



APRIL SCHEDULE: See Sunday Service themes and leaders on pages 3 and 4 Check out Our Creative Community Event on page 13

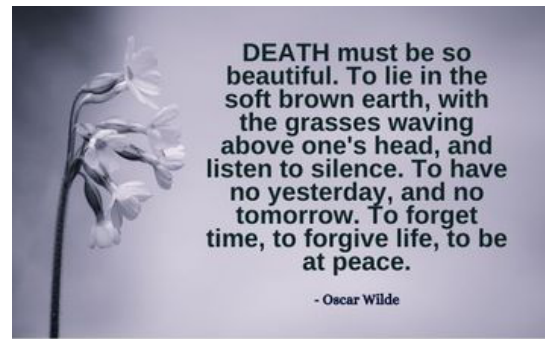
April 2023
Volume 58 Number 8

April 2023: In the End: Let's Talk About Death and Dying

April is a reminder that one of the certainties of life is taxes. The other certainty is death. We don't talk about death much in our culture.

Thinking and talking about death often brings up hard feelings: anxiety, fear, awkwardness and sadness, to name a few. So, we avoid talking about it. This creates even more anxiety around the subject and it hinders our relationships from being lived out to their fullest.

Talking about death can not only help to ease our fear and discomfort in our daily living, it can also lead to a more peaceful death for ourselves and our loved ones when our time comes to die. We can share our end of life wishes and plans. We can share how we hope to be remembered and what legacies we hope to leave behind for others to carry and continue. Talking about death is a beautiful gift for the living and the dying.



So, let's talk about death this month. Let's talk about the mystery of it. Let's make some end of life plans and explore our choices. Because after it is all said and done, it is death, in part, that makes life worth living.

See you Sunday,
Rev. Laura

Death Cafe

Death cafe is an opportunity for folks to gather with no other goal than to share their feelings about death and dying and eat cake. This is a safe space open to all people of all belief systems.



EAT, DRINK & BE MORTAL

WHEN: SATURDAY
APRIL 22ND; 2-4PM

WHERE: MN VALLEY UU FELLOWSHIP
10715 ZENITH AVE S. BLOOMINGTON



Plan Your Own Memorial Service

Sunday, April 23rd
12:30 -1:30pm

Join us for a discussion about memorial services at MVUUF. Participants will be given a packet to take home and return for planning their own memorial service.

Memorial planning packets available without participation



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

The Fellowship remains open and will continue to offer both in-person and online Sunday services. There are no restrictions on activities outside of the building, but for inside activities, precautions are based on the current CDC Community Risk Level for Hennepin County.

Current Risk Level is LOW.

CDC risk level by county: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/stats/index.html>

As we continue creating our new normal, we remember that:

- Masks protect others as well as ourselves.
- Some of us are not or cannot be vaccinated
- Some of us are immunocompromised, or live with or care for someone who is.
- People have different levels of comfort with physical distancing, masking.
- People with symptoms, positive test or and exposure to someone with covid should wear a mask, regardless of community risk level and should limit close contact with others.
- Please stay home if you are feeling ill or have a known exposure.
- 41% of other UU congregations are continuing to require masking this fall.

Precautions for Indoor Activities

Low: Masking is optional.

- Masking is encouraged but not required for Sunday service.
- Masking is voluntary for song leaders.
- Masking is voluntary for worship leaders and people speaking from the front.
- Masking is voluntary in most group meetings at the fellowship provided they are 25 individuals or less and meeting in one of the larger spaces. Please note different protocols may be applied to groups such as OWL with meeting in more confined areas of the fellowship and involving mixed groups that may have higher risk of transmission.
- Anyone wishing to continue wearing a mask in any setting is encouraged and supported in doing so.

Medium: Universal masking for ages 2+ with the following exceptions:

- Masking is voluntary for speakers while at the microphone
- Masking is voluntary for song leaders, while distanced from the congregation (10 feet).
- Temporary unmasking while actively drinking or eating.
- Food/beverage are allowed only in the Fellowship Hall, Social Hall and the kitchen.

High: Universal masking for ages 2+ with the following exception:

- Masking is voluntary for speakers while at the microphone.
- Singing only by the choir and performers
- No food or drink inside.

We are a Community:

If you have COVID-19, reach out to MVUUF Staff or Pastoral Care Team or Congregation Care Resource Committee: conversations, dog walking, meal delivery, deliveries, etc.

If you have questions, please contact Jeannie at office@mnvalleyuu.org.

Sunday Services

April 2nd: I Owe God a Good Death



Our American culture remains death-defying, and our UU movement failed, a decade plus ago, to embrace mortality during our re-visioning of our Purposes and Principles. We have work to do. If we wish to live more robustly and caringly, day by day, we must consent to die. As naturalist Wallace Stegner put it: "I owe God a death!" Our guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Tom Owen-Towle joins us live on Zoom from his home in San Diego. Today's sermon will be based upon his latest book, *Making Peace with Our Own Death*. With Tom Ehlinger

April 9th: What Happens After You Die?



