



**SCHEDULE:** See Sunday Service themes for June on page 3

Children, Youth & Family Fall registration  
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**June 2022**  
**Volume 57 Number 10**

## June: Celebrating Blessings

*Oh do you have time  
to linger  
for just a little while  
out of your busy*

*and very important day  
for the goldfinches  
that have gathered  
in a field of thistles...*

--Mary Oliver



As I enter into this time of sabbatical, I am deeply grateful for the gift of it and I wholeheartedly receive it as a blessing. It is a blessing of rest and renewal; a blessing of time to spend with my family and time to simply sit and watch the light change in the sky; it is a gift to take some time to be on the receiving end of spiritual care, to restore my soul.

Oh, but I do hope that you all will have some time for this in the summer, as well. I hope you are able to see the places and people you love. I hope you have time each day, even if it is just one moment, to marvel at the light in the sky, the flowers in the garden or the sound of laughter from your loved ones.

Everyday we are blessed with the wonders of life. For many, summer is an exceptional time to not only see and experience life's blessings, but to take time to completely surrender them. We are always blessed even though we spend most of our waking time losing sense of it. Imagine how different life might be if every person spent 5, 10 or 20 minutes a day surrendering to the blessings that life offers.

We would likely be more conscious of our interconnectedness. We'd have more gratitude, which would cultivate more compassion and generosity; all of which would bring even more blessings into our lives. The possibilities are endless. In becoming aware and celebrating our blessings on a global level, we could overcome poverty, war and oppression. We absolutely could. Couldn't we?

It all starts here, right now. What blessings of life are holding you at this moment? Let's all make some more time to be held deeply in those blessings.

See you in November,  
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.

Uni-Sun June 2022

# COVID UPDATE

Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

## COVID POLICY

Find our COVID Policy [here](#).

You may also call the Fellowship office at 952-884-8956 or visit the website at [mnvalleyuu.org](http://mnvalleyuu.org)



## Summer Services

Unless there is a planned Sunday Service in the Sanctuary during June, July and August (see the Sunday Service schedule) we will have informal “Parking Lot Sunday Services” from 10:30 - 11:30. (If it rains we will probably go sit in the lobby.)

Let’s check in with each other, get (re)acquainted, solve the problems of the world or at least discuss current issues. Crayons and coloring books, chalk, and bubbles to blow will be available for children (and/or adults too).

Drive, walk over or ride your bike. Bring a comfortable lawn chair for yourself or we will bring out some folding chairs. Bring your favorite beverage for yourself. (Mine will be herbal iced tea.)

If you have any questions, contact Nancy Buckman, [nancybmnuu@gmail.com](mailto:nancybmnuu@gmail.com), 952-736-9586

# Summer Services

All summer long, our members and friends will have two options for summer services and gatherings. Folks are invited to come to the Fellowship in-person beginning June 12th for informal parking lot gatherings, which will be centered each week around various topics for discussion.

There will also be an online service offered each week as part of the Summer Service Collaborative, of which we are a part. Those services may vary in start time, so be sure to check the schedule. The online services will cover a wide variety of offerings and will be led by congregational leaders or ministers from the host congregation. We hope you'll have time to check out both of these offerings this summer!

Date/Time	Host	Title	Zoom Link
June 5th 10:00am	MVUUF	<u>Annual Flower Communion Service</u> : Bring a flower from home to share. Led by Maria Bavier and Linda Hayen	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/3953901346">https://zoom.us/j/3953901346</a>
June 12th 10:30 am	Bismarck-Mandan UU Fellowship	<u>Sharing the Light of the Prairie Star</u> : Our program celebrates the light and wisdom of one of our UU fellowship's founders, Betty Mills. She gave more than 100 pulpit essays in the U.S. and Canada, while serving the Mid-America (former Prairie Star) District and national UU boards. At age 96, she continues to inspire us in word and deed.	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/95123554685">https://zoom.us/j/95123554685</a>  Meeting ID: 951 2355 4685 Or call in: 312.626.6799
June 19th 10:30am	Michaels Servetus Unitarian Society	<u>The Self-Care and Seasonal connection</u> : The Summer Solstice marks the longest day as the Winter Solstice marks the longest night. But did you know that the changing of the seasons are not just astrological or spiritual events? How the earth cycles and its changing seasons have a biological effect on the human body, once again affirming our interconnected web of existence. Led by Barbara May	<a href="uuma.zoom.us/j/682754720">uuma.zoom.us/j/682754720</a>
June 26 11:30am	UUA General Assembly	Live Sunday worship service from GA in Portland	<a href="https://www.uua.org/ga/program/highlights/sunday-morning-worship">https://www.uua.org/ga/program/highlights/sunday-morning-worship</a>
July 3rd 10:30am	UU Fellowship Mankato	<u>Dependence, Independence, Interdependence</u> : As American citizens celebrate Independence Day, we reflect on the conditions of dependence underpinning independence, as well as on how interdependence might be redeeming. Rev. Rita Capezzi	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/99358411229?pwd=eGU2RUNiS0lFNjdYlZlFM0VZlTEhCdZ09">https://zoom.us/j/99358411229?pwd=eGU2RUNiS0lFNjdYlZlFM0VZlTEhCdZ09</a>

