



UNI•SUN

MINNESOTA VALLEY UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

MARCH SCHEDULE: See Sunday Service schedule, themes and leaders on page 2 & 3

March 2026
Volume 61 Number 7

Paying Attention

Mary Oliver wrote, *“Attention is the beginning of devotion.”* It’s an essential reminder that we cannot love someone or something that we do not fully see. Glances and self-interested attention never get to the real person or thing. They keep us on the surface of things and treat the other as a mirror.



Attention wants more for us than this. It asks us to look without expectation of who or what we hope the other will be, an act that mystic and philosopher Simone Weil calls self-emptying. It’s a type of looking that keeps on looking until we discover something entirely new, entirely other, entirely unique. Once we notice that stunning uniqueness, it will completely reshuffle our desires and devotions. We will want nothing more than to ensure that the other feels seen.

Truly seeing someone or something and valuing it can lead to more than just a feeling of love; it can lead us to action. Unitarian Universalist minister Rev. Sean Dennison writes, *“The ability to see beauty is the beginning of our moral sensibility. What we believe is beautiful we will not wantonly destroy.”* In other words, seeing the beauty of something comes with a commitment. To look, to really look, is to risk being changed.

For example, in recent months our collective witnessing of what has been happening here in the Twin Cities has made us more connected, kinder, and in many cases more actively involved in both political and community activities.

On a more individual but no less important scale, paying attention can mean stretching beyond our comfort zones to do things like listen respectfully to someone with a different worldview from ours, or learn to use a new name or different pronouns for someone we love.

May we continue to pay attention, even when it is hard, and may we invite others to also pay attention.

In gratitude,

Rev. Diana and Soul Matters Themed Ministry

Pronouns: she, her, hers

minister@mnvalleyuu.org



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

Sunday Services

March 1: A Bridge Over Troubled Water: 60 Years of Service with Rev. Diana McLean and Sarah Collins



This week we will kick off our annual stewardship campaign with a continued celebration of what MVUUF has done over the first 60 years of our history. Our presence has made a difference not only for our members but for the wider community!

Music by Lark Lewis and the MVUUF Choir directed by Nicole Collins.

March 8: A Quaking of Aspens with Rev. Kimberley Debus and Carla V. Ries



Interdependence calls us to learn from the natural world: what can other living beings teach us about generosity, support, and community? How can we be better stewards?

Rev. Kimberley Debus is a minister based in the Washington DC Metro area, inspiring an artful and art-filled faith. She consults with congregations and religious professionals throughout the denomination. In addition to her consulting ministry, she also serves the Cedarhurst UUs in the greater Baltimore area, and she writes about congregational life, worship, and other shenanigans at HoldMyChalice.substack.com.

Music by Lark Lewis and Nicole Collins.

March 15: The Power of Paying Attention to the Present Moment with Rev. Diana McLean and Liv Martin



This Sunday will be an all-ages, interactive service in which we are invited into a range of embodied experiences to help ground our attention in the moment we are in.

Recorded musical offerings from Lark, Nicole and the wider UU community.

Sunday Services

March 22: The Next 60: Our Role in a Changing World
with Rev. Diana McLean and Gregory Kirkwood



This week is the wrap-up of our stewardship campaign, and we'll shift to look ahead to our next 60 (or more!) years, and what we imagine our role to be in the present and the future.

Music by Lark Lewis and the MVUUF Choir directed by Nicole Collins.