The Christian story of Easter promises an everlasting life after death. That's one way to think about what happens after we die. There are, in fact, many beliefs, religious and secular, about what happens to us after we die? Where do Unitarian Universalists weigh in on the subject? Do you believe in an afterlife or reincarnation or are you more comfortable letting it be a mystery? Rev. Laura Thompson and Maria Bavier.

April 16th: Earth Day: A Celebration of Life



UU memorial services are sometimes called 'A Celebration of Life'. In honor of Earth Day, we'll take some time to reflect on and grieve those losses and changes we experience due to climate change. And we'll also lift up our gratitude and praise for the beauty of the Earth and our fondest memories with her. Rev. Laura Thompson and Maria Bavier

April 23rd: Have a Good Death



The phrase "good death" may seem like an oxymoron, but the reality is there are absolute things we can do in our living and in our dying which can lead us to a more compassionate and meaningful end of life experience. What are the steps we need to take for ourselves and in support of one another to have a good death? Rev. Laura Thompson

Sunday Services

April 30th: A Theology for Personal Choice



For Unitarian Universalists, personal choice is sacred. As progressives, we often find ourselves out in front concerning important issues of personal choice. Death is one of those. Our guest speaker Rev. Dr. David Breeden is a proud member of the MN Interfaith Clergy for End-of-Life-Options. After the service, UU Rev. Harlan Limpert, and co-founder of MN Interfaith Clergy for End-of-Life Options will lead a presentation about the current status of the proposed Minnesota End of Life Options Act. With Carla V. Ries

April's Sunday Sharing Partner is



We build a meaningful life for and with the displaced. When we find people displaced from their homes, countries, or lives, our instinct may be to focus only on their basic needs. And that is essential. But it's also not a life. A life is filled with joy, dignity, connection, and purpose. And that's what we aim to build.

Find out more about our Sunday Sharing partner and the work they do [here](#).

From the Treasurer

Many in our congregation have participated in the AmazonSmile program that donates a percentage of your purchase amounts to the charity of your choosing. This has produced hundreds of dollars in contributions to MVUUF over the last few years so we're sorry to see it end.

Amazon has decided to initiate more "focused" giving saying that they want to have a greater impact on specific areas. They state that this will range from building affordable housing to providing access to computer science education for students in underserved communities to using our logistics infrastructure and technology to assist broad communities impacted by natural disasters.

Uni-Sun

Letter from the Board Chair

Hello beautiful people –

I would like to start by acknowledging what a wonderful experience Music Sunday was. As always, the music delighted and moved me but this time, the addition of history and reflections shared by Kai, Lark and Tom took it to another level. Congratulations to Nicole for organizing yet another amazing experience for us all and sincere thanks and deep appreciation for all of the talented individuals, especially our pianist and choir members who performed and played a part in making the time so soul filling.

In addition to Music Sunday, the Auction was AMAZING! I don't think that I have ever seen that many items up for bid! What a phenomenal job done by the Auction Committee and all of the people who contributed items for bid. It was so exciting to peruse everything available and was a true sign of the revitalization and energy that I see growing each week in our fellowship. Thank you to everyone who participated in making the event so successful!! Your contributions mean so much to our ongoing growth and success.

Now, I have to own a mistake on my part. I got my dates related to the stewardship campaign mixed up thinking it went into April, so I didn't focus on what I should have in my letter last month. But, despite the timing being late, I still believe that it is important for me to share some thoughts around stewardship, especially given the beautiful Music Sunday that just happened. This fellowship operates not only due to the efforts and commitment of its members and staff but also due to the pledges that our members make to support our operating budget. Those pledges make up the funds that pay our wonderful staff team, that pay for the facilities we meet in, that pay for the supplies we use and the events we host, that pay for operating programs like OWL and Soul Matters and that give small amounts to various committees for their activities and contributions. Those pledge funds along with a whole heap of volunteer hours from the congregation and the hard work of our minister and each member of our staff team make everything that makes this fellowship so wonderful to a part of possible. Your pledges make this all possible and without enough of them, we are left with making very challenging choices. It is tough reality that we continue to deal with.

Most of you know that the beginning of COVID marked the start of a number of what have been difficult budget years. We have had to pull back on funds to support growth; we have not processed earning increases for our staff and we have had to dip into our savings to make up the difference. While we have worked very hard this year, we are still in a deficit and may have to rely on our shrinking savings again. We have started to see a shift with many new members but we need to build on that momentum.

I am not trying to be gloom and doom but rather, transparent about the current situation and what is needed for us to continue our climb back to full capacity and solvency. We need to continue to increase our membership and therefore our pledge amounts. To do this, we need to continue to offer the types of services, music, programming and activities that engage visitors in our community. We need to commit resources to the ideas that came from the Vision 2025 Task Force, like marketing efforts. This requires that we support everything we are doing now and more financially.