# Summer Services

Date/Time	Host	Title	Zoom Link
July 10th 10am	UU Congregation of Eau Claire	<u>Awe: Walking with Thoreau</u> Henry David Thoreau wrote in his journal on February 2nd, 1841: "A child asked his father what became of the old moon, and he said it was cut up into stars." This service will explore inspirations from science, the beauty of the world and the journeys of Henry David Thoreau. Rev. Julianne Lepp	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/93709157684?pwd=UmhzQzdSbFNvTmtsSytrSINML0dHZz09">https://zoom.us/j/93709157684?pwd=UmhzQzdSbFNvTmtsSytrSINML0dHZz09</a>  Meeting ID: 937 0915 7684 Passcode: 853706  Dial Up: 1-312-626-6799
July 17th 10:00am	UU Fellowship Northfield	<u>A Search for Meaning:</u> It's a commonly asked question of UUs: Do you believe in God? For some of us, we can instantly answer a confident yes or no. For others of us, it's more complicated. All are welcome as we explore the idea of God through poetry and story. Rev. Sara Smalley	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/98719667113?pwd=aTRFMek5YnlYckg4emlxNWJaTkVHZz09">https://zoom.us/j/98719667113?pwd=aTRFMek5YnlYckg4emlxNWJaTkVHZz09</a>
July 24th 10:30am	MVUUF	<u>Building Beloved Community:</u> The Racial Justice Committee of MVUUF takes stock of where we've been, where we are right now and how we should move forward in doing anti-racism work that is meaningful.	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/3953901346">https://zoom.us/j/3953901346</a>
July 31st 10am	UU Fellowship of La Crosse	<u>Voting to Preserve Democracy: UU the Vote, La Crosse Style:</u> UUFLC sought out and received funding from the La Crosse Community Foundation to do voter registration work in La Crosse County between March and November, 2022. Drawing on UUA's 1st, 5th, and 6th Principles we will share what we've learned about voter registration and mobilization in the first five months of this innovative project. Carolyn Colleen, worship leader.	Zoom: <a href="https://zoom.us/join">https://zoom.us/join</a>  Meeting ID: 952 5136 9096  Passcode: uusunday



# Summer Services

Date/Time	Host	Title	Zoom Link
Aug 7th 10:30 am	Michael Sertetus Unitarian Society	<u>What's The Social Gospel Got To Do With It?</u> : The Social Gospel has been a source of Unitarian Universalist's social action and community work for decades. What is the Social Gospel and how might it call us to living out a greater love? Rev. Laura Smidzik	<a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/6827547240">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/6827547240</a>  Meeting ID: 682 754 7240
Aug 14th	UU Fellowship Mankato	<u>Intimations of Mortality</u> : When we acknowledge the reality of death, without morbid attachment, the potential to savor every bit of life can emerge. Rev. Rita Capezzi	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/99358411229?pwd=eGU2RUNiS0lFNjdYlZlFM0VZITEhCdZ09">https://zoom.us/j/99358411229?pwd=eGU2RUNiS0lFNjdYlZlFM0VZITEhCdZ09</a>
Aug 21st	UU Fellowship Mankato	<u>Life Calls Us On</u> : Even when times are very bleak, the beauty of the world calls us to live as lively as we can. Rev. Rita Capezzi	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/99358411229?pwd=eGU2RUNiS0lFNjdYlZlFM0VZITEhCdZ09">https://zoom.us/j/99358411229?pwd=eGU2RUNiS0lFNjdYlZlFM0VZITEhCdZ09</a>
Aug 28th 10:00am	UU Fellowship Northfield	<u>Thrive</u> : The poet John O'Donohue says, "May I have the courage today / To live the life that I would love". In this service we explore courage and purpose in the midst of uncertainty. Rev Sara Smalley	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/98719667113?pwd=aTRFMek5YnlYckg4emlxNWJaTkVHZz09">https://zoom.us/j/98719667113?pwd=aTRFMek5YnlYckg4emlxNWJaTkVHZz09</a>
Sept 4 10:00 am	UU Church Minnetonka	<u>Labor &amp; Liberty</u> : The origin of Labor Day has roots in a failed experiment by Universalist George Pullman during the rapid changes of the Industrial Revolution. As we face the aftermath of the Great Resignation and the stark divides in America's working conditions revealed by the pandemic, what values do we hold for labor and liberty? Rev. Lisa Friedman	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/99050611007?pwd=bDhpenpFUmoyZ1RhHBoTWRUVmtqUT09">https://zoom.us/j/99050611007?pwd=bDhpenpFUmoyZ1RhHBoTWRUVmtqUT09</a>  Meeting ID: 990 5061 1007 Passcode: 024349

# Uni-Sun

## Letter from the Board Chair

Greetings!

