

What Does It Mean To Be A People of Curiosity?

UU minister, Victoria Safford, speaks of curiosity using the metaphor of perception and sight. She writes, *“To see, simply to look and to see, is an ethical act and intentional choice; to see, with open eyes, is a spiritual practice and thus a risk, for it can open you to ways of knowing the world and loving it that will lead to inevitable consequences. The awakened eye is a conscious eye, a willful eye, and brave, because to see things as they are, each in its own truth, will make you very vulnerable.”*



Consequences. I’m not sure I’ve ever thought of curiosity in terms of consequences. But I think Rev. Safford has got it right. There is a type of curiosity that is about enjoyment and adventure. It invites us to experience life as a playground. But there is another type of curiosity that leads to consequences, that changes us. This kind of curiosity is about more than enjoyment. Indeed, it’s the kind that drives us past enjoyment and comfort. It’s not about enriching oneself; it’s about altering oneself.

This is the type of curiosity we Unitarians Universalists have fallen in love with—one might even say, put our “faith” in. Just think of how we talk about our dances with curiosity.

We don’t just tell stories about barraging our poor Sunday School teachers with “Why?!” and “Who says?!”; We tell stories of doing it until we were kicked out of the class. We don’t just talk about being open-minded; we talk about how our open-mindedness led us to leave home and family and walk a lonelier path than we wanted. And lately, many of us have leaned into the hard work of being curious about our role in upholding institutional racism and structures of white supremacy, none of which is just about “learning interesting new things.”

The point of all these stories is that, as hard as these curious paths are, we are grateful for them. We don’t want curiosity to just be fun or interesting. We want it to make us anew.

In other words, the message of our faith is not simply “Be curious!” It’s “Be curious until there are consequences!”

It’s fine to be inquisitive for the fun of it. But at another level, we’re called to remember that curiosity is not game. Well, maybe it’s the greatest game. The one that drives us to constantly become more, for our sakes and for the sake of others.

Rev. Scott Tayler, Soul Matters Team Lead





MAY SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 AM

May 5th: **"I Don't Know"; When Bravery Meets Curiosity**: We often define ourselves by the things we know. But, in truth, our lives are just as dictated by the things we don't know. And more than that, our "not knowing" often provides fertile ground for the depth and development of some of our deepest held values. Rev. Laura Thompson and Carla V. Ries with special music from the MVUUF Youth and Adult Choirs.

May 12th: **When Fear Becomes Oppression**: Phobia(noun): an extreme or irrational fear of or aversion to something. This week marks International Day against Transphobia, Homophobia and Bi-Phobia. Though we have made many strides in recent decades, these fears still exist in our world, in our country, in our neighborhoods and in our families. What is the cost of trans/homo/biphobia? And who should really be afraid? Rev. Laura Thompson and Lorna Prell lead the service with special music from Paul Coate and the MVUUF Choir.

May 19th: **RE SUNDAY**: We place high value on the education of our children in our liberal religious values. On this day we'll have the pleasure of letting them teach us a thing or two. What shall we learn together? MVUUF ANNUAL MEETING will follow this service.

May 26th: **Question Box Sunday**: Curious about religion, our UU faith, spirituality, or any of life's big themes...ask Rev. Laura. Join us for our annual Question Box Sunday. Questions will be collected throughout the month in the lobby outside the sanctuary or you can email them to minister@mnvalleyuu.org. Rev. Laura will do her best to get through as many questions as she can during the service.

MAY SUNDAY SHARING PARTNER

May's Sunday Sharing Partner is **CONSERVATION MINNESOTA**

Our Mission: Protecting the Minnesota You Love

From our four "real" seasons to our 10,000 lakes, the Great Outdoors defines life here. It is where many of our most cherished memories are created with family and friends. Passing our experiences and traditions on to our children, being good stewards of our land and lakes — these are values that we all share. At Conservation Minnesota, we turn your love of Minnesota's Great Outdoors into the laws that protect it. And we provide reliable information to help you make important decisions for your family, community and future.