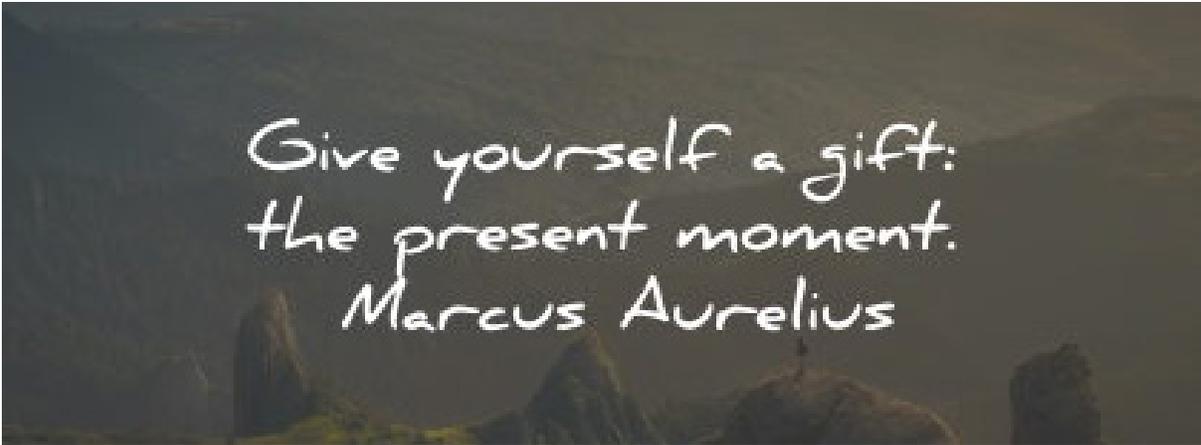
March 29: Bite-sized Love with Rev. Shay MacKay and
Tom Ehlinger



Join Rev. Shay MacKay in reflecting on her personal experiences of paying attention to putting love at the center one conversation, one person, one moment at a time.

Rev. Shay serves as the Minister of Congregational Care at Unity Church - Unitarian in St. Paul. She is a graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry and has served as both a parish minister and community chaplain. She lives in North Minneapolis with her wife, Rev. Diana McLean, and their two fuzzy companions, Gus and Maya.

Music by Lark Lewis.



Give yourself a gift:
the present moment.
Marcus Aurelius

Uni-Sun

Letter from the Board Chair

Hello everyone,

This winter has certainly been unique. Our priorities shifted hugely as we felt the impact of the Metro Surge. Many of our members and staff were and are active in the efforts to support our immigrant communities and I am in awe of this. We are amazing. I write this letter with much gratitude and hope that by the time you read it, there will be more good news on that front.

I want to recognize some of our volunteers that work both tirelessly and regularly behind the scenes here at MVUUF, that you are probably not aware of. Holly Bruce comes in weekly to help Jeannie with administrative tasks. She has been cleaning and organizing and generally keeping things in order. She is developing a plan to revamp the large bulletin board space in the hall downstairs so look for that upgrade to come. Barb Becker is Nicole's regular support person for all things music, keeping the music files updated. She works at this weekly and she's also a wonderful hospitality team leader. Lynn Fox helps Maria keep up with the preparation for our excellent CYF programs. Lynn comes in once a week for several hours and helps prepare the children's classrooms and with other needed tasks. Please thank these folks when you see them as they are such great assets for our staff and community.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will hear about the Stewardship campaign – yes, it's that time of year again -- and other upcoming events. The new Safety Committee is still working on new safety policies and will be upgrading our locks in the coming weeks. This has taken longer than we anticipated but we are grateful for the thorough research being done. The Nominating Committee is working on selecting candidates for open Board positions for next year; please let Kelley Hughes know if you'd like more information about that.

The Annual Meeting this year will be held on May 31st. This is a very important meeting so please mark your calendar now.

And, finally, a reminder that Board meetings are open to members and take place on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30.

Here's to Spring!

Linda Hayen

Board Chair

SOUL MATTERS MONTHLY THEME: Paying Attention

There is a plethora of resources in this month's Soul Matters Packet, which includes guided questions and activities, recommended readings, films, music playlists and more. Ask Jeannie for a copy if you are interested.

The Soul Matters packet ponders some good questions. How would you answer?

- As a child, which of your senses was your favorite way of paying attention to the world?
- When was the last time paying attention left you astonished?
- Is it time to finally pay attention to that overwhelming or painful thing you've been avoiding?
- Are you wasting your attention and energy on people who take you for granted?



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Communications & Administration

Happy March, my friends. It's almost daylight savings time and hopefully that means warmer temps. I am ready for both more light and warmth.