I personally find it hard to ask people for money, but I believe in this fellowship and everything it offers to support, sustain and engage each and every one of us. I believe in our collective commitment in so many different ways, to making the world a more beloved community. So, if you haven't made your pledge yet, please do so it can be counted towards our operating budget discussions. If you have already made your pledge, thank you for that commitment to our present and future. It is truly appreciated! I will ask everyone to think deeply about what they receive from this community and to evaluate their pledges accordingly to support its success.

Thank you all for everything you do!
Myra, Board Chair

Uni-Sun

Communications & Administration

Hello friends, Is it spring yet? I am surely feeling resistance on a daily basis. I am resistant to snow, resistant to measly degrees, to sweaters, scarves and gloves. But this resistance is temporary. I bundle up and head out to walk regardless of what's on the ground, falling from the sky or causing me to shiver. Maybe that is the 2-sided coin of resistance. Flip it one way and I am feeling resistant to something, flip it another and I am engaging in a (minor) act of resistance by not succumbing to my own reticence to cold weather.

Writing is often an act of resistance. It is an avenue to figure out what resistance means in our lives, and what needs resisting and/or releasing. If you google resistance writing you can spend hours reading about how writers wrestle with the theme. Resistance is defined by the artist. In my writing, I've explored the way resistance manifested in my life internally when encountering disease and externally when facing things that felt disingenuous, unfair, or part of a wider culture of conformity.

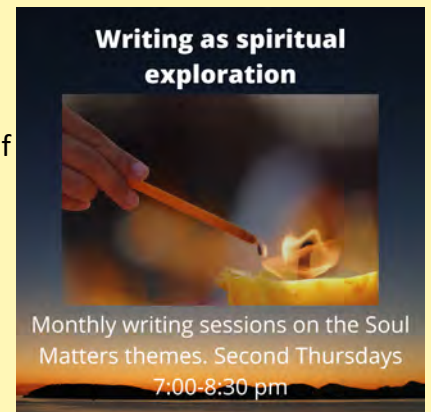
If you are curious to explore the Soul Matters theme a little differently, please come to *Writing as Spiritual Exploration* and grapple with the subject as you write your way into deeper understanding.

Warmly, Jeannie jeannie@mnvalleyuu.org

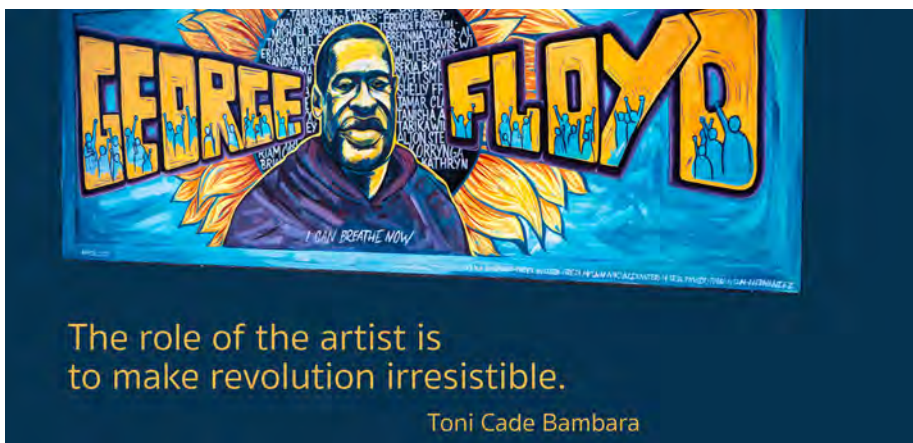
Writing as spiritual exploration. Monthly writing sessions on the Soul Matters themes. Thursday April 13th 7:00-8:30 pm.

Writing is a powerful and creative conduit to exploring our spirituality. In these monthly sessions, writer and poet Jeannie Piekos designs a unique curriculum that builds on the monthly Soul Matters themes. The one and half hour workshops offer participants many tools to encourage a deeper dive into the monthly themes. We explore together through readings of poetry and prose, writing prompts, and objects.

You don't have to be a writer, just curious and willing to experiment. Sharing is always optional.



April's writing session on *resistance* will be on **Thursday, April 13th at 7pm** on Zoom. [Here's the link.](#)



Uni-Sun

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY PLAN April 18 @ 7 p.m.

Interested in Children, Youth and Family Ministry?

We are planning for the 2023-2024 CYF year.

Join Eric Grady (Membership Chair) and Maria Bavier (CYF Director)
Tuesday, April 18th at 7PM on Zoom.

We are thinking about the Harry Potter Curriculum, the Soul Matters Materials, Coming of Age, Youth Group and Young Adult Ministry. Families will be able to register for next year's CYF programming beginning in May.

We look forward to "seeing" you!



COMMUNITY NIGHT PARTY Friday April 14th

Come play Board games with the Board!



