared by Rev. Laura and Andrea
- Activities for all ages
- Senior High Youth Group
- Parenting Group (lead by Andrea)
- Movie: Disney's The Lion King

**BEYOND SUNDAY MORNING**

Happy Hour
 Thursday, March 7th
 5:00 pm



7421 Bush Lake Road
 Edina, MN 55439

WOODEN HILL
 BREWING
 COMPANY

EDINA

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

Join us March 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

Holly Bruce

Being remembered financially in wills and as memorials is an honor and MVUUF is grateful. The endowment committee welcomes the opportunity to talk about how endowment can be part of your current financial plans, specifically using annuities available from the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

In last month's Uni-sun, Kat Janes wrote about how some of the endowment grants are currently being used to bring Opera to our congregation as well as investing in MVUUF staff training. Please talk to any of the committee members if you would like more information on how the annuities could work.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

KATE STOMBERG

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

The committee is busy planning another **"Getting to Know UU"** class. This class is for newer friends and visitors at MN Valley, for anyone who would like to know more about the history of Unitarian Universalism and this congregation including our current ministries. This class is also an excellent way to learn about membership at MN Valley. **The class will take place on Sunday, March 31st from noon until 3:00 pm.** The afternoon will include lunch and childcare is provided. Please contact the Membership Coordinator Kate Stomberg at office@mnvalleyuuu.org to RSVP.

If you have been coming for a while, and you are interested in membership and want to know, what does that even mean, please talk to any member of the membership committee or Kate Stomberg. The membership committee includes: Jody Gray, Candace McClenahan, Nancy Buckman, Dale Lewellyn, Diane Bick, and Linda Hayden.

The next Membership Committee meeting is Monday, March 4 at 5:00 pm, all are welcome to attend!



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!





SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE



The Social Action Committee (SAC) is forming working groups to work on renewing both our Green Sanctuary (environmental) and Welcoming Congregation (LGBTQ) statuses. The committee acknowledged the work of those who helped to garner us those certifications in previous years and looked forward to building on those legacies by taking an inventory of how we are doing and how we might continue to improve and stay steadfast in our commitments to these values.

SAC also discussed the merit of a postcard writing program developed at First Unitarian Society in Minneapolis. The program involves having researching legislative issues important to UUs and having postcards printed and ready for congregants to sign in favor of those issues on Sunday morning after the service. The program has had great success at FUS in getting more UU voices in touch with their representatives en masse.

If you are interested in working on any of these projects or joining the Social Action Committee, please contact Rev. Laura minister@mnvalleyuu.org



Reminder - Andrea's Ordination

The Congregation of Minnesota Valley UU Fellowship joyfully invites you to attend the ordination of Andrea Johnson on **Saturday, March 16th, 2019 at 2:00 pm**. A reception will follow. Dr. Demian Wheeler, Assistant Professor of Philosophical Theology and Religious Studies at United Theological Seminary, will be preaching the sermon entitled: "Liberal Piety and the Congregational Theologian." We hope to see you there.

**SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

Continued

MVUUF LIBRARY TAKING SHAPE

With the new use of space in our building, the fellowship library has been moved to the Fireside Room. The books are for everyone to read and you may take a book home, read it at your leisure, and return it when you are done. A sign out clipboard is on one of the shelves.

The variety of books are arranged by shelves which are labeled according to category. They are mostly books with a religious or social action theme, non-fiction, and biographical. Magazines, DVD's, and CD's are also included.

This library is a work in progress and if you have a suggestion for the types of books we might add or how to make it easier to use, please let us know.

Children's and Religious Education books will be downstairs.

Questions, comments? Contact Nan Corliss or Marguerite Jarvis

Nan- ncorliss41@aol.com or 952-835-832

Marguerite- marguerite.modejarvis@gmail.com

ANNUAL REPORT FROM VEAP**LORNA PRELL**

Every February VEAP gives the member churches a report on their activities as well as the needs for the next year. I will try to recap, simply, what this year's report entails.