I am happy to share that at the last Board meeting the Communications Policy was approved. As I mentioned last month I have been working on this policy for a while. I believe a transparent, clear and fair communication policy will be a great benefit and will help us all be in alignment on how communications work at MVUUF. As I roll out the new policy please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions. You will find more information coming your way soon. The policy will be posted in the main office and there will be links in the Friday email. I also created a style sheet so contributors can help create efficiency by using type settings such as bold, italics, and capitals uniformly so I don't have to spend as much time copy-editing.

I will send more information by Friday email but in the meantime, please find an overview below.

Jeannie Piekos
Director of Communications and Administration
Pronouns: she, her, hers
jeannie@mnvalleyu.org

Communications Policy Purpose

Effective communication is the heartbeat of our community. This policy ensures our messaging remains consistent, accessible, and aligned with our mission, preventing information overload and ensuring that vital congregational news is easily found by members and visitors alike.

Hierarchy of Content Priority

To manage limited space and reader attention, content will be prioritized in the following order:

1. MVUUF Programming & Events (Services, CYF events, Annual Meetings, Welcoming Congregation/Green Sanctuary)
2. MVUUF Affinity Groups (Spirit Grove, Winding River, UUCF, Humanist Group)
3. MVUUF Committee Events (SARJ, Membership, etc.)
4. Member-Led Groups (LIFT, REI, poker, mah jongg)
5. Denominational Social Justice Events (UUA/Side with Love)
6. Sharing Partner News & Events
7. Community & Member Events (Local happenings or member/child performances)

Communication Channels: Uni-Sun, Friday Email, Sunday Service Announcements, Email Blasts, Flyers, Facebook/Instagram, MVUUF Website. (Please see guide for more detail.)

Submission & Oversight

All content intended for public or congregational distribution must be routed through the Communications Director or appropriate staff liaison. Please be respectful of deadlines. Please note staff reserves the right to edit for length, clarity, and adherence to the priority hierarchy.

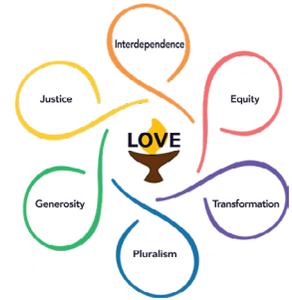


Uni-Sun

Children, Youth & Family Ministry

Our March Soul Matter's Theme is **Paying Attention**.

We tap into our value of religious pluralism as we explore Buddhism's call to pay attention to the power of the present moment. This Buddhist call to use our attention intentionally also invites us to honor our UU Value of Equity, which challenges us to "use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build & sustain fully accessible & inclusive communities." I love how our UU values are with the times! Epictetus, a Greek Stoic philosopher, said, "You become what you give your attention to. If you yourself don't choose what thoughts and images you expose yourself to, someone else will." Our journey with attention this month is about character formation and how we fine-tune our hearts.



Let's notice the times this month when we have the privilege to choose what we pay attention to and give thanks! Also thanks for the many ways you protect and shape the hearts of the precious young ones in your care!

Maria Bavier

Pronouns: she, her, hers

Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry

Maria@mnvalleyuu.org

[Link to register for CYF](#)



Both our Elementary and Nursery|Preschool classes made wreaths out of their handprints. Our theme was Finding Resilience through Community. Our kiddos have done such a nice job this year of getting to know each other, building community and welcoming new faces.



Uni-Sun Children, Youth & Family Ministry

Our Children, Youth and Family Ministry Programming Calendar

All Sunday programming is from 10:30-11:30 a.m. unless noted otherwise

- Nursery|Preschool meets every Sunday
- Elementary Soul Matters Exploration meets March 1, 8, 22 and 29
- Youth Group meets March 11 at 6:30 PM
- Special Events: id's Night is Saturday, March 7 from 5-8 PM

Kid's Night!!
AKA PARENT'S NIGHT OUT
SAT. 3.7.26 5-8PM

INVITE YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS!

DINNER,
CRAFTS &
ACTIVITIES

**SUGGESTED
DONATION**
\$10/CHILD
\$20/FAMILY

REGISTRATION
ENCOURAGED

Register [Here](#) for Kid's Night AKA Parent's Night Out on Saturday, March 7 from 5-8 PM. We are going to serve a pasta supper, play in the bounce house, build with Duplos and more.