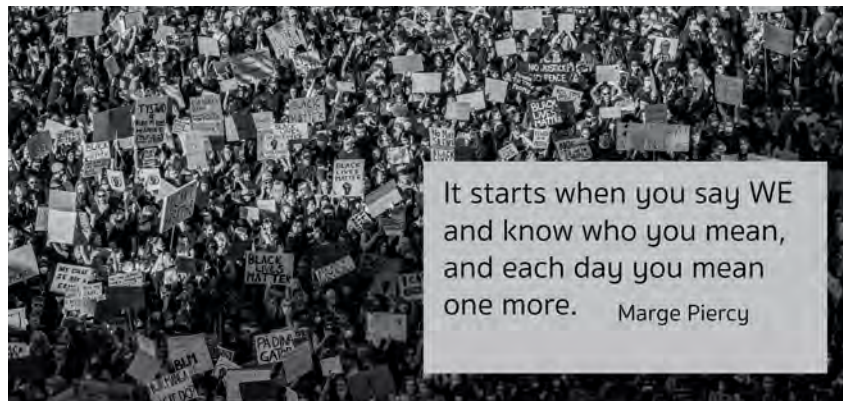
The MVUUF board of trustees is challenging you to their favorite board games!

There will be an awesome Greek Buffet from Gryropolis, wine and other beverages and cupcakes for dessert!

We will have the Bounce House set up for the younger kids.

So grab your toga and some friends, family, neighbors and come on down to MVUUF.

5:30 – 8:00 Friday April 14th!



Uni-Sun

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

This month, we will explore the challenges and paths of resistance. Each path includes an exploration of a practice of resistance. Each path is connected to and rooted in a religious or secular holiday, not necessarily on the date it is celebrated. Our aim is to learn about the holiday through its relationship to our theme of Resistance.

We walk the Path of Resistance when...

Lesson A: We Breathe; Honoring Vesak (Buddha's Life)

Lesson B: We Speak Truth to Power; Honoring Easter

Lesson C: We Join Together; Honoring Passover

Lesson D: We Change Habits; Honoring Earth Day

Lesson E: We Stick With It; Honoring Ramadan

This month, we're excited about our lenses for the April holidays. We want the children to become familiar with the various faiths and their holidays as well as think about how the path of resistance applies to their own life. To accomplish this, we suggest reading two books for each session, one story which explores the path of resistance and a second book about the holiday.

I especially enjoyed adding the book "[The Whispering Town](#)" as a story for Lesson C about Passover. This book, based on a true story, paralleled a part of my family, when my 19-year-old Danish father-in-law helped the Jews escape the Nazis during WWII. I'm happy to have found a good picture book which illustrates how the Danes organized their resistance and saved the Jewish people among their population.

As we explore how these religions and religious holidays inspired particular paths of resistance, may you and your children come to better understand what paths of resistance inspire you the most!

From the Soul Matters Team

[Registration](#) for our Children Youth and Family Ministry program is open on a rolling basis throughout the church year. Please fill it out and come to Sunday programming! [CYF Year-Long Calendar](#)

April Calendar

4/2	CYF Sunday
4/9	Multigenerational Worship, Easter
4/14	Community Dinner 5:30 p.m.
4/16	CYF Sunday, OWL Final Retreat
4/23	Multigenerational Worship, Earth Day Potluck Lunch 11:45 am
4/30	CYF Sunday

Maria Baviera Family Ministry Director

maria@mnvalleyuu.org

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Uni-Sun

MUSIC AT MVUUF!

April's music will present a variety of people, genres, along with familiar pieces and new ones.

We will have a guest on April 16th singing for us in worship. She is a student at the St. Paul Conservatory for Arts and someone I have been working with for years. As an upcoming college student majoring in music, Lily wanted to offer her talents and joy for music to our community.

In addition to that, our teen ensemble who has been practicing for months at the church after choir rehearsals, are ready for their debut as a group and will be singing April 30th.

Tom Ehlinger will also share some music around April's theme of death and dying. Tom's ability to contextualize the music and bring everyone into the experience is a gift to us all.

Finally, the choir will be offering what we consider to be our "anthem," along with offerings by Nicole and Lark. There will be plenty to see and hear. See you there!

You've heard the buzz! Something is brewing! If you haven't yet, save the date for MAY 12TH for Our Creative Community event. Nicole and Linda Hayden have been planning something for months. They realize how much creativity we have in our community and want to present the opportunity to showcase it AND have a fun night together with food and drink. Dinner will be between 5-6 followed by a show with a variety of acts!

Justice Choir resumes in April. Anyone is welcome to join us in this casual singing setting of songs rooted in social and racial justice. We sing every Wednesday 6:00-6:30 in the sanctuary.

This will be our reply
to violence:
to make music
more intensely,
more beautifully,
more devotedly
than ever before.

