



FALL SCHEDULE: See Sunday Service themes and service leaders on page 3

MUSIC AND FAMILY MINISTRY: Read about these programs on pages 6-8

September 2021
Volume 57 Number 1



Embracing Possibility

“Embracing Possibility” the two words together create an interesting paradox; embrace meaning to hold closely, or to welcome or accept and possibility meaning chance, potential... the promise of something not yet known. To embrace possibility is to hold onto uncertainty, and to accept that you will go in the direction of goals even though you know full well that you cannot know exactly what that will look like. This is where concepts like hope and faith come in.

To embrace possibility we need hope; hope for ourselves, our communities, our nation, our planet... hope for generations to come, hope for the future. Hope names our highest desires for things to come. In framing our hopes as possibilities, we make the qualities of our hope attainable. The fullest potential of any of our possibilities is only realized when we let the unleashed aspirational forces of hope guide us along the way. Embracing possibility isn’t about realizing the easiest or most practical way to do things without risk. Quite the contrary, it is about leaning into our dreams and taking risks to create the world we most deeply desire.

That’s where faith comes in. To have faith is to believe in something, to put your confidence and trust in something. Particularly, having faith is putting belief, trust and confidence into those things we have not realized yet; justice, peace, an end to hunger and all forms of oppression. As a “people of faith” we hold these goals together and we work toward them in both inward and outward ways that we might inch closer to reality where those things exist for all.

To achieve our highest hopes, we must embrace possibilities all along the way. To put our faith into action we must also do the same. The journey is fraught with mistakes, risks and a steep learning curve. Sometimes we get lost. Sometimes we have breakthroughs. Always we keep moving forward, backwards in a spiral dance that embraces possibilities. We do this as individuals and as a community.

This coming year will present us with many new possibilities in how we gather as a community and how we live out our faith as individuals and as a community. I am ever-hopeful that we will approach these opportunities with an open heart and a flexible mindset knowing that we might not exactly know what the end results will be, but grounding ourselves in our faith and our principles, so that wherever the journey takes us we find ourselves still forging a path of love, peace and justice.

See you Sunday,
Rev. Laura



MVUUF is a liberal religious congregation guided by democratic principles whose mission is to engage members in a shared quest for spiritual and intellectual growth leading to lives of service, compassion, and justice.