VEAP clients are low-income households with incomes up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline who spend 60-80% of their income on rent. 6,777 households were served in 2018. Bloomington residents make up 56% of VEAP clients; 25% are Richfield residents; 7% Edina residents; 7% from Minneapolis; 5% homeless or out of area

Forty Eight per cent of all monthly food pantry clients visit the pantry 1-4 times over the course of the year. The average number of visits is 5.6. Food Services include the Food Pantry, the Mobile Food Pantry, and the Student Hunger Collaborative (weekend food for food insecure students), Food Deliveries, Food Shelf Special Needs, Rides Home from the Pantry, Shuttle Service, and NEAT (Nutrition Education and Teaching).

VEAP distributes non-perishables, milk and other dairy, eggs and fresh produce which come from several sources. These sources are TEFAP—The Emergency Food Assistance Program, "Food Rescue" from local grocers, community gardens and farmers markets, and community drives. Over 3.64 million pounds of food was distributed last year of which half was fresh produce. VEAP has between 140-160 appointments every day. Clients can receive food monthly with 6 additional "produce visits" per year. Beginning last March, 4 Mobile Food Pantries were started as well as a new shuttle service and food delivery program was piloted.

In addition to the food program, VEAP provides social services to assist with employment, underemployment, and affordable housing. These programs are too detailed to discuss here but if you have questions about any of the services provided by VEAP feel free to ask me, Lorna Prell, and I will forward the data to you.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE****The End of an Era?**

Recently Karen Olson, Janet Stevens, Leslie Swenson, and Barb Olson gave a memo to the board explaining that they would no longer manage the rummage sale. They cited several reasons – increasing difficulty obtaining donations and volunteers, declining attendance and sales as well as declining profits. (I suspect burnout had a good deal to do with the decision as well)

First of all, the finance committee wants to thank these women for all the hard work they have done over many years making rummage sales a success. The sale not only made a large contribution to Fellowship finances, but it also made a substantial contribution to building community at MVUUF. **So thank you so much!**

The rummage sale has a long history at MVUUF. According to the 50th anniversary history book the first rummage sale occurred in 1967. Beginning in 1976 the history records some rummage sales revenue. The figures are summarized in the table below along with some recent numbers.

Year	Rummage Sale Revenue
1976	\$196.00
1977	\$450.00
1980	\$655.00
1982	\$768.00
1983	\$1,160.00
1985	\$1,855.00
1986	\$2,000.00
1987	\$2,150.00
2015	\$6,094.00
2016	\$4,389.00
2017	\$3,933.00
2018	\$4,269.00

As you can see no rummage sale means there is about a \$4,269.00 hole in the budget. This may seem quite large, but it is less than \$26.00 per member. It will have to be made up by either increased pledges or other fund raisers. (Go service auction!)



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

**STEWARDSHIP****THE FOUNDATION AND THE SOURCE**

Recently I asked myself why MVUUF is so important to me and realized that it is one of the foundations of my life. UUism is part of who I am. From leadership roles, in other UU churches, I learned that a church serves its members and friends at the same level of financial support its' members give because we are the source.

Since we added more staff this year, I noticed that MVUUF is offering a lot more programming to adults and children. More programming opens a pathway to new members. It's very important.

Programming is so important to membership growth, I don't want to lose Andrea, Kate, Sarah and Nicole because I didn't hold up my end of the financial bargain. It made me think differently about increasing my pledge significantly.

March is when we are asked to make a financial commitment to our Fellowship for the next fiscal year. A visiting steward (another member) will be contacting you for a conversation about MVUUF. Please welcome them. It is a wonderful way to make a personal connection in a way impossible on a Sunday morning.

Yours in Fellowship,

Jeanne Simpson
Chair of Stewardship

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

March bridge will be on Saturday, March 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!



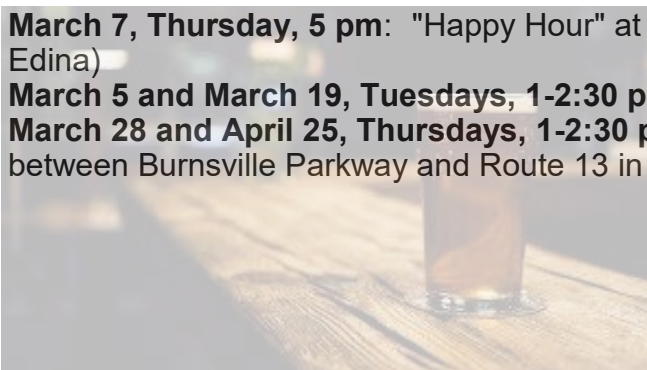
BEYOND SUNDAY MORNING - "BUILDING COMMUNITY"

Come to any / all 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 conversations. No need to RSVP. Just come if you can and invite any others who might be interested. All are welcome!