Leonard Bernstein



Uni-Sun

Adult Programs & Opportunities

Starting Point: A Pathway for Community Engagement at MVUUF

This 3 session course for all those wanting to join MVUUF as a member and any of those looking to deepen or re-new their existing relationship to MVUUF

Thursdays at 6:30pm
April 27th, May 4th & 11th
ON ZOOM

contact minister@mnvalleyuu.org
to register and get login info

Mid-Week Meditation

25 minutes of silent meditation

Wednesdays at 5:30pm

Youth Room in Social Hall



STARTING WEDNESDAY APRIL 19TH

NEW DROP IN SOUL MATTERS SESSIONS

In April and May, Rev. Laura will be hosting two new drop in Soul Matter's Sharing Circle sessions. This is a great opportunity for those looking to try these meaningful small groups. The Sharing Circles are based on the monthly theme, you can find the packet for [April here](#).

The packet is full of questions, resources, and exercises to explore that month's theme. Engage the packet in whatever way works for you and then come to share your thoughts with the group.

[Click here for Zoom session](#).



Soul Matters

**SHARING
CIRCLES**

Have you wanted to try a Soul Matters Sharing Circle? Join us for these drop-in sessions, no commitment required.

In-person on Sunday, April 16th at 12pm
on Zoom, Tues., April 18th at 7pm

Uni-Sun

Service Auction & Stewardship

Service Auction

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Service Auction. You came through hugely with donations and you were very generous with your purchases. We think everyone enjoyed sharing an appetizer potluck while bidding on items.

We have raised about \$7500 so far to help fund our budget for the year. If you didn't get a chance to participate there are a few items left and you can always donate on the MVUUF website.

Again, thank you. We are always looking for suggestions or comments on how to make the auction a more successful event. For many years we held it on a Saturday evening with a musical performance.

We'd love your input as to whether we should return to this type of venue. Email us at mvuufauction@gmail.com or talk to us.

Jean Danko, Barb Becker, Karen Olson, Leslie Swenson, Mary Tuttle



Stewardship 2023-24

Thank you to everyone who has turned in their pledge forms! This makes it easier for our Finance chair, Steve Danko, to finalize a budget that is realistic for us.

Haven't turned in your pledge form yet? It's not too late!

- You can pledge online at [our website](#). It's really easy!
- Or you can drop your form off at the Fellowship. Need another form? Extras are at the Fellowship!
- Or you can mail your form to:
MVUUF
Attention: Jeannie Piekos
10715 Zenith Avenue South
Bloomington, MN 55431



If you have been meaning to set up automatic deductions, our Administrator and Communications Director Jeannie Piekos has kindly offered to help with this! Just email her at office@mnvalleyuu.org.

Questions about Stewardship or anything else? Please contact Stewardship chair Kelley Hughes. If she does not know the answer, she knows where to look!

Kelley, Stewardship Chair

Uni-Sun

Good to Know

MVUUF has new tenants! We are so happy the Needlework Guild of MN found a new home with us. Please welcome them when you see them around and check out what they do and when they do it. Please read on to learn a bit more about the organization. Betty Miller is a part of the Needlework Guild and agreed to write this introduction.

The Needlework Guild of MN will begin having their meetings at MVUUF in April. We are looking forward to our “new home”.

The Needlework Guild of MN (NGM) is a 51-year-old organization. Our purpose is to provide an opportunity for all people who enjoy hand needlework to come together for fellowship and educational programs. Members come from all age groups and all needlework skill levels. Types of needlework include surface embroidery, crewel, needlepoint, counted cross stitch, hardanger, crochet, knitting, quilting and beading. Members may attend as many or as few meetings each month as they choose.

These are the monthly meetings:

- Daytime Counted Thread & Needlepoint, second Tuesdays, 10 am – 12 noon
- Beading, second Friday, 10 am – 12 noon
- Potpourri Stitchers, third Tuesday, 10 am – 2 pm
(April meeting will be in person/zoom hybrid at MVUUF. Some months may be hybrid from members homes)
- Evening Needlepointers, third Thursdays, 7 pm – 9 pm
- Daytime Stitch-In, fourth Tuesdays, 10 am – 12 noon
(Zoom only In April, first in person/zoom hybrid in May.)
- Evening Stitch-In, fourth Tuesdays, 7 pm – 9 pm

More information about NGM and about the individual meetings can be found at www.needleworkguildmn.org.

We are always looking for and welcoming new members. Interested persons can attend two meetings to “try us out” before joining. Membership dues are \$30.00/year.

Our Creative Community

We have had an amazing response to our newest and greatest event! Mark your calendars now for **May 12th**.

Here is the schedule:

5:00pm: Dinner of small plates (prepared by our favorite Chef, Rev Laura) and Adult Beverages, including a Signature Cocktail designed by our amazing Music Director Nicole

5:00 – 6:00pm: Admire the displays of creativity by members of our community including:

- A Costume designed by Kathy Eager!
- Needlework from the Needlework Guild who currently meet at MVUUF
- Garden design by Ginny Christiansen
- Painting and Photography by Ruth and John Keeley
- And More!