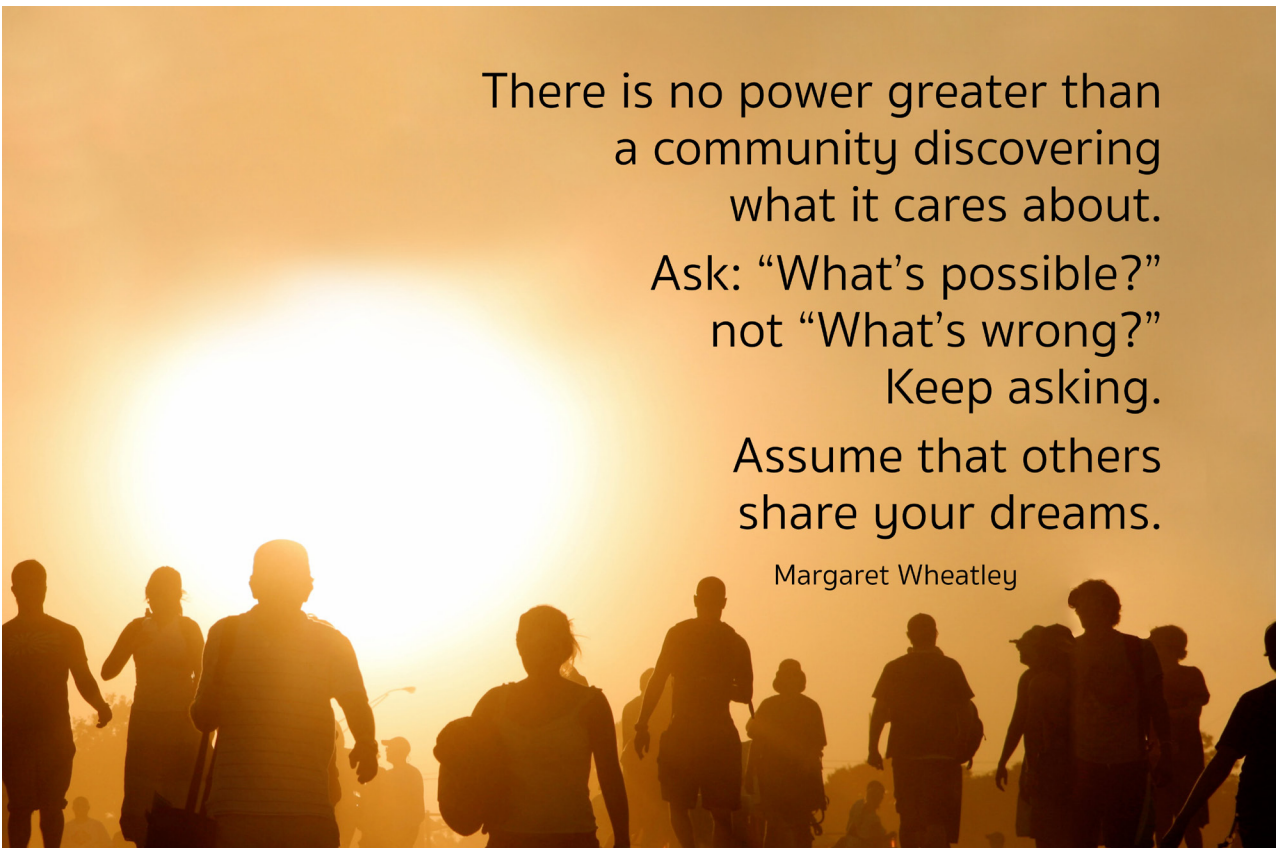
COVID Update

We had certainly hoped to begin a hybrid Sunday Service experience this month offering both in-person and on-line services. However, due to recent increased cases/hospitalizations, and possible increased risk with late summer travel and school starting, we have decided to put those plans on hold until we once again have downward trends in Covid-19 cases and community risk.

These are the current precautions we are taking:

- No large in-person gatherings in the building (more than 20 people); including Sunday services
- Masks are required in the building regardless of your vaccination status any time there are more than two people present in one room
- Anyone experiencing symptoms of Covid-19 or recently having been exposed should not enter the building
- Small groups or committees may meet in-person, but masks are required. Zoom meetings are still encouraged.

If you need a MVUUF Zoom room for your group, contact office@mnvalleyuu.org. If you have a positive test for Covid-19 and you have been in the building recently, please let us know.



Sunday Services

Sept. 5th: Considering Prayer



The hymn Spirit of Life was described by its author, Carolyn McDade, as a prayer. Prayer can look, feel, and mean so many different things. Rev. Laura Smidzick from Michael Servetus Unitarian Society, in Fridley, will reflect on her own thoughts on prayer and the many forms it has taken in her lifetime. This service is the last in our Summer Collaborative series and is online only. Join on Zoom: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/6827547240>

Sept. 12th: Embracing Possibility: Water Gathering



It has been 17 months since we have been able to gather in-person for Sunday Services. We had hoped to start this year differently, but, alas we enter into another year of uncertainty with the pandemic still presenting an ever-changing landscape to navigate. How can we continue to support one another in these times and to explore the possibilities of what lies ahead. With Rev. Laura Thompson, Maria Bavier and Carla V. Ries. We invite everyone to join us in-person in the parking lot after the service for fellowship, music and a chance to talk with committee and church leaders about what keeps us moving forward in building a better world through love and service. Parking lot fair from 12-2pm: Bring water from your home to water our gardens as a symbol of how we all contribute to the well being of our community.

Sept. 19th: Embracing Possibility: Environmental Justice



The Practice of Letting Go: In order to truly embrace possibility for ourselves and our world we not only need to plan for it, but we must also take up the practice of letting go of our expectations and disappointments along the way. This is true in our personal lives and in our life together as a community. Grounding ourselves in a spiritual practice of letting go can be a big help in opening up space in our lives for possibility. A reflective and engaged service with Rev. Laura Thompson

Sept. 26th: Embracing Possibility



Embracing Possibility: Environmental Justice: Charissa Verndoon from Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light MNIPPL is our speaker. We'll learn more about MNIPPL and how we work for climate justice by engaging with other faith communities. This presentation will inform us and present opportunities for action.