It has been an honor to be the Chair of the Board of Trustees for this Fellowship.

I knew it would be a challenge. But with your support and encouragement, we got through a crazy year. And, I am glad I did it.

Yes. It has been a whirlwind, but I have learned more than I ever thought I would. I learned about the Fellowship and, more importantly, about the folks who make up our congregation. I even learned a thing or two about myself and the kind of leader I aspire to be.

I was able to work closely with staff and get an idea of all they do behind the scenes. I had some very nice conversations with many members whom I hadn't necessarily had the chance to speak to before. I was able to attend various committee meetings and find out how they conduct their business.

And I had a wonderful team to work with: the Board of Trustees.

When we first convened in July of last year, we set goals and made plans for the 2021-2022 congregational year. And then life happened. And to the credit of all your Trustees, they were up to the task. They pivoted; they came up with creative solutions, and they worked (I suspect) much harder than they anticipated. And they did it all with dedication, passion, and grace.

So, thank you, fellow Trustees.

Myra Basar, our Chair Elect (and soon to be Chair) was a rock for me and brought her many talents to the table.

Kelley Hughes, Treasurer. Who with her trusted side-kick and Associate Treasurer, Richard Duffin, and the invaluable assistance of Jeannie Piekos (Administrator and Communications Director) revamped our book-keeping system and adjusted reports on the fly per everyone's requests.

David Olson, Secretary. Whose impeccable notes and extensive knowledge of the Fellowship and parliamentary procedures kept us honest and me sane.

Eve Bergmann, with her sage wisdom and quiet energy was always ready with a quote for our Racial Justice moment.

Kathleen Coate (soon to be Chair Elect), is always good with important questions and is a wonderful word-smith.

And Holly Bruce. Whose warmth and humor always made meetings feel more like a friendly gathering.

Again, thank you Everyone! May the 2022-2023 year bring joy and love and blessings to this Fellowship.

Yours TrUUly,

Carla V. Ries (she/her)

# Unisun

## Communications & Administration

Hello friends. The greatest blessing that I celebrated in May was joining Fran and Nicole in offering the Women's Retreat. It was so heartwarming to be in community with a group of women who were joyful, creative and ready to dive into all we offered.

After introductions and a meditation by Rev. Laura we stretched and balanced with Fran leading the way. As we laughed and sighed we noticed our tight muscles begin to relax. What a great way to begin.

Then we joined Nicole for some heartfelt singing and percussion work. We sat in a half circle with Nicole guiding us to keep beat and raise our voices together. It's been a while since I sang with a group of women. We made beautiful music together!



The lunch spread was fabulous. Rev Laura provided a great menu of pasta salad, wild rice salad, bread, cheese and brownies. Oh, the brownies! Lots of conversation happened around the lunch table as we shared stories and laughter.

The final workshop was my writing session. Again, everyone dove into the exercises and created some wonderful writing. I was so impressed as people shared their work. It was heartfelt, poignant, and often, very funny. I think we easily could have provided a fine publication of the day's poetry and prose.



The evaluations reflected the profound gratitude and joy of the day. The most common refrain was "more of this" and "do it again, please". It was so gratifying to be a part of something that resonated so deeply with the participants and to feel that all our work in preparing and planning was appreciated.

I hope we can continue to grow this retreat and, indeed, do "more of this" because that is what community is all about-- celebrating, risking and breathing together.

Best, Jeannie

### SOUL MATTERS MONTHLY THEME: Celebrating Blessings

This month, we explore together the theme of celebrating blessings. To delve into this theme more deeply, check out this plethora of resources from this month's Soul Matters Small Group Packet, which includes guided questions and activities alongside recommended readings, films, music playlists and more. These resources can be used on your own or you can join one of our Soul Matters Small Groups to engage with others.

Find this month's packet here: [Celebrating Blessings](#)

To join a Soul Matters Group contact: [minister@mnvalleyuu.org](mailto:minister@mnvalleyuu.org)

# Uni-Sun

## Children, Youth and Family Ministry

PACK YOUR BASKETS!

### MVUUF PICNIC

Get ready for a good time!  
June 5 | 11:45AM | Hyland Park Reserve



We are so pleased to invite you to this annual MVUUF social!

Note that the location is different from past years.

Here is a [map](#) to the park.

Contact [Maria@mnvalleyuuu.org](mailto:Maria@mnvalleyuuu.org) with questions.