<http://www.conservationminnesota.org/mission/>

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 or treasurer with any questions.

Thanks!



BOARD OF TRUSTEES HIGHLIGHTS

KELLEY HUGHES

The Board was delighted to approve for membership the following people:

Aubrey and Jake Albrecht
Stephanie and Spencer Baldwin
Myra Basar
James Norine
Jeanne Paul
Heidi Voss
Eric and Molly Willer

Many thank you's to Judith Anderson and Diane Bick for working with the Board in updating our Long Range Plan. The Board considers this a living document, to be reviewed quarterly, and revised annually.

Among the several goals of this plan is community outreach. Nancy Buckman has researched how to become involved in the National Night Out, to be held on August 6 of this year. We are now registered as a neighborhood National Night Out site.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

May often brings the first unambiguous signs that snowstorms are a thing of the past, at least for another five months, and that the growing season is underway.

So it is ironic that for many congregations, May and June are the last months of the liturgical year. It is a time when committees summarize and wrap up before summer activities and vacations begin.

Yet MVUUF continues to be active, to be involved, to evolve.

Our various work groups and committees are looking ahead to future endeavors. They are also seeking people who are interested in participating. Might you be interested in Congregational Care? Membership activities and development? Stewardship? Social Action? And several others. See the back page of your Uni-Sun to contact a committee's point person, or a Board member, with your questions, comments, and interests.

Also, Doug Bruce and Nancy Buckman have been in touch with a local Bloomington governing representative to explore further how MVUUF can be engaging in the wider Bloomington community in meaningful ways. Stay tuned for more information about this.

**Next Board Meeting: Wednesday,
May 8 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 2018-2019, at uukelley@hotmail.com.



CONGREGATIONAL PROGRAMS

REV. ANDREA JOHNSON

Religious Education in May

Our theme this month is curiosity which stems from the Latin *curiosus*: *careful, diligent, or inquisitive*. This is the same root for *care* and *careful* which implies an intention in curiosity, a sense of purpose about it. When it comes to raising our children our work is not to change what they do, but to witness what they do with wonder, curiosity, and compassion.

In religious education this month we'll be exploring curiosity through the lenses of empathy, imagination, and humility. We will also get curious about all that we have learned this past year as we prepare to present our learnings during RE Sunday on May 19th.

Religious Education Sunday - Coming Sunday May 19th!

Parents, teachers and kids - mark your calendars for our annual Religious Education Sunday. This is our annual celebration of our teachers and kids and what they have been learning all year!

All RE Teachers, parents and kids are invited to attend a brunch before services in the parish hall from 9:30-10:20. Rev. Andrea will be serving quiche, fruit and muffins to teachers, parents and kids as a way to celebrate the year and show appreciation to the teachers who have faithfully taught our kids all year.

RE Registration - Please register your children for next year's classes!

Calling all parents - please register your children for Religious Education classes next year! 4-year olds - 6th graders will be doing theme-based lessons. We will be offering our comprehensive sexuality education program to our 7th-9th graders and our Coming of Age program to our 10th-12th graders. Please use the following link to register your children for classes next year.

<https://mnvalleyuu.org/ourcommunity/children-and-youth/>





Religious Education Teacher Recruitment - Please consider volunteering for this vital role in our church community.

Our model is a cooperative one, with families learning and growing in religious community together. We depend on one another to create a vibrant experience for all ages! Each family is asked to support the program by volunteering in one of the following ways during the church year :

- Classroom Teacher (PreK - 6th Grade) Teach 8 Sundays during the church year. Training, complete session plans, prepared materials, and staff support are provided.
- Nursery Volunteer (babies - age 3 years old) - Volunteer in the Nursery 8 Sundays during the church year.
- Coming of Age/High School mentor (accompany youth as they create their statement of faith - meet approximately 4 times during the church year)
- Choice Sunday Volunteer (help kids with interactive activities in the Social Hall one Sunday a month)
- Chaperone/driver for Youth Events and Overnight Retreats (7th-12th grade)
- Family Night Volunteer (help with dinner clean-up, supervise kids crafts and games)

This year we are asking that all teachers wishing to teach next year, sign up now so that we can have one orientation at the beginning of the year. Your teaching teams can decide amongst you how you will divide up the year. There are 16 Sundays to split amongst your team. If you want to each only in the fall or spring that is okay or if you'd prefer to teach less often but all year that is okay too. We are asking for 5-6 volunteers for each classroom so that the work-load can be spread across the teaching team.