Uni-Sun

Letter from the Board Chair

Greetings! I am delighted to be addressing you in the UniSun for the first time!

Just a little about myself. I was born and raised in Maracaibo, the second largest city in Venezuela. I have lived in the US since college (in Florida, Virginia, California, and – for the last eleven years – here in Minnesota). My husband, Brian, and I joined the Universalist Unitarian Church of Riverside (CA) when we got married 14 years ago and have been thrilled to raise our kiddos (Evan, 12, and Ian, 10) in the UU faith. We now live in Bloomington in a multigenerational household (my parents live with us) with two cats and a 5 month old puppy. We have been blessed to have found MVUUF about 8 years ago. Since then, we have been active in RE, COSM, OWL, Children's Choir, Worship Associates, Beloved Conversations, and the Board. I am honored and humbled to be able to serve a community that has given so much love and support to me and my family.

Well, summer is almost over, which means it's time for me to become nostalgic. I reminisce about summers from my youth (summer camps, beach trips, hammock napping), but I also think about more recent summers and memories created with my family (Bush Lake, Bloomington pool, backyard s'mores).

This summer was a bit of a rollercoaster though. When we were finally able to come together at the Fellowship, it was to remember and celebrate the lives of beloved founders and members who will be dearly missed. Even as more of us got the Covid vaccine and began to get back to some semblance of normalcy, the Delta variant threw a wrench into our plans. Just as parents began to get comfortable with the idea of sending kids back to school, cases among the young are rising. We reconvened our Covid work group, so we can continue to keep our building and our community safe.

Still, there were many positive moments. In early July, your new Board of Trustees was able to hold a retreat where we got to know each other (and ourselves) better and begin our service to MVUUF. A few days later, we had our first meeting which was attended by two UU Seminarians; it was a wonderful opportunity



for us to help their personal growth and support the expansion of our faith. We have started to review the Long Range Plan for the Fellowship and created a Personnel task force to make sure our staff are taken care of as well as they take care of us. MVUUF was represented at both Twin Cities Pride and Bloomington Pride. And on August 16, David Olson (Secretary of the Board) and I attended the closing of the South property (formerly known as the Zimmer/Hanifl property). A project which was made possible by the passion and dedication of our previous Chair, Doug Bruce.



So, though there may be some cause for trepidation, we are looking forward to the future of the Fellowship and the great work we can do together. To that end, we have re-established a way for anyone to connect with the Board of Trustees. You are always welcome to contact any of us personally, but if you have an ideas/concerns/questions/suggestions, you can also email us at Board@mnvalleyuu.org. We love MVUUF and look forward to working with you to make it an even stronger community.

And I, personally, look forward to seeing everyone again!

Yours TrUULy,
Carla V. Ries (she/her)
Chair of the Board, MVUUF

Uni-Sun

Communications & Administration

While the challenges and shifting expectations of COVID are real, we still continue to grow, adapt and evolve. So it is in the office at MVUUF! There have been some pretty big changes recently.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Dale and thanks alone could never be enough for all the hard work he contributed to the community of the Fellowship. With the change in treasurers and board chair it was the perfect time to look at the different systems we use and determine if they need updating. Surprise! They do!

For the last two months the ad hoc team of Kelley, Richard, Carla and myself researched financial and membership systems and decided we could do better. The finance committee and board agreed. We are now in the process of changing our accounting and membership systems. Please watch future communications for more information.

Also, our communications platform was outdated and needed updating as well. That is why your Uni-Sun looks much different. I completed a four-day training in a new publishing program called InDesign. This is the first newsletter using it. Please forgive any small quirks and expect a few tweaks over time. I hope you like it and continue to find useful information presented in a creative way.

I am always available for questions, ideas and concerns. Please call the office Monday through Thursday or email me at jeannie@mnvalleyuu.org.