#### AFTER FLOWER COMMUNION



##### Lakeview Room

- Has electrical outlets for slow cookers
- no grill

##### Bring a Dish to Share

- Sandwich rolls,
- Vegan Pasta Salad,
- Chips,
- Beverages,
- Compostable Plates & Silverware are provided



- Bring a lawn game to share
- Playground next to the Lakeview Room

# Uni-Sun

## Children, Youth and Family Ministry

Children, Youth and Family Ministry will not provide formal programming over the summer. We will be at the June 5th Picnic, and then we will see you in-person in September.

See the SUMMER SERVICES section of the newsletter for informal gathering info or contact Nancy Buckman at [nancybmnuu@gmail.com](mailto:nancybmnuu@gmail.com). Please check your email in August for calendar details and updates. Maria will be back in the office on August 22. Gabe will return the third Sunday in September.

May you all have a peaceful and relaxing summer!

Contact Jeannie at [Office@mnvalleyuu.org](mailto:Office@mnvalleyuu.org) as needed throughout the summer. For pastoral crisis, Pastoral Care Associates Eve Bergmann, Tom Ehlinger, and Becky McPeck are available as well as Rev. Andrea Johnson.



## Registration is Open!

- Sign Up [Here](#) for Children, Youth and Family Ministry 2022-2023 (Not OWL).
- Sign Up [Here](#) to be a volunteer teacher with Children, Youth and Family Ministry, 10:15-11:45am 1-2 Sundays per month.
- Sign Up [Here](#) for OWL, Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education for 7th-9th Graders. The MVUUF Board of Trustees recently voted to approve this policy: For this OWL year (2022-23) we would be thrilled to have the financial support of members at \$150/family. For non-members 2022-23 OWL tuition is a suggested donation of \$200/family. Looking ahead to 2025, please plan for OWL tuition. Partial and Full scholarships will always be available, and no one will be turned away due to inability to pay. Tuition will help cover the costs of OWL facilitator training, curriculum, materials, meals and snacks. MVUUF has 3 newly trained facilitators this year!



# Uni-Sun

## MUSIC AT MVUUF!

Perhaps, the root of all that is, started with a melody.

Perhaps the melody became harmony, and the music became matter, and from there the world was made.

As human beings, the first thing we hear as we are created is the rhythm of the heartbeat. The music of the world can be felt in the perpetual vibration of everything around us, and so when I bring my heart to worship, I bring a prayer of gratitude to the Great Composer of all that is,

That we are so blessed to live in a world saturated with music.

I bring a prayer of wonder for the miracle of rhythm and song which surrounds us. In music I find a prayer of hope, and togetherness, as I marvel at the power humanity has to use music to unite us.

Music carries us through pain and heartbreak, and gives us strength to face the impossible, and heals our deepest wounds. In music, our highest joys and most personal pains find resonance. Music opens the pathways of expression. Making music, we find new strength to face what feels impossible.

Music can lift us up, and empower us, and it also sings us to our rest. Is there anything more sacred than this? To live a life surrounded by song, this is the living miracle of the world.

We join together today to be united in wonder at this holy gift, to lift our voices, such as they are, to lift our hearts in songs of hope, songs of compassion, songs of peace, and songs of justice. Let that which is musical in each of us resonate and sing out in harmony with the prayers of every other heart across the world which longs for a brighter morning and a peaceful new day.

~Reverend Bran Lennox



**Thank you** to all who participated in the women's retreat.

It was a joy to be in such a creative community together.

Here are some of the links to the music we created:

Lea Morris, "[Heart Wide Open.](#)"

Beautiful Chorus, "[Inner Peace.](#)"

Heather Pierson, "[Let It Roll Off Your Back.](#)"



# Uni-Sun

## Music at MVUUF



There is still space available for the garden tour and music event at Candace's place.

Wander 1.2 acres of park-like gardens, enjoy light refreshments and relax to the delightful live music by harpist Kitty Eliason. Bring your own lawn chair.

Saturday, July 23, at Candace's home at 10843 Palmer Ave S, Bloomington, rain or shine. Enjoy the gardens and refreshments from 2-5, music from 3-4 pm.

Suggested minimum donation: \$20  
Your hostess: Candace McClenahan

# Uni-Sun

## MVUUF News

### Mind The Gap

The last two years have been challenging for all of us. We have experienced a drop in membership of about 20%. COVID has made it easier to stay home on Sunday mornings, also we have lost a number of long time beloved members. Everyone should have received an emailed letter outlining our dilemma for next year as well as our successes and developing plans to diversify our income base called Vision 2025.

We will end this year (6/3/22) with a significant deficit which we can cover with savings BUT ONLY THIS ONE TIME!

Your Finance Committee and your Board have worked hard to keep next year's budget as lean as possible. Even with these reductions we are still facing a deficit of \$30,000 for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Our amazing staff have agreed to changes in compensation, and yet, in order to maintain our mission and our programs – music, adult education, family and youth programs - we have come to ask if you could increase your pledge a little.