6:00pm The Big Show in the Sanctuary, including

- Poetry Reading by Jody Gray!
- Juggling by Eric Grady!
- “THESPI” A Greek Tragedy performed by our Youth!
- Synchronized Swimming !?!
- An Acapella Quartet including our own Nicole Collins!
- A Line Dance Demonstration and Lesson by Barb Gilliland and Leslie Swenson!
- Writers from Writing as Spiritual Exploration sharing their writing!
- “Farewell and Adieu” A play performed by Fran Bohlke and Linda Hayen
- Ukulele Music by Karen Olson!
- And More!



YOU can be a part of Our Creative Community too!

The deadline for signing up to display or perform is April 30th.

Contact Linda at linda590.lh@gmail.com for performing pieces and any questions, comments or suggestions.

Contact Fran at bryawnte@msn.com for Visual Art pieces

Watch for the Final Details in the next Uni-Sun. Tell your friends and families to come. All are Welcome. There will be a Suggested Donation to attend.

Uni-Sun

Groups and Committees

Social Action/Racial Justice

SPONSORING REFUGEES

The Social Action and Racial Justice Committee is researching possible individuals and/or families who have come to the state as refugees and need help resettling in Minnesota. We are looking at refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine.

First Unitarian Society is beginning their sponsorship of families from Ukraine and are interested in MVUUF partnering with them in this sponsorship. This effort includes many areas including setting up their apartment, helping them register for various classes, including school for children, English classes and more, stocking their apartment initially with food and staples, helping with job applications, getting them connected with medical and dental help where needed, learning how to use public transportation and more.

The Afghan women have been working with The White Bear UU congregation for a few months already. The Afghan families live in St. Louis Park and the White Bear congregation is looking for a partner church closer to where the Afghan families live.



The Twin Cities are the nation's top metro area for Ukrainian refugee settlement. Learn how MVUUF can help sponsor refugees.

Sunday, April 2nd following the service

Please be on the watch for posters and notices where our services will be appreciated. If you have an interest in helping organize this effort please contact Nan Corliss, Becky McPeck or Judy Wagner.

The initial areas where help is needed for the Afghan women include:

1. Help with English skills
 2. Help writing resumes for job applications
 3. Help writing applications for college courses.
 4. Transportation to various destinations- doctors/dental appointments, special meetings, etc.
- As needs arise they will be added to the list.

Sponsoring refugee families has been a very rewarding project for our fellowship. Before Covid we sponsored a Somali family and many members and friends helped. It establishes new friendships both within our fellowship and outside of our doors. It teaches our children lessons of compassion, understanding other cultures and the trials these families have in starting over in a new country, sometimes needing to learn a new language. Stay tuned and thanks for caring.

Uni-Sun

Groups and Committees

Women's Group Saturday April 1st 10:30am



Do you sometimes wish you had free access to a tech expert who could answer all the questions you have about your cell phone so that you could make better use of it? If so, our program this month should be a big help.

Our speaker is Bobby Ghamandi, a semi-retired IT specialist, and part-time salesman and trainer for Best Buy, who has the knack of explaining technology in ways that those of us not born with the tech gene can more easily understand. He will respond to a list of questions we sent to him in advance as well as those you bring to him that day. He can answer questions about both iPhones and Androids. Also, think about the apps or functions you find most useful on your phone so that you can share that information with others that day, perhaps during lunch. Be sure to bring your cell phone with you!

Speaking of lunch, if you plan to purchase the \$8.00 catered lunch, please notify our Chair Kathy Eager (kathy@darrelleager.com) your sandwich preference (egg salad or chicken salad) no later than Tuesday, March 28. Or, if you prefer, bring your own lunch with you.

All women of the fellowship are welcome to attend our meetings in the downstairs social hall. That's no April Fool's joke! It's a great way to get to know other women in a smaller-group setting. See you there!

Men's Group April 13th 7pm

Confronting the Climate Challenge: US Policy Options

Men's Group will meet on ZOOM on April 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM. Our speaker will be Marc Hafstead, a native of Bloomington and a graduate of Jefferson High School. His topic will be on US policy options in dealing with Green House Gas emissions and climate change. Marc is well qualified to speak on this topic; he is a PhD economist with the highly respected non-profit think tank Resources for the Future in Washington, DC. His research has primarily focused on the evaluation and design of federal and state-level climate and energy policies using sophisticated multi-sector models of the US economy. Marc and his colleagues have examined the environmental and economic impact of carbon taxes, cap and trade programs, clean energy standards and gasoline taxes. In so doing they have also looked at the distributional and employment impact of climate policies.