I hope to see you at the Parking Lot Fair on September 12th!

Gratefully, Jeannie

Parking Lot Fair

Sunday Sept. 12th 12-2pm

**Meet and talk with Staff,
Committee & Congregational
leaders; learn about the work they
are doing and how to get involved**

LIVE MUSIC FROM MVUUF MUSICIANS!!

**Bring plastic bags for recycling and
food donations for VEAP**

**Bring water from home to water our
garden and reflect on the ways that
we nurture community**

Coming Soon- A change in how you donate using your mobile device!

The cell phone application that MVUUF has been using called "GivePlus" will no longer be used after the end of September. The company that developed "GivePlus" is replacing it with their new mobile app "Vanco Mobile"

After September 1st this is the program that you will use on your mobile phone to donate electronically. We will let you know how to install the new program on your mobile in early September.

- If you give online through our website, you will not have to do anything differently.
- If you have an automatic withdrawal set up for your pledge payments, you will not have to do anything differently.

Uni-Sun

Children, youth and family ministry

Welcome to a new year of Children, Youth and Family Ministry!

Before I write about our September theme, and vision for the year, I want to introduce you to our new Youth Ministry Coordinator, Gabe Vigliaturo. Gabe is a student at the University of Minnesota and on staff at Camp Unistar. Gabe has great memories of his own youth group and is enthusiastic about this upcoming year at MVUUF!

Email Gabe at youth@mnvalleyuu.org

Next, I'd like to tell you a story about an elephant and a bird. As you read or listen, think about a part of the story that is interesting to you.

The Legend of the Elephant and the Thrush

as told by Tom Owen-Towle in *Growing Beloved Community: Twelve Hallmarks of a Healthy Congregation*

The elephant boasted that she could make herself heard the farther, and invited the thrush (a small bird) to accept the challenge. The thrush did. Then the elephant raised her trunk and sent forth a piercing blast. The thrush quietly sang its song. The judges went forth to find out how far each contestant had been heard. On and on they went until no one could hear the elephant's sound any longer. Yet, they could still hear ever so softly the song of the thrush. "How could the thrush's song carry farther than the elephant's cry?" asked the judges.

Softly, the little bird explained, "The thrush family has sentinels throughout the forest; and when one sings, another takes up the song, and then another and another. So they pass it along until it's carried throughout the land."

I read this legend, and it caught my attention because it's surprising. Our theme this month is Embracing Possibilities, maybe like giving a hug to what can be: being optimistic about an unknown opportunity.

Can you imagine how the thrush must have felt competing against an elephant? ... overwhelmed, excited, confident, lots of feelings at once? All feelings are valid. As both characters competed they embraced possibilities and accepted the challenge! I like how the elephant raised her trunk confidently and I especially like how the thrush used teamwork.

With confidence and teamwork, let us embrace possibility as we start this year!



Uni-Sun

Children, youth and family ministry

Register your child(ren), become a volunteer teacher, join the Religious Education Committee, and/or encourage discussion about worship and lessons at home. If you have questions or comments or to register, contact Maria, MVUUF Children Youth and Family Ministry Director. Maria@mnvalleuu.org (952) 884-8956

Calendar

- September 1: Embracing Possibilities: Water Gathering, All-Ages at 10:30am
- September 19: Children, Youth and Family Ministry Sunday, Details coming soon by email
- September 26: Children, Youth and Family Ministry Sunday, Details coming soon by email

This year our Soul Matter's Curriculum overarching theme will be: "What do our times call us to be and do as religious people?" We'll ground ourselves in UU values, and we'll be extra intentional about relating our activities to the events and needs going on in the society around us.

We will have all-ages time during our weekly worship services throughout the year including Water and Flower Celebrations, Music Sundays and more. Secret Friends, a month-long letter exchange for adults and children will take place in February and March. We are pleased to have volunteers recently trained in the Our Whole Lives curriculum and hope to offer OWL opportunities for our children and youth. Crossing Paths is a curriculum that invites junior youth and youth to learn more about Unitarian Universalism as it relates to other religions. They will help select locally represented faith groups to learn about and then meet. Their plan for this year also includes social events and service opportunities.