Please indicate your interest by entering your information on this google sheet: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nc5jYFn4zskcvUDcDTHV78CUCgLLjN1KjwTtOK-4EM/edit#gid=0>

CELEBRATING SONJA!



The Beauty of Music: A Service in Honor of Sonja Johnston Sunday June 9th, 10:30am

Join us for a special service filled with music and tribute as Sonja Johnston retires after 43 years of service to MVUUF. **Donations to Sonja's retirement gift are now being collected.** Let us celebrate her grandly!



MUSICAL NOTES

SONJA JOHNSTON, MINISTER OF MUSIC

As we wind down this season, I can't help but reflect on this amazing year, especially having the honor of working side by side with the legendary Sonja Johnston in my transition to becoming music director. It's clear to me the legacy she has laid here at MVUUF, and while I can't replace her, I can look to you all to help me lead and continue the strong music program we have here. I'm blown away by all the talent! By sharing with me what you love about our music program or how you'd like to be involved, as an instrumentalist for special music, a new edition to our choir, a member of a new musical ensemble, or a creative hand to new entertainment, I can weave my visions with yours to create a beautiful piece of art. This is a dream come true for me, to utilize my musical skills that I've been developing in so many ways and supporting the music program with such a joyful community here. Thank you!! - **Nicole Collins, Incoming Music Director**



The last Holiday Music Sunday...the last Music Committee meeting...the last Spring Music Sunday...the last "Sonja's Silly Play"...the last choir rehearsal...the last women's chorale rehearsal...this year has been an accumulation of last events including my last "goodbye" to my beloved brother Julian. Forty-three years ago, I agreed to become MVUUF's Music Director. 43 years!! And, truly, this job which I did not seek has been the passion of my life as I grew into it, joined and took on several responsible positions with the national UU Musicians Network which became a total joy. Now, at 80 years old, it is time to retire and give the responsibilities to a younger person. Nicole Paul Collins is highly qualified to become your Music Director and brings a youthful exuberance, joy and an enviable voice to MVUUF! She is a perfect successor and I'm sure she will grow to love this fellowship as much as I have. And, you will love her! - **Sonja Johnston, Music Minister**

Roy Zimmerman
RiZe Up

\$22 or pay what you can
Minnesota Valley
UU Fellowship
10715 Zenith Ave S
Bloomington
Saturday,
May 4
6:30 pm

"With music this good and humor this insightful, there is good reason to be optimistic."

Family Night & Community Concert
Saturday May 4th
Potluck 5:30-6:30
Concert 6:30-8pm
Kids Activities 6:30-8

Join us for an evening of fun for all ages. Come for dinner and fellowship. Come for a concert or family/kid friendly activities. Come for it all! Parents, enjoy the concert while your kids have fun with us! Sign-up for the potluck or to help here: [May 4th Sign-up](#)



MEN'S GROUP (ALL GENDERS WELCOME)

Understanding the Gender Pay Gap

On **Thursday May 9, 2019** in place of the regular men's group meeting John Peloquin will *fulfill a service auction obligation* by making a presentation on the **gender pay gap**. In Order to attend this presentation, you must A.) Have purchased it at the **April 2018** service auction **OR** B.) *Make a donation of \$20 to MVUUF for this purpose.* **Included with the presentation will be pizza donated by John Peloquin .** If you plan to make a \$20 donation to attend contact John Peloquin by the evening of Tuesday May 7. Questions - contact John Peloquin john17780@charter.net or 952 200 1846. <If you are wondering, this had been originally scheduled for April but due to the snowstorm and illness has been rescheduled>



WOMEN'S GROUP

May 4 Women's Group A Time for Sharing

We hope you can join us for the May 4 Women's Group program, "A Time for Sharing," when various fellowship members share examples of their artistic talents--writing, music, and artwork of all kinds. It's traditionally one of our favorite programs of the year and a chance to learn more about several of our amazing members. Come at 10:15 for some coffee and conversation before the program begins at 10:30.