March 7, Thursday, 5 pm: "Happy Hour" at Wooden Hill Brewery (7421 Bush Lake Road, Edina)

March 5 and March 19, Tuesdays, 1-2:30 pm: at Richfield Panera (980 W. 78th, Richfield)

March 28 and April 25, Thursdays, 1-2:30 pm: Jojo's Rise and Wine, located on Nicollet between Burnsville Parkway and Route 13 in Burnsville



RELIGION ETHICS AND IDEAS

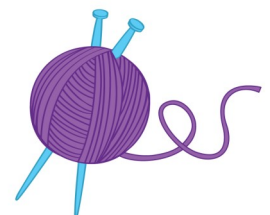
Religion Ethics and Ideas will meet on **Sunday March 10** at should public policy be towards the "recreational use" of currently cocaine, heroin etc. This is topical in light of the fact that bills Minnesota

9:00 AM. Our topic will be: What banned substances like marijuana, are being introduced in the

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, racreates@yahoo.com, text to 612-201-3442.





EVENING BOOK GROUP

The Evening Book Group returns in March after our break in February. We hope you can join us for a lively and informative 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 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





PITCHING IN TO HIT THE HIGH NOTE

The MVUUF Service Auction is Saturday, April 27th!

Back in January we sent out over 100 letters and emails asking for donations from theaters, restaurants and other entertainment venues. During March we ask for your donations. What can you give to the Auction? Host a dinner in your home or at a restaurant, make baked goods or candy, offer to weed a garden or lightly clean a house. If none of those ideas work, buy a gift card to your favorite restaurant or entertainment venue. Or maybe instead of donating you need help with something - understanding your smart phone, new computer program, cleaning, yard work, etc. We have a section called Help Wanted where you donate dollars to the church and someone will help you as needed. The Service Auction is a major fundraiser. Look for more information and ideas in the Friday emails, Sunday Bulletins, the MVUUF website and the table near the fireplace. We thank you in advance for your donation.

Jean Danko, Barb Becker, Holly Bruce, Barb Olson, Karen Olson, Leslie Swenson



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

**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 Today < > March 2019

Search Settings Month G Suite

Create

March 2019 < >

S M T W T F S

24 25 26 27 28 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 29 30

31 1 2 3 4 5 6

Add calendar

My calendars

Other calendars

☒ Holidays in United States

SUN 24	MON 25	TUE 26	WED 27	THU 28	FRI 1	SAT 2
9am Choir 5 more		9am Private Event	1pm Mah Jongg 5 more	9am Women's Spirituality Gr	3:30pm Meditation Group	9am Yoga 3 more
3 9am Choir 5 more	4	5 1pm Beyond Sunday Mornir 7pm Beloved Conversations	6 5pm Yoga 2 more	7 9am Women's Spirituality Gr 2 more	8 10:15am Blue Highways 2 more	9 9am Yoga 2 more
10 Daylight Saving Time starts 7 more	11	12 10am Women's Book Group 7pm Finance Committee M	13 1pm Mah Jongg 3 more	14 9am Women's Spirituality Gr 6:15pm Men's Group	15 3:30pm Meditation Group	16 9am Yoga 3 more
17 St. Patrick's Day 7 more	18 6pm MCGT Speaker Event	19 1pm Beyond Sunday Mornir	20 5pm Yoga 6:30pm Choir	21 9am Women's Spirituality Gr 2 more	22 10:15am Blue Highways 3:30pm Meditation Group	23 9am Yoga 1pm Itchy Fingers Salon
24 9am Choir 5 more	25	26 9am Private Event	27 1pm Mah Jongg 5 more	28 9am Women's Spirituality Gr 1pm Afternoon Discussion	29 3:30pm Meditation Group	30 9am Yoga 1pm Itchy Fingers Salon
31 9am Choir 3 more	Apr 1	2 1pm Beyond Sunday Mornir	3 5pm Yoga 2 more	4 9am Private Event 5pm Beyond Sunday Mornir	5 3:30pm Meditation Group	6 9am Yoga 3 more

To View the MVUUF Calendar online, go to:

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

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