All members of the fellowship are welcome regardless of Gender. Questions contact John Peloquin.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84711559301?pwd=eWVnVWnlobWtjaEhReU16NUF0STZhZz09>

Meeting ID: 847 1155 9301 Passcode: 220952

Uni-Sun

Groups and Committees

REI April 27th at 7pm

Corporate Social Responsibility / Ethical Investing

In a now famous 1970 New York Times Magazine op-ed piece entitled *"The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase Its Profits"* Milton Friedman argues just what the title of the op-ed implies.



On Thursday April 27, 2023 at 7:00 PM Religion, Ethics, and Ideas meeting by ZOOM (see link below) will ask: Was Milton Friedman right?

We will also take up the related question: "should federal rules governing retirement funds allow for considerations other than maximizing the rate of retiree returns when selecting investments." Considering Environmental and Social Governance (ESG) concerns in addition to rate of return has been the subject of federal legislation and much heated debate recently. Milton Friedman's op-ed can be found by Google search as can numerous other writings on the topics of Ethical Investing and ESG.

Questions: contact John Peloquin.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84654411099?pwd=aHU0RXBxc2lEOGFjdEN0eTBLV1h3dz09>

Meeting ID: 846 5441 1099

Passcode: 096611

Fitness with Fran

"Stretching the muscles and ligaments creates space and space allows freedom of movement"

There are only 3 yoga classes offered in April. Those dates are April 3, 5, and the 26th. We meet from 4:15-5:15 downstairs at the fellowship. There is no fee, but you are asked to make a do-nation to MVUUF.

The classes consist of stretching, strength-building, flexibility, right/left brain work and balance practice for all. You are encouraged to go at your own pace and to do only the poses/movements that suit you and your needs. Bring a yoga mat and strap, wear loose, comfortable clothing, and come prepared to move and have some fun. Fran Bohlke is your instructor. Questions? Please email Fran — bryawnte@msn.com



Uni-Sun

Groups and Committees

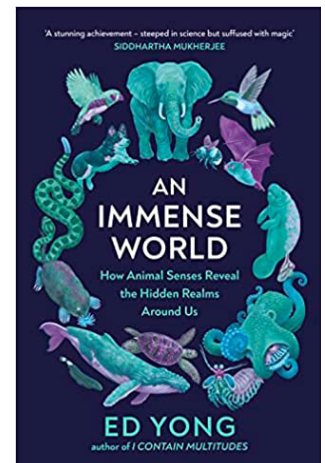
Evening Book Club

Winter seems to be lasting forever. Spring will be here eventually. Indulge in a good book as you watch the melting and await the leaves. We have some suggestions for books to choose. Read one and then join the Group for interesting conversation. Alternating nonfiction with fiction as is our tradition, our upcoming choices for discussion are:

Alternating nonfiction with fiction as is our tradition, our remaining selections are:

- On April 20, 2023, *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver
- On May 18, 2023, *Desperate Remedies: Psychiatry's Turbulent Quest to Cure Mental Illness* by Andrew Scull
- On June 15, 2023, *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides
- On July 20, 2023, *An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us* by Ed Yong
- On August 17, 2023, *In the Beauty of the Lilies* by John Updike
- NO MEETING IN SEPTEMBER
- On October 19, 2023, *Of Boys and Men: Why the Modern Male is Struggling, Why It Matters, and What to Do About It* by Richard V. Reeves
- On November 16, *Trust* by Hernan Diaz

The Evening Book Group usually meets on the third Thursday of the month throughout the year at 7 PM. PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO MEETING IN SEPTEMBER. 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, but we can be accommodating. If you wish to attend a discussion, let us know a little ahead 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.

MVUUF Summer Golf

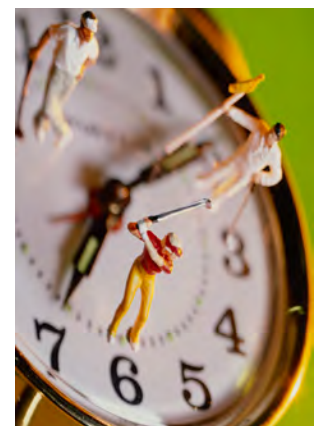
Birnamwood Golf Course in Burnsville is calling our your name!

MVUUF summer golf is teeing up for a swingin' good time.

Starting in June, 8 am Sunday.

Greens fees 9 holes \$16.50. Pass of 10 \$135. Cart \$14.

Contact Darrell or Kathy Eager for more info.