We welcome visitors. If you'd like to attend the May 4th meeting but are not currently on the Women's Group contact list, please contact Nancy Buckman by May 1 at nancybmnuu@gmail.com or 952- 736-9586. 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.



PLEDGE DRIVE RESULTS

We knew from the outset that this was going to be a difficult pledge drive for several reasons:

The Hanifl grant that has been providing \$12,000 in funding for communications and membership staffing is ending.

With Sonja retiring, we knew we would need to hire both a music director and an accompanist. Sonja has been willing and able to do both, but that isn't the usual situation. We expected this to add about \$8,000 to our budget.

There will be no rummage sale next year since it was burning out a small group of volunteers and generating returns that weren't in line with the work required. Nevertheless, this means we won't have \$3,500 to \$4,500 in income that the rummage sale generated

After many years of proudly being full fair-share contributors to the UUA, our contribution has fallen off significantly in recent years. We hoped to be able to rectify that this year.

We know that our building needs major maintenance in several areas. We budgeted \$2,000 for this although an analysis showed that we really should be planning for \$9,000 per year.

All of that led to a planned budget of about \$300,000. We did not consider this to be a "dream" budget but rather to represent our real needs.

Our pledge drive fell about \$40,000 short of what we had hoped for. We believe there were many reasons for this, but a significant one is that many of our long-time members are no longer able to sustain the level of support they have made in the past. This always happens to some extent, but this year it happened a lot.

It is the responsibility of the Finance committee and Board to bring our budgeted expenditures into balance with our expected income and we have done that, but the process has not been easy or painless. These cuts include:

- completely eliminating the budget for special (outside) music and major building maintenance.

- making major cuts to professional expenses for Laura and Andrea, membership and communications staffing, and UUA/MidAmerica.

- making moderate cuts to archivist, membership, postage, aesthetics, the Board, membership dues, social action, children's RE expenses, and child care.

It has taken longer than we hoped to see our membership grow, but there is evidence that we are on the brink of seeing significant increases. It is also unmistakable that there is more going on at the Fellowship than has been the case for a long time.

We will do what we have to do to live within our means, but if there is anything you can possibly do to help alleviate the budget shortfall, please contact Steve Danko, Dale Lewellyn, or the MVUUF Office.

Thank you so much for your support.

Dale Lewellyn, treasurer



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

Rev. 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

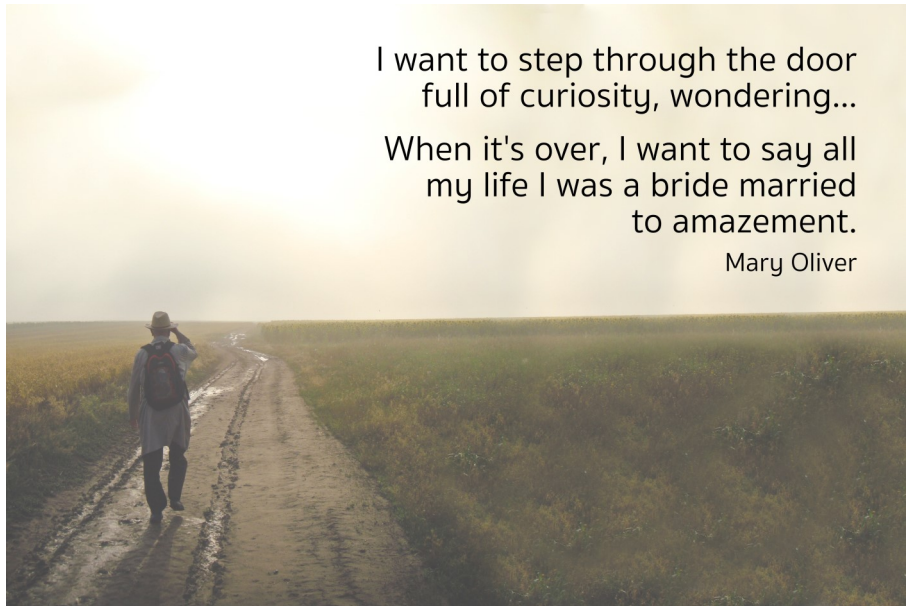
Please call or email ahead to make sure we don't have another appointment when you come in.