May we be encouraged in our Fellowship: "When we give, to give generously, with an open hand and heart, and when we receive, to receive gratefully, with an open hand and heart as well." ~Tom Owen-Towle

Know that we are here to support you!

Take Care,
Maria Bavier

Uni-Sun

MUSIC AT MVUUF!

SINGING UPDATES by Nicole Collins

We've been apart as a large group for a few months and still treading lightly amidst Covid-19. While I was hoping we would be in a different place coming back into the year, I'm recognizing the vision I once held is shifting, though still full of hope and inspiration.

Singing remains a high risk activity. Even if you're fully vaccinated, we are learning that doesn't mean we're free from risks. Singing continues to be an aerosol spreader, so we won't be doing large group singing in the sanctuary right away. We will, however, have outdoor hymn singalongs, choir rehearsals for when we do finally have our re-entry debut, and instrumental special music along with vocal soloists and small group ensembles. There will be plenty of good music to be heard and to uplift your worship experience.

CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME IN PERSONS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH, AT 6:30.
MVUUF will be providing singing masks and rehearsals will be distanced.

This beginning has been quietly forming
Waiting until you were ready to emerge...
It watched you play with the seduction of safety...
Wondered would you always live like this.

John O'Donahue



Uni-Sun

MUSIC AT MVUUF!

CALLING ALL YOUTH and ADULT MUSICIANS AND SINGERS.

BY YOUR DEVOTED AUDIENCE

Last year we weren't able to hold a children's choir, and we're still unsure about how it will unfold this year, though were hopeful we could start one the beginning of next year. Despite not having the choir, there is plenty of opportunities for the youth to showcase your talents. We are looking for players and singers of all abilities to perform for our services, whether live or recorded. We're happy to help assist you with recording needs, song ideas, accompaniment, and rehearsal time. If you've never experienced performing for the MVUUF audience, we assure you, there isn't a more generous and supportive audience out there!



Themes for Oct-Dec are:
Cultivating Relationships, Holding History, and Opening To Joy. Cultivating Relationships brings up memories of Omera Asif and Mary Schoenbauer singing "Good Morning," from Singin' In The Rain! Or the Chorale singing "Brave." Even the creation of the Song leaders groups with members learning songs and chants to teach our fellow congregants. We can still create these experiences! Reach out to Nicole to get started.

At the very least, remember, our first Music Sunday will be around the holidays in December, a place to open to joy and community.

Adult Musicians, we need you and your beautiful music. Please, reserve the sanctuary for your rehearsal and recording needs. We have the ability to make edited recordings, or live performances happen and a wonderful accompanist for all your musical needs.

"MUSIC GIVES A SOUL TO THE UNIVERSE, WINGS TO THE MIND, FLIGHT TO THE IMAGINATION AND LIFE TO EVERYTHING." — PLATO

Uni-Sun

Adult Programming

Looking to expand your mind, open your heart, build community with others or deepen your spirituality?

We've got you covered with a variety of options to suit everyone's needs! In addition to programs listed below, we will be hosting several documentaries with discussion throughout the year.

Soul Matters Small Groups

Join in a group with 5-10 committed participants that come together once a month, from October – June, to nurture spiritual growth and engage more deeply with our monthly themes through deep listening and open-hearted sharing.

Soul Matters small groups:

- Build circles of trust by speaking our own truth, listening receptively to the truth of others and asking each other honest, open questions instead of giving counsel.
- We offer each other the healing and empowering gifts of silence and laughter.
- Invite us, through spiritual practices and questions focused on daily living, to engage the world not as an obstacle course to get through, but as a host of holy voices calling us to greater loving and living.

There are currently several groups running at different times of the month, most meeting over Zoom.

Contact Rev. Laura Thompson if you would like to learn more about Soul Matters Small Groups or to join a group; minister@mnvalleyuu.org



Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Eau Claire is offering a Soul Matters: UU Writers Group

Facilitated by Rev. Julianne Lepp, Soul Matters: UU Writers Group

When: 6:30-8pm, Second Thursdays from September through May. Group starts on September 9th!