The good news is that any additional gifts – one time donations or increasing your monthly direct payments or plate contributions will be most welcome. You can go to the [donation page](#) on the website and chose MIND THE GAP or talk to anyone on the stewardship committee.

We have made strides over the last few years; paying off the mortgage on our building, purchasing the property south of the Fellowship, securing an amazing staff, upgrading our technology and financial software. All this has put us in a much better position, and these advances have been made possible with YOUR support.

If you have questions or want to talk, you can email the board at [board@mnvalleyuu.org](mailto:board@mnvalleyuu.org).

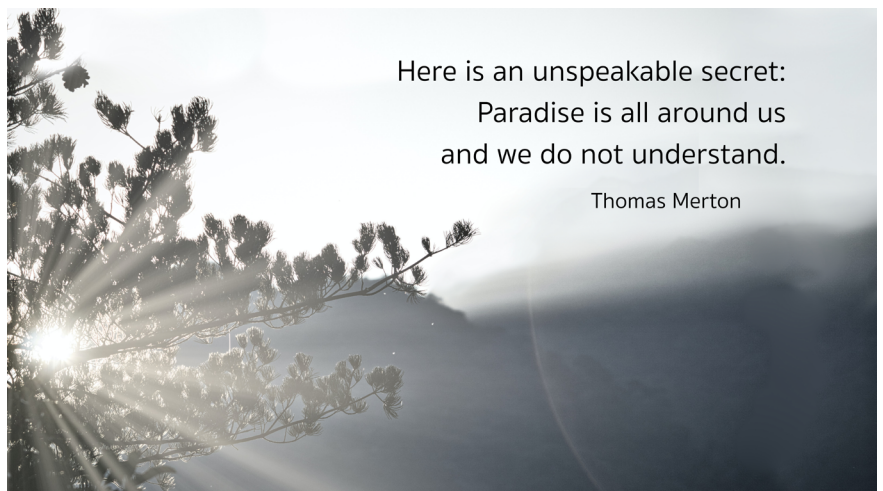
In the words of Dr. Who: *"We are all capable of incredible change. We can evolve while still staying true to who we are. We can honor who we've been and choose who we want to be."* The MVUUF Board and Finance Committee



#### Who Minds the Gap?



**We do!**



Here is an unspeakable secret:  
Paradise is all around us  
and we do not understand.

Thomas Merton

# Uni-Sun

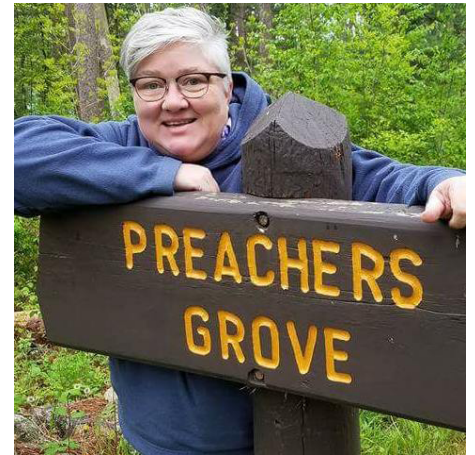
## MVUUF News

### Sabbatical for Rev Laura

Last summer the MVUUF Board of Trustees voted unanimously to grant Rev. Laura Thompson a sabbatical leave of 5 months beginning June 1, 2022 and ending on Oct. 31, 2022. Since then, a Sabbatical Committee has formed to discuss and plan the details of coverage for her duties during her absence.

Laura's sabbatical will be time fully away from all of her duties as MVUUF's minister. The purpose of ministerial sabbaticals is to give the minister time for rest, renewal and study. In the long run, this period of renewal benefits both the minister and the congregation.

You can find details about Laura's sabbatical here:  
[Guide to Rev. Laura's Sabbatical](#)



### Talking About Race

**Talking about Race June 12th, 2022. 1:00-2:00 PM**

Because of the June Picnic Talking About Race is schedule for the 2nd Sunday in June. Please join us. Does the topic of race ever make you feel nervous, anxious, confused, uncomfortable, or defensive? When you encounter a racialized situation, are you ever uncertain about what to say and how to say it? If so, you're not alone. To create a society based on racial equity, we need to know how to talk about race openly and honestly. Each first Sunday of the month MVUUF will be hosting a one-hour meeting, "Talking About Race", It's open to all Members and friends. No homework, reading, preparation, or time commitment required. Just show up when you can with your thoughts, questions, concerns -- and a willing mind and open heart.



Meeting link -- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6128408905>. Questions: contact Tom [tomehlinger@gmail.com](mailto:tomehlinger@gmail.com)



# Uni-Sun

## Groups and Committees

### MVUUF Group Summer Schedule

The following groups will not meet in June, July or August: Women's Group, Men's Group, REI.

Let's Talk About Race will meet in June but not in July or August. The Evening Book Club and The Panera Lunch Bunch continue to meet throughout summer. Yoga continues to meet in June.