I want to step through the door
full of curiosity, wondering...

When it's over, I want to say all
my life I was a bride married
to amazement.

Mary Oliver



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 4:30-6:30 PM**

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

NEW LOCATION! JoJo's Rise and Wine
12501 Nicollet Ave #100 Burnsville, MN 55337

Coffee, wine & craft beer are served with baked goods & light fare in a cozy room with a fireplace.

"Welcome to Jo Jo's Rise & Wine, a coffee wine bar and restaurant located in Burnsville's Heart of the City. Our restaurant is on the lower level of the Park Crest condominiums, across from Nicollet Commons Park.

Jo Jo's Rise & Wine offers coffee, wine and quality food choices all in a comfortable, welcoming environment. Jo Jo's carries a morning-through-evening menu to attract not only commuters, but local business people, students, parents, neighbors and area organizations."



Click here to view their menu: <https://www.jojosriseandwine.com/menu>



Join us May 2 at 4:30-6:30 PM! We hope to see you there!



May 26th Sunday Forum

Please join us May 26th at noon for our May Forum when our guest will be Joe Strommen from the City of Bloomington Sustainability Commission. The presentation will be a summary of the current state of affairs in the City of Bloomington regarding:

- Energy / Carbon emissions (1 million tons annually)
 - Solid Waste -- 1600 tons to landfill from curb side clean-up, while recycling rates are high, up to 40% of the waste stream is food waste
 - Water usage: we use 3.8 billion gallons of water annually mostly from an aquifer -- this rate of usage is not sustainable.
 - Water quality: 9-mile creek is currently rated as "impaired" for chloride
- Ecological Land Stewardship: Most of our focus is on natural open spaces (including the MN River Valley).



In all these cases, there is a call to action – of what residents can do to help in each area. Please come to learn how we can all be better stewards of our environment together.

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





SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE



Next meeting: Saturday May 18th at 10:30am

While many congregations have a Social Justice Committee, we have a Social *ACTION* Committee. Currently we are working on renewal of our Welcoming Congregations (LGBTQ) and Green Sanctuary status's. We've also purchased some more flags to add to the Fellowship to more broadly represent our values. These are all good things, but we thought it might be good to also recommend some ways that you all can get involved through actions and events to both deepen your understanding of the issues of the day and live out our principles. How can you get involved?

Buy a "Love" sign or "Blessed Ramadan" sign to put in your yard at MVUUF. Signs are on sale after the service.

Bring your organics to the MVUUF dumpster to be composted. And bring your disposable razors and their packaging along with empty toothpaste tubes, old tooth brushes and floss dispensers to MVUUF to be recycled.

Join our **Rapid Response Team**: Be alerted via text or email when events that require immediate action and a witnessing presence come-up in our communities. Sign up here: [SIGN UP FOR SOCIAL ACTION RAPID RESPONSE TEAM](#) or sign-up in the Fellowship Lobby.

Register to attend a Ramadan Dinner through the Mn Council of Churches "Taking Heart" Program. Dar Al Farooq in Bloomington is hosting their public dinner on May 16th.