Suggested [Donation](#) \$10/child or \$20/family.



Uni-Sun

Music at MVUUF

Embodying Resistance Through Music

It's hard not to pay attention to how deeply music has woven itself into Minnesota's active resistance right now. Everywhere I look, the "Singing Resistance" is showing us what it means to meet fear with collective voice. They remind us that *"we sing because song is an antidote to fear, song helps us connect to each other, and through song we can name and protect what we hold sacred. We sing publicly in the streets for the sake of solace, strength, solidarity, to voice our dissent, and to refuse cooperation with oppressive and autocratic forces."* -The Singing Resistance

SAVE THE DATE for a community-wide gathering designed to welcome rest, renewal, and connection. On **Sunday, March 8, 1:00 - 5:00**, MVUUF and Lily & the Lotus Restoration will co-host **Rest and Renewal: Helping the Helpers** — an afternoon of spacious, drop-in healing offerings created especially for caregivers, organizers, helpers, and anyone carrying more than they can name. The Gathered Table is generously donating a delicious variety of soups.

This event is our collective call to help the helpers. Expect gentle practices, warm hospitality, and opportunities to reconnect with your own breath and body. A full schedule of offerings will be shared soon.

Free and open to all, thanks to the generous support of our community.

To help make this a successful outreach project, please sign up to volunteer in one of the many areas that need support! [Sign up Genius](#)

Youth Singing Opportunity—A chance for our future protestors, protectors, observers, and activists to learn a resistance song and sing it at Music Sunday.

Rehearsals will be April 5 and 12, 11:45-12:20 in the sanctuary.

Looking ahead-

MUSIC SUNDAY is April 19. Time to start practicing. Contact Nicole to participate in the service ASAP.

Thank you to everyone who took the music survey!

[MVUUF Choir Calendar](#)

Nicole Collins

Director of Music Ministries

Email: Music@Mnvalleyuu.org

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers



Uni-Sun

Music at MVUUF

A Day of Rest and Renewal Helping the Helpers



Sunday, March 8th 1-5 PM

Join a community healing day co-sponsored by MVUUF and Lily & the Lotus Restorative with soup donated by The Gathered Table.

All Are Welcome.

Drop in 1-5 PM for sanctuary offerings, one-on-one healing, warm drinks, and soup. This is a free event.

Register here: <https://forms.gle/RgNm8SvoVg5fCYoF7>

Minnesota Valley UU Fellowship (MVUUF) 10715 Zenith Ave S
Bloomington, MN 55431
mnvalleyuu.org



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MVUUF Events

Stewardship

The month of March is for giving. Our 2026-27 Stewardship Campaign begins now.

March is the month that we ask all our members and friends to renew their commitment to MVUUF for another year. Your financial support determines what we can do in the next year. We are fortunate to have Minnesota Valley UU Fellowship here for us during this trying time. MVUUF is our home; a home where we are nurtured, and where we recognize that all are equal, worthy, and respected. It is our Bridge Over Troubled Water where we strive to be a safe and welcoming community where all are valued. This is the time for you to think about what the Fellowship means to you.

As you consider the amount you can pledge, please keep in mind that due to rising costs, we need a 6% increase in pledges just to operate at the level we are at now. However, we have hopes and dreams about how MVUUF could live even more fully into our mission. To expand what we are able to offer both within MVUUF and in the wider community, we need 8+%. But please remember that all are welcome no matter the size of the pledge.

Pledge packets will be available Sunday, March 1 at the service. Any packets not picked up will be mailed.

Please join us in keeping our community vital. Make your pledge today and support the bridge we're continually building together. Learn more about our campaign or [pledge online here](#).

Thank you for supporting community at MVUUF.



What do we live for
if it is not to make
life less difficult for
each other?

George Eliot



Uni-Sun

MVUUF Events

UUA Common Read Book Discussion Series Led by Rev. Diana

Have you wondered what your role might be in social change? This might be an especially challenging question if you are not an in-the-streets kind of activist. The good news is that there are many necessary roles in social change, and we can all find our "lane" in which to contribute.