Where: Meets on Zoom

This group will meet monthly from September through May on second Thursdays via Zoom from 6:30-8:00pm. Writing is a long-loved path to personal insight, spiritual discernment and self-expression. The course will be centered in the Soul Matters themes, and each month will draw from a new Soul Matters curriculum. There will be chances to write within the class as well as bring material to each class for sharing and gaining insights.

Sign up: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeNjCyma4aAZDmg79dK8k0hJqsQEtQinjnwooHj7UDZ-SE_Ulg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0

Adult Programming

Widening the Circle of Concern: Yearlong Study and Practice Group
Highly recommended, but especially for congregational leaders
11 sessions: 4th Tuesday at 7pm, Sept-May and 2nd Sundays at 2pm
in October and March All session on Zoom

Appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations in 2017, the UUA Commission on Institutional Change served through June 2020. Widening the Circle of Concern: Report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change represents the culmination of the Commission's work analyzing structural and systemic racism and white supremacy culture within Unitarian Universalism and makes recommendations to advance long-term cultural and institutional change that redeems the essential promise and ideals of Unitarian Universalism.

As the UUA is embarking on the next phase of this journey and has formed a working group to guide the implementation of the Report. We invite you to work together with us and imagine creative ways your congregation can take up these important practices for culture change.

The Commissioners noted, everything that has come to pass during this pandemic has only reinforced how urgently we are in need of transformation: This crisis has revealed the disparities that exist at all levels for the well-being for Black people, Indigenous people, and other people of color as well as for LGBTQ individuals, people living with limited economic means, and people living with disabilities. Addressing them within our faith becomes more important, not less. -- Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray, Pres. of UUA

Buy the book: <https://www.uuabookstore.org/Widening-the-Circle-of-Concern-P18686.aspx>

Read free online, get free PDF or listen for free online: <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening>

Clicking on each chapter will give you an option for listening to an audio reading of that chapter

As this is a yearlong study, it is understandable that you might miss a session or two, in those circumstances, please connect with Rev. Laura to get a copy of discussion you will miss, that you may reflect on in your own time: minister@mnvalleyuu.org

A Zoom link for the sessions will be sent to all participants prior to our first meeting. Please be sure to sign-up with an email address that works best for you.

Sign-up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044EABA823A0FE3-widening>

Uni-Sun

Groups and Committees

Stewardship

What is a Steward?

Do you care about Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship? If your answer is “Yes,” then you have the first makings of a steward for Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MVUUF).

To be a steward is to care for and tend to our community so that we, and future generations, may benefit from our values of freedom of thought and freedom of religion. We do not own this. We only nurture it while we are alive, with the hope that others will join us and carry on this tender journey for future generations.



We have had many opportunities to learn since March of 2020, when social distancing protocols took effect. Now, with the Delta variant, we have more challenges ahead.

What does this mean for MVUUF? Each of us is called to answer this question, for ourselves, and for our MVUUF community.

Please call upon our Stewardship Team and each other, as we look to a new year at MVUUF for our opportunities to help create meaningful change.

Kelley Hughes, Stewardship Chair

Religion Ethics and Ideas

Religion Ethics and Ideas will move to a new time and date and will be on ZOOM. REI will meet on the last Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30. (The November meeting will occur on Thursday December 2nd, in place of Thanksgiving evening.)

Our first meeting will be **Thursday September 30 at 7:00 PM**. Our topic suggested by one of our members is: “The ethics of protesting and demonstrating outside the homes of individuals be they public personages or little-known individuals”.



John will send Zoom links days in advance and a reminder the day before. Please watch the Friday email or contact John at John17780@charter.net

Uni-Sun

Groups and Committees

Social Action

The Social Action Committee will begin meeting again soon. We currently have five areas of focus: housing, environmental justice, VEAP, immigration and LGBTQ concerns. The Social Action Committee serves to provide learning and action opportunities in these and other areas concerning social, economic and environmental justice.