Register here: <http://mnchurches.org/minister@mnvalleyuu.org>

May's Sunday Sharing Partner is **CONSERVATION MINNESOTA**

Our Mission: Protecting the Minnesota You Love

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<http://www.conservationminnesota.org/mission/>

More information on page two of the newsletter





VEAP REPORT

Report from Patty Schulz of VEAP:

"For the first time in VEAP's history, we will be engaging an **AmeriCorps VISTA as a Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator**. If you know of someone that might be interested in working with VEAP, please forward the following information to them:

Community Outreach & Engagement Coordinator VISTA: Spark hope and support stability for people living in poverty! Shape the future of VEAP by diversifying our volunteer corps and deepening partnerships with multicultural communities.

As our community grows more and more diverse, VEAP is committed to taking proactive and intentional steps to reach new audiences to engage in our work. In response to changing demographics, you will

- Play a critical role in identifying, recruiting, orientating, training and supporting volunteers to expand programming in diverse communities

- Conduct strategic outreach and recruitment in order to diversify our volunteer corps

- Collaborate with partners and community stakeholders in outreach activities that build and strengthen our connections and expand our reach.

The deadline to apply is June 15. Questions or interested in learning more about this opportunity? Contact **Courtney Flug** at **952.955.8325** or courtneyf@veap.org. More information is posted on our website."

MAY FOOD Drive

AS you can see, **VEAP** continues to grow both in number of individuals served and in the variety of services offered. But their primary need continues to be food for those who cannot afford to purchase all the food that they and their families require. Nearly everyone who receives food from **VEAP** is either employed (or just recently unemployed) or retired elderly persons. Due to low wages, high rents, or lack of quality education, those served are in situations that are beyond their control. **VEAP** provides the basics of food but also provides fresh fruits and vegetables, the foods that are necessary for good health.

Therefore, the Social Action Committee is once again providing an opportunity to donate food to **VEAP**. Anything you can offer is appreciated as long as the "sell by" date is within the past 12 months. What is especially appreciated are non-essentials that make life more joyous....things like cake mixes, spices and herbs, ethnic sauces, etc. Whatever you can donate will be appreciated! Just bring your food items in grocery bags provided by the Social Action Committee and the committee will take the items to **VEAP**.

However, if bringing food is not easy for you to do, you can donate money during the month of May during Sunday services. Or, if you want all of your donation to go to **VEAP** you can write a check and indicate that it is for **VEAP**. Remember, that \$1 at the grocery store buys 1 can of beans. \$1 donated to **VEAP** provides 7 cans of beans.

Whatever you can do or feel good about doing, your donations are greatly appreciated!

Thank You! From the Social Action Committee.



THIS OLD EARTH

ED PRELL

As we learn more about global warming aka climate change, we get a little more nuanced. In the 1980s, as the predictions of an overheated planet first escaped the hushed strategy sessions at Exxon-Mobil and the science journals into the mainstream, we envisioned more 90 degree days in August and midwinter being a little more bearable. Hey, a two degree rise of Earth's temperature didn't seem like a big deal. If only we had reflected that we feel a whole lot worse when our body temperature rises from 98.6 to 101. Then, its complex nature showed itself in the form of floods, fires and superstorms. Climate scientists introduced us to the Polar Vortex and the super-sensitivity of tropical storms to small fluctuations in Earth's temperature. We gave Global Warming an alias: Climate Change.

The deterioration of our climate has kept pace with the timetable predicted by the climatologists. Yet, the fossil-powered disinformation campaign persists, dismissing this real and present danger with homilies such as: "the climate has always been changing". Senator James Inhofe from Oklahoma (which, ironically, is being flattened regularly by tornados) brought a snowball into the Senate Chamber to "prove" that global warming was not happening. Yuk, yuk. Just what does it take to mobilize society to confront this true emergency?