Find more details see the Groups section below. Check the September Uni-Sun for start times of fall groups and get-togethers.

If you have any questions, Jeannie will be in the office throughout summer mostly Tuesday through Thursday.

Have a great summer.

### Golf Group

#### ATTENTION ALL MVUUF GOLFERS

You can play a short nine holes and still make the Sunday service!  
We start at 8:00, so you will have enough time to attend the service.  
Birnamwood golf course in Burnsville.

Contact Darrell or Kathy Eager for more info.

All ages welcome. Skill not a requirement.



The Panera Lunch Bunch will meet throughout summer as long as there is not an upsurge in COVID. It meets on the first and third Tuesdays.

1:00 in the Richfield Panera at 78th and Lyndale. Open to all.

Please contact Lorna Prell with any questions. [lornajprell@gmail.com](mailto:lornajprell@gmail.com)

#### PANERA GROUP

*Fellowship Conversation Lunch*



1ST & 3RD TUESDAY RICHFIELD PANERA  
AT 1PM 78TH & LYNDALE  
Contact: Lorna Prell



# Uni-Sun

## Groups and Committees

### Racial Justice

#### **“THIS IS NOT WHO WE ARE!.....OR IS IT?” -- the Great Replacement and Mass Murder**

On May 14, a white male took a gun, drove 200 miles to a grocery store in a primarily Black area of Buffalo, NY, and killed as many people of color as he could. This event stands out from the other 198 mass murders this year because of the number of people killed, the cold and calculating way the shooter planned the murders, the clarity of his racial hatred, and the statement he made in an attempt to justify his actions. Something called the “Great Replacement Theory” [GRT] figures prominently in his screed.

News stories and opinion pieces have popped up everywhere describing GRT -- a conspiracy theory that claims the white race is being replaced by Black and brown people who are brought into the country by a cabal of liberals and Jews for the purpose of taking over the country’s political landscape. This is not the first time a racist domestic terrorist has used GRT as a rallying cry. Remember the tiki torch bearing marchers in Charlottesville in 2017, screaming “You will not replace us!” [Here’s a link that explains GRT and how it’s been used to justify violence -- <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/the-great-replacement-an-explainer>]

The taproot of GRT goes deep into this country’s soil. There are two little known, but influential, books written over 100 years ago that demonstrate how deeply the ideas behind GRT are embedded in our society.

The first book, “The Passing of the Great Race or The Racial Basis of European History” by Madison Grant, was published in 1916 and republished in 1918, 1921, and 1936. Grant was Chairman of the New York Zoological Society, Trustee of the American Museum of Natural History, and an influential social and political figure. Grant’s book presents a racist pseudo-scientific picture of worldwide racial differences with white “Nordics” being the most evolved and valuable. Grant is unabashed in his racist views, gives full-throated support to the most extreme principles of eugenics, and argues that democracy will only lead to a weakening of society. Grant gave a copy of his book to Warren Harding and worked to promote the racist immigration laws of the 1920’s. Adolf Hitler wrote to Grant to tell him that the book had become his “bible” on the topic. At the Nuremberg trials, the book was entered by the defense as exculpatory evidence for the Nazis on trial.

The second book, “The Rising Tide of Color Against White World-Supremacy” by Lothrop Stoddard, A.M. Ph.D. (Harvard), was published in 1920. Stoddard was a colleague of Grant and his book explicitly builds on the ideas in Grant’s book – non-white races will reproduce faster than whites and will eventually overwhelm white societies, leading to a dissolute mongrelized society.

An excellent article discussing how Grant’s and Stoddard’s ideas have affected our history can be found at -- <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2019/04/adam-serwer-madison-grant-white-nationalism/583258/>.

# Uni-Sun

## Groups and Committees

### Racial Justice cont'd

What Grant's and Stoddard's books say is false, scurrilous, and extremely dangerous. I've read them, but I am not going to quote them here. I don't have the stomach to do so and they could be hurtful and traumatizing to people who might read them. If you want to read them yourself, both books are available in pdf form on-line – for free -- so you don't have worry about your money possibly going to causes they promote.

Yet, it's important for us to know of the long history that GRT has in our country – and how it remains a diseased but living root of our national tree.

When terrible things are done that don't fit with the uplifting story we tell ourselves about the goodness and decency of the U.S., it has become almost a reflex to say "But that's not what America is. That's not who we are." Unfortunately that reflex is flat-out wrong. The Great Replacement Theory is not some recent radical fringe element of U.S. society. The basic idea of GRT has been around for over 100 years and is being actively promoted today by both the press and politicians on the right. [<https://www.deseret.com/2022/5/16/23075058/the-roots-of-the-great-replacement-theory-that-enraged-the-buffalo-shooter-tucker-carlson-fox-news>]. The ideas behind GRT are an integral part of our nation's history and our national character. [<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/16/white-supremacy-replacement-theory-civil-rights?fbclid=IwAR3TALxs9Z4VepR6xNMD4Zy-vSBJPtYzrKU7HEwdqmLyUQDIBBmpmNW2UAc>]

It is who we were and who we are – but it is not all we were nor all we are. And not all we can be. To truly be the country we want to be -- a beacon of equality, justice, and decency -- we must not deny or hide from our history. We must understand our defects and faults, see ourselves clearly and honestly. Only then can we effectively excavate and destroy the diseased root and begin to build the kind of beloved community our hearts long for.