Committee members include: Rev. Laura Thompson, Glenn and Nan Corliss, Heidi Voss, Karen Wills and Myra Basar. If you would like to get involved in this committee or any of its focus areas, please contact minister@mnvalleyuu.org

Racial Justice

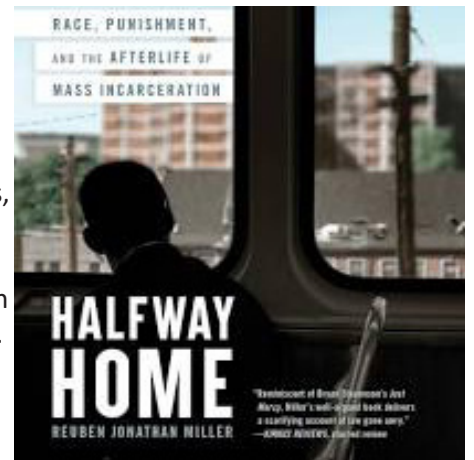
October Book Read and Discussion

We'll be reading *Halfway Home: Race, Punishment, and the Afterlife of Mass Incarceration* by Reuben Jonathan Miller.

From the book flap: "Each year, more than half a million American are released from prison and join a population of twenty million people who live with a felony record.

Reuben Jonathan Miller, a former chaplain at the Cook County Jail in Chicago and a sociologist studying mass incarceration, spent years alongside prisoners, ex-prisoners, their friends, and their families to understand the lifelong burden that even a single arrest can entail. What his work revealed is a simple, if overlooked, truth: life after incarceration is its own form of prison. The idea that one can serve a debt and return to life as a full-fledged member of society is one of American's most nefarious myths. Recently released individuals are faced with jobs that are off-limits, apartments that cannot be occupied, and votes that cannot be cast....*Halfway Home* shows that the American justice system does not rehabilitate, and that mass incarceration has an afterlife...

Informed by his experience as the son and brother of incarcerated men, Miller captures the stories of the men, women, and communities fighting against a system that is designed for them to fail..."



Discussion sessions will be in person at MVUUF and on zoom, Thursdays, Oct. 14, 21, and 28 from 6:30-8:00. The book is divided into 3 parts, so we'll discuss "Something Like an Introduction" and Part 1 Debt at our first meeting. Fran will send out a registration and zoom link at the beginning of October. This book is available at Magers and Quinn, Milkweed Books and Boneshaker Books and at other fine bookstores in the area. Please email Fran bryawnte@msn.com with questions.

Uni-Sun

Groups and Committees

Operations

The Operations Committee has been busy. Before and during COVID this committee has worked hard to care for the structure of the fellowship. Here are just some of the recent work completed.

- June 30, 2019--A Lightning Strike hit the transformer behind the Fellowship causing us to lose electrical and internet service and damaged the telephone, fire alarm system, dishwasher, range, etc. The internet, telephone service, and WiFi systems were rebuilt; the fire alarm system was repaired; and the A/V system was replaced/repared.
- December 2019--A Successful Capital Campaign was conducted and \$28,262 was raised to support additional building maintenance. A new dishwasher/sterilizer was acquired.
- January 2020--During January a major water leak was found in the basement of the building caused by a frozen exterior faucet. The faucet was repaired and the wet area abated.
- Summer 2020--The 60+ year old siding on the exterior of the sanctuary was replaced. Now the entire building has stained cedar siding.
- July 2020--A leak found in the roof of the building damaging the green room, stairway and senior high RE rooms. All showed water damage. In August 2020 an insurance claim was processed and payment received. In August the roof leak was repaired. In September/October 2000 the remediation of the walls and floors of the green room, stairway and senior high RE room was completed. In December 2020 new carpet in the damaged areas was installed.
- April 2021-- The cracked cement in the church entry area removed and replaced.
- May-August 2021--The parking lot was cleaned and weeds removed. In September the cracks will be filled and then the lot will be recoated and restriped.
- August 30-31 2021--New carpet installed in Fellowship vestibule



“The place to improve the world is first in one’s own heart and head and hands, and then work outwards from there. Other people can talk about how to expand the destiny of mankind. I just want to talk about how to fix a motorcycle. I think that what I have to say has more lasting value.”