Even Mother Nature would seem to be showing her exasperation. CNN reported last fall that research teams have recently discovered "The Ross Ice Shelf in Antarctica is emitting tones reminiscent of a didgeridoo, or the drone of a horror film soundtrack. The sounds are created when wind whips across the snow dunes, causing the ice to vibrate". This would not be a cause for alarm if these "tunes" had always been there. During a January 2016 warm spell, their seismic monitoring equipment recorded their abrupt appearance, which scientists traced to onset of the ice shelf's slippage – down into the Antarctic Ocean. Here is a link to its eerie signal: <https://weather.com/news/trending/video/listen-up-eeerie-sounds-coming-from-antarctic-ice-shelf> . This Old Earth is crying out: "Listen up, people". Let's heed her plea – and act.





EDOWMENT

Holly Bruce

More than 80 people attended *An Afternoon at the Opera* on March 3 at MVUUF. Three Minnesota Opera artists performed and taught the audience about opera history and what to expect from this entertainment medium in the future. We learned that the Minnesota Opera is a leader in making opera more relevant to us commoners and to expect more engaging plots and music sung in English. This event was ably planned and organized by Nicole Collins and Steve Danko and paid for by the Endowment Committee. The feedback we have received from opera lovers and sceptics alike was enthusiastically positive.

The Endowment Committee received two requests for grants in the 2018-19 Fellowship Year and funded them both. The net worth of the Endowment Fund reported at the March 2019 Board of Trustees meeting was \$33,433 and if the stock market remains relatively constant during the rest of the year, the total amount that can be awarded in the 2019-2020 year according to our bylaws will be in the neighborhood of \$1,300.

There is no need to keep new project ideas hidden until July 1, 2019 though. Bring them immediately to any committee member: Glenn Corliss, Kat Janes, Marv Gish, Holly Bruce and Rolie Hron. The committee members and Kate Stomberg will work with you to help navigate the application process.

Glenn Corliss
Endowment Committee Member

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@mnvalleyuu.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 hosted another "Getting to Know UU" class with 10 new friends of MVUUF participating and learning about Unitarian Universalist and MVUUF history along with each other's personal religious history. Many of the participants have also decided to become members here at MN Valley! We will be welcoming them fully at our New Member Sunday during the Flower Communion Service in May.

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 Hayen.



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!





Wanted: SUMMER SERVICE LEADERS

Summer services are just around the corner. Do you have something to say or sing or share? We are seeking service leaders (people who give the sermon/presentation), Worship Associates (help with all other spoken parts of service, script provided), Accompanists for hymns and other musician to provide special music. Rev. Laura and Rev. Andrea are around to help with guidance and tips. Sign up today to help make our summer services great:



Saturday Movies and Pizza June 1st at 3:30pm



Join us upstairs for a showing of "Boy Erased" with discussion to follow: "Boy Erased" tells the story of Jared (Hedges), the son of a Baptist pastor in a small American town, who is outed to his parents (Kidman and Crowe) at age 19. Jared is faced with an ultimatum: attend a conversion therapy program - or be permanently exiled and shunned by his family, friends, and faith. Boy Erased is the true story of one young man's struggle to find himself while being forced to question every aspect of his identity. Rated R

Join us downstairs for a family friendly showing of "UP":

Carl Fredricksen, a 78-year-old balloon salesman, is about to fulfill a lifelong dream. Tying thousands of balloons to his house, he flies away to the South American wilderness. But curmudgeonly Carl's worst nightmare comes true when he discovers a little boy named Russell is a stowaway aboard the balloon-powered house. A Pixar animation. Rated PG

Craft and Activities provided for busy hands!
PIZZA for everyone at 6pm following the movies



**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	Rev. Andrea Johnson programs@mnvalleyuu.org
Aesthetics	Karen Olson	(952) 888-6527 luzcatz@comcast.net
Archives	Beverly Schmidt Kathy Eager	(952) 884-7262 gypsyleap@gmail.com (952) 888.8427 Kathy@darrelleager.com
Congregational Care	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 Rairman	(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	Rev. Andrea Johnson	Rev. Andrea Johnson programs@mnvalleyuu.org
Social Action	Rev. Laura Thompson	minister@mnvalleyuu.org (612) 216-4203
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