Uni-Sun

MVUUF Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 10am - OWL Class @ 10:30am - Sunday 10:30am - CYF 11:45am - OCC	27 2:45pm - Nicole 4:15pm - Yoga	28 10am - CoSM 4pm - Nicole Voice	29 3pm - Nicole Voice 4:15pm - Yoga 6pm - MA - 6:30pm - choir	30	31 11am - Uke Jam	1 10:15am - Women's group
2 10:30am - Sunday 10:30am - CYF 11:45am - ALIGHT: 11:45am - Make Up	3 2:45pm - Nicole 4:15pm - Yoga	4 11am - Nicole Voice 4pm - Nicole Voice	5 3pm - Nicole Voice 4:15pm - Yoga 6pm - MA - 6:30pm - choir	6	7 11am - Uke Jam -	8
9 10:30am - Sunday 10:30am - Multigen	10 2:45pm - Nicole	11 10am - Needlework 4pm - Nicole Voice 7pm - Needlework	12 3pm - Nicole Voice 6pm - MA - 6:30pm - choir 7pm - BoT Meeting	13 7pm - Writing as Spiritual Exploration 7pm - men's group	14 10am -Needlework 5:30pm Community Dinner	15
16 10am - OWL Retreat 10am - OWL Retreat 10:30am - Sunday 10:30am - CYF In 10:30am - CYF 12pm - SOUL	17 10am - Soul Matters 2:45pm - Nicole	18 10am - Needlework 11am - Nicole Voice 4pm - Nicole Voice 7pm - Soul Matters	19 3pm - Nicole Voice 6pm - MA - 6:30pm - choir	20 5:30pm - CC Comm 7pm - Evening Book 7pm - Needlework	21 11am - Uke Jam -	22 2pm - DEATH CAFE
23 10:30am - Sunday 10:30am - Multigen 11:30am - Potluck 11:45am - Linda 12:30pm - PLAN	24 2:45pm - Nicole	25 10am - CoSM 10am - Needlework 4pm - Nicole Voice 7pm - Needlework	26 3pm - Nicole Voice 4:15pm - Yoga 6pm - MA - 6:30pm - choir	27 12pm - Guys Lunch 7pm - REI	28	29
30 10:30am - Sunday 10:30am - CYF 11:45am - Linda	1 2:45pm - Nicole 4:15pm - Yoga	2 11am - Nicole Voice 4pm - Nicole Voice	3 3pm - Nicole Voice 4:15pm - Yoga 6pm - MA - 6:30pm - choir	4	5 11am - Uke Jam -	6 10:15am - Women's

Uni-Sun

MVUUF Service Schedule

SUNDAY Service is at 10:30am. Services are multi-platform. You may join us in person, on Zoom or you can livestream on YouTube.

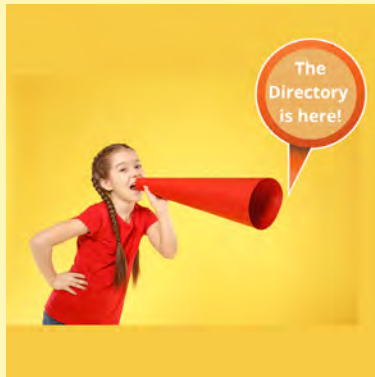
<https://zoom.us/j/3953901346> or call 312-626-6799; Meeting ID: 395 390 1346

Please check the [website](#), Friday emails and the above content of the Uni-Sun for all the MVUUF events

If you would like to volunteer to help as a Greeter, Usher or treat-bringer, here is a [link to sign up](#).

The latest Covid guidelines are available online and on page 2 of this newsletter.

Church Directory



Are you a member of MVVUF?

Would you like a directory of Fellowship members?

Email Jeannie at office@mnvalleyuu.org for an electronic or hard copy directory.

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 7/1/2022

Chair & Board Member	Myra Basar	
Chair-elect & Board Member	Kathleen Coate	
Secretary & Board Member	Carla V. Ries	
Treasurer	Richard Duffin	

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 7/1/2022

Committee	Chair/Contacts	
Adult Education and Enrichment	Rev. Laura Thompson	
Aesthetics	Karen Olson	
Archives	Kathy Eager	
Congregational Care	Emily Kampa	
Committee on Shared Ministry	Barb Gilliland	
Endowment	Bob Boucher	
Finance	Steve Danko	
Membership	Eric Grady	
Music	Barb Becker	
Nominating	Linda Hayen	
Operations	Mark Clary	
Social Action Racial Justice	John Chlebeck	
Religious Education	Maria Bavier	
Stewardship	Kelley Hughes	
Technology	Richard Duffin	

BOARD TRUSTEES AS OF 7/1/2022

Trustee & Board Member	Eve Bergmann	
Trustee & Board Member	Holly Bruce	
Trustee & Board Member	Jody Gray	
Trustee & Board Member	Kelley Hughes	
Trustee & Board Member		

MVUUF

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Rev. Laura Thompson

minister@mnvalleyuu.org

612-216-4203

Administration & Communications Manager

Jeannie Piekos ,office@mnvalleyuu.org

612-216-4113

Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries

Maria Bavier, RE@mnvalleyuu.org

612-216-4224

Music Director

Nicole Collins, music@mnvalleyuu.org

Treasurer

Richard Duffin, treasurer@mnvalleyuu.org

Accompanist

Lark Lewis, piano@mnvalleyuu.org

Custodian & Operations

Mark Clary, cust@mnvalleyuu.org

Uni-Sun Item Submission Information

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