These are the personal views of Tom Ehlinger [[tomehlinger@gmail.com](mailto:tomehlinger@gmail.com)]. He welcomes your comments or critiques – it's only by open conversation about these issues that we'll move forward.

#### From THE CHURCH OF THE LARGER FELLOWSHIP

Have you considered becoming a penpal to one of our members currently experiencing incarceration?

We have a shortage of free-world writers. Might you and a friend join this important ministry?

- For general information about our Prison Ministry Program, go to [www.WorthyNow.org](http://www.WorthyNow.org)
- To fill out a pen pal application, go to <https://worthynow.org/pen-pals>



# Uni-Sun

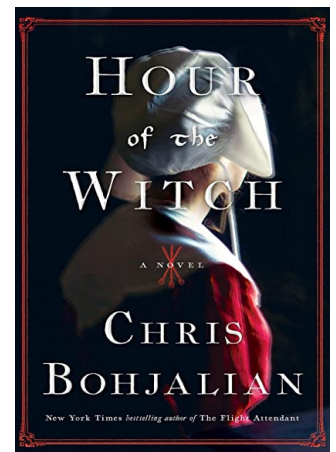
## Groups and Committees

### Evening Book Club

**The Evening Book Group continues to meet throughout the summer.** Lively discussions follow without seasonal interruption.

Alternating nonfiction with fiction as is our tradition, our new choices are:

- June 23, 2022, There is Nothing for You Here: Finding Opportunities in the Twenty-First Century by Fiona Hill. PLEASE NOTE THIS MEETING IS NOT ON THE THIRD THURSDAY
- July 21, 2022, Shuggie Bain by Douglas Stuart
- August 18, 2022, Noise: A Flaw in Human Judgement by Daniel Kahneman, Oliver Sebon, Cass R. Sunstein
- September 29, 2022, Cartographers by Peng Shepherd. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MEETING IS NOT ON THE THIRD THURSDAY
- NO MEETING IN OCTOBER
- November 17, 2022, Red Famine: Stalin's War in Ukraine by Anne Applebaum
- December 15, 2022, Hour of the Witch by Chris Bohjalian
- January 19, 2023, Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing and the Future of the Human Race by Walter Isaacson
- February 16, 2023, The Great Circle by Maggie Shipstead



The Evening Book Group usually meets on the third Thursday of the month throughout the year at 7 PM. The only requirement to attend is that you read, or attempt to read, the monthly selection. Feel free to come to any or all of the meetings. We will meet in person as the situation allows. The location of meetings may vary. If you wish to attend a discussion, let us know a head of time so we can let you know the location, or send you a Zoom invitation. We welcome newcomers! Questions? Call Joyce McMartin at 952-942-7143 or text 952-210-1372 or email at [joyceamcmartin@gmail.com](mailto:joyceamcmartin@gmail.com).

### Fitness with Fran

#### **Fitness class at MVUUF**

We're back inside the fellowship building for gentle yoga class! Classes will be 4:15-5:15 on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

There is no fee. Attendees are encouraged to make a donation to MVUUF when you can. This class has evolved into a hybrid of yoga, strengthening, and stretching and all are welcome, all genders, ages, and abilities.

There is no class on June 9th.



# Uni-Sun

## MVUUF SCHEDULE

**SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30am:** Weekly Sunday services are hybrid. You may participate in-person, on zoom or livestream on YouTube. Please check website for YouTube link. <https://zoom.us/j/3953901346> or call 312-626-6799; Meeting ID: 395 390 1346 Please check the website, Friday emails and the Uni-Sun for all the MVUUF events

Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, MVUUF Staff Schedule (internal use)