Rev. 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



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

May bridge will be on Saturday, May 18 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



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!**

May 1, Thursday, 5 pm: "Happy Hour" at JoJo's Rise and Wine Located on Nicollet between Burnsville Pkwy and Rt 13 in Burnsville

May 7 and May 21 Tuesdays, 1-2:30 pm: at Richfield Panera (980 W. 78th, Richfield)



RELIGION ETHICS AND IDEAS

Religion Ethics and Ideas will meet on Sunday May 12 at 9:00 AM in the Fireside room. Our topic will be the **gender pay gap**. This will continue the discussion from a special service auction presentation on the topic at the men's group on Thursday May 9. You need not have attended that presentation to participate in the discussion. Questions contact John Peloquin.



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 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 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



is

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 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.

4!!!!

It's time to get off your bun warmers, get those golf clubs dusted off and join MVUUF summer golfers.

The first leg of the tour will be Sunday 8:00am. June 16 at 3 par Birnamwood Gold Course in Burnsville. The rest of the tour will be there too. \$14.50 a round. It's a rollocking good time.



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. **Final Yoga Class of the church year is May 18.**

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





May 2019

Calendar interface for May 2019, showing a grid of events and a sidebar with calendar controls.

Calendar Controls (Left Sidebar):

- Create
- May 2019 (Navigation: < >)
- May 2019 Grid (Days 1-31)
- Add calendar
- My calendars
 - ☐ Kate Stomberg
 - ☒ Minnesota Valley Unitarian...
 - ☐ MVUUF Scheduling (intern...
 - ☐ Reminders
 - ☐ Tasks
- Other calendars
 - ☒ Holidays in United States

Calendar Grid (Main Content):

SUN 28	MUN 29	TUE 30	WED May 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none">9am Choir9:30am Kate Stomberg- Hos10:30am Sunday Services 3 more			<ul style="list-style-type: none">5pm Yoga5:30pm C.O.S.M. meeting6:30pm Choir	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9am Private Event5pm Beyond Sunday Mornir	<ul style="list-style-type: none">3:30pm Meditation Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9am Yoga10:15am Women's Group5pm Private Event5:30pm RiseUp Concert and
Cinco de Mayo <ul style="list-style-type: none">9am Choir9:30am The Danko's- Hospit 2 more		<ul style="list-style-type: none">1pm Beyond Sunday Mornir	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1pm Mah Jongg5pm Yoga6:30pm Choir7pm Board of Trustees Mee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">6:15pm Men's Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">10:15am Blue Highways3:30pm Meditation Group7pm Friday Night Poker	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9am Yoga1pm Private Event5pm Private Event
Mother's Day <ul style="list-style-type: none">9am Choir9am Religion Ethics and Ide 3 more		<ul style="list-style-type: none">10am Women's Book Group7pm Finance Committee Me	<ul style="list-style-type: none">5pm Yoga6:30pm Choir	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9am Private Event7pm Evening Book Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none">3:30pm Meditation Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9am Yoga10:30am Social Action Com1pm Bridge Club
<ul style="list-style-type: none">9am Choir9:30am Candace McClenah10:30am Sunday Services 2 more		<ul style="list-style-type: none">1pm Beyond Sunday Mornir	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1pm Mah Jongg1pm Beyond Sunday Mornir6:30pm Choir6:30pm Soul Matters Small	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9am Program Planning for 21pm Afternoon Discussion I	<ul style="list-style-type: none">10:15am Blue Highways3:30pm Meditation Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9am Yoga
<ul style="list-style-type: none">9am Choir9:30am Jody Gray- Hospital10:30am Sunday Services11:30am Children's Choir	Memorial Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9am Private Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none">6:30pm Choir		<ul style="list-style-type: none">3:30pm Meditation Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9am Yoga10:15am Women's Group5pm Private Event

To View the MVUUF Calendar online, go to:

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