— Robert M. Pirsig, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance: An Inquiry Into Values*

Uni-Sun

Groups and Committees

Fitness with Fran

Fitness class returning to MVUUF!

Over the past several years, we've enjoyed yoga classes at MVUUF. During the pandemic, we continued classes online.

Starting on **Wednesday, September 15**, Fran will lead an in-person Functional Fitness class from 4:30-5:30 p.m.



This class will incorporate methods from yoga, pilates, and muscle toning. It is designed to help us strengthen, stretch, and balance our bodies.

You will need a yoga mat, comfortable clothes, and bring any yoga blocks or straps you may have used during the past year. The cost is \$4 per class. 10 person limit in the class, so you will need to register. Fall session will run through November. There is NO CLASS on October 6. Everyone is expected to have been vaccinated. Also, special incentive: if you bring a friend who's NOT a member of MVUUF, you and the friend get the first class free! Questions? Please email Fran bryawnte@msn.com

Evening Book Club

Summer is slowly ending much to everyone's regret. We have prevailed over the pandemic and in person meetings are returning. The Book Group has chosen a new list. Our goal is to stimulate discussion by reading books that we might not read individually. For some of us, popular fiction is a challenge. For others, it is scientific or conservative nonfiction. Read all the books or just the current one and join us for lively discussion. Alternating fiction and nonfiction, our upcoming choices are:

- September 16, 2021, Such a Fun Age by Kiley Reid
- October, 21, 2021, Hit Makers: The Science of Popularity in an Age of Distraction, by Derek Thompson
- November 18, 2021, A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles
- December 15, 2021, Woke Racism: How A New Religion Has Betrayed Black Americans by John McWhorter
- January 20, 2022, The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah
- February 17, 2022, Deaths of Despair and the Future of Capitalism, by Angus Deaton and Anne Case
- March 17, 2022, The Plot by Jean Hanff Korelitz
- April 21, 2022, The Constitution of Knowledge: A Defense of Truth, by Jonathan Rauch
- May 19, 2022, Gold Diggers by Sanjena Sathian

The Evening Book Group usually meets on the third Thursday of the month throughout the year at 7 PM. Lately, our mode and meeting locations has been fluid. If you would like to come to our meetings, just let us know and we try to accommodate you. We have access to Zoom and can meet at the church. 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. Just let us know a head of time, so we can get you to the right location. We welcome newcomers! Questions? Call Joyce McMartin at 952-942-7143 or text 952-210-1372 or email at joyceamcmartin@gmail.com.

Uni-Sun

Groups and Committees

Watch this space



More committees and groups coming soon. Both Women's Group and Men's Group begin in October.



MVUUF SERVICE SCHEDULE

Services are currently conducted on Zoom.

SUNDAY 10:30am: Weekly Sunday Service; services will include brief breakout sessions for folks to check-in in small groups. <https://zoom.us/j/3953901346> or call 312-626-6799; Meeting ID: 395 390 1346

Please check the website, Friday emails and the above content of the UniSun for all the MVUUF events

WE ARE:

ALL CONNECTED

STRONGER TOGETHER

LOVE'S HANDS IN THE WORLD

CALLED TO CREATE JUSTICE

RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE
ANOTHER AND THE EARTH



Uni-Sun

Board, Committees and Staff

BOARD OFFICERS OF THE FELLOWSHIP AS OF 7/1/2021

Chair & Board Member	Carla Ries	952-500-8526 cvr_uu@hotmail.com
Chair-elect & Board Member	Myra Basar	301-379-9210 gratitude30@hotmail.com
Secretary & Board Member	David Olson	952-888-6527 olson199@umn.edu
Treasurer	Kelley Hughes Richard Duffin	treasurer@mnvalleyuu.org

BOARD WORKGROUPS

Hanifl Property	Doug Bruce, Mark Clary, Steve Danko, Eva Mach
Covid-19	Rev Laura Thompson, Myra Basar, Jeanne Simpson, Richard Duffin, Kelley Hughes

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The deadline for UNI-SUN is the 20th of each month. Submit articles to office@mnvalleyuu.org