Jun 2022 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 10:30am - Sunday 10:30am - CYF Choice	30 2pm - Linda Hayden uses	31 12pm - MVUUF Staff 2pm - Nicole-Voice 4:15pm - Gentle yoga-in	1 2pm - Nicole-Voice 6pm - MA - Marijuana	2 4:15pm - Gentle yoga -	3	4
5 10:30am - Sunday 11:45am - Hyland	6	7 Jeannie Pro Days 12pm - MVUUF Staff 2pm - Nicole-Voice 4:15pm - Gentle yoga-in	8 2pm - Nicole-Voice 6pm - MA - Marijuana 7pm - Board of Trustees	9 4:15pm - Gentle yoga -	10	11
12 10:30am - Sunday 10:30am - CYF Choice 1pm - "Let's Talk Race"	13	14 12pm - MVUUF Staff 2pm - Nicole-Voice 4:15pm - Gentle yoga-in	15 2pm - Nicole-Voice 6pm - MA - Marijuana 7pm - CoSM Meeting @	16 4:15pm - Gentle yoga - 5:30pm -	17	18
19 10:30am - Sunday 10:30am - CYF Choice	20	21 12pm - MVUUF Staff 2pm - Nicole-Voice 4:15pm - Gentle yoga-in	22 2pm - Nicole-Voice 6pm - MA - Marijuana 6:30pm - Soul Matters	23 12pm - Guys Lunch 4:15pm - Gentle yoga - 7pm - Evening Book	24	25

**BOARD OFFICERS OF THE FELLOWSHIP AS OF 7/1/2022**

Chair & Board Member	Myra Basar	301-379-9210 <a href="mailto:gratitude30@hotmail.com">gratitude30@hotmail.com</a>
Chair-elect & Board Member	Kathleen Coate	612-205-2507 <a href="mailto:katbagby@mac.com">katbagby@mac.com</a>
Secretary & Board Member	Carla V. Ries	909-374-0743 <a href="mailto:Carlavries.uu@gmail.com">Carlavries.uu@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Kelley Hughes Richard Duffin	<a href="mailto:treasurer@mnvalleyuu.org">treasurer@mnvalleyuu.org</a>

**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

**MVUUF STANDING COMMITTEES AS OF 7/1/2021**

Committee	Chair(s)	Phone & Email
Adult Education and Enrichment	Rev. Laura Thompson	612-216-4203 <a href="mailto:minister@mnvalleyuu.org">minister@mnvalleyuu.org</a>
Aesthetics	Karen Olson	952-888-6527 <a href="mailto:luzcatz@comcast.net">luzcatz@comcast.net</a>
Archives	Kathy Eager	952-888.8427 <a href="mailto:Kathy@darrelleager.com">Kathy@darrelleager.com</a>
Congregational Care	Emily Kampa	<a href="mailto:emily.m.kampa@gmail.com">emily.m.kampa@gmail.com</a>
Committee on Shared Ministry	Jeanne Simpson	612-239-1240 <a href="mailto:jems.ellen@gmail.com">jems.ellen@gmail.com</a>
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Social Action	Rev. Laura Thompson	612-216-4203 <a href="mailto:minister@mnvalleyuu.org">minister@mnvalleyuu.org</a>
Stewardship	Kelley Hughes	952-451-6376 <a href="mailto:UUKelley@hotmail.com">UUKelley@hotmail.com</a>
Technology	Richard Duffin	707-696-6406 <a href="mailto:rwduffin@comcast.net">rwduffin@comcast.net</a>

**BOARD TRUSTEES AS OF 7/1/2022**

Trustee & Board Member	Eve Bergmann	612-597-7915 <a href="mailto:bergmann11@aol.com">bergmann11@aol.com</a>
Trustee & Board Member	Holly Bruce	952-897-0970 <a href="mailto:holly-bruce@comcast.net">holly-bruce@comcast.net</a>
Trustee & Board Member	Jody Gray	952-835-8922 <a href="mailto:jodygray87@comcast.net">jodygray87@comcast.net</a>
Trustee & Board Member	Kelley Hughes	952-451-6376 <a href="mailto:uukelley@hotmail.com">uukelley@hotmail.com</a>
Trustee & Board Member		

**MVUUF****952-884-8956****10715 Zenith Ave South  
Bloomington , MN 55431****Lead Minister****Rev. Laura Thompson****[minister@mnvalleyuu.org](mailto:minister@mnvalleyuu.org)****612-216-4203****Administration & Communications Manager**Jeannie Piekos, [office@mnvalleyuu.org](mailto:office@mnvalleyuu.org)**612-216-4113****Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries**Maria Bavier, [RE@mnvalleyuu.org](mailto:RE@mnvalleyuu.org)**612-216-4224****Music Director**Nicole Collins, [music@mnvalleyuu.org](mailto:music@mnvalleyuu.org)**Accompanist**Lark Lewis, [piano@mnvalleyuu.org](mailto:piano@mnvalleyuu.org)**Custodian & Operations**Mark Clary, [cust@mnvalleyuu.org](mailto:cust@mnvalleyuu.org)**Internet**Home Page: [www.mnvalleyuu.org](http://www.mnvalleyuu.org)Facebook: [www.facebook.com/mnvalleyuu](https://www.facebook.com/mnvalleyuu)**Uni-Sun Item Submission Information**The deadline for UNI-SUN is the 20th of each month. Submit articles to [office@mnvalleyuu.org](mailto:office@mnvalleyuu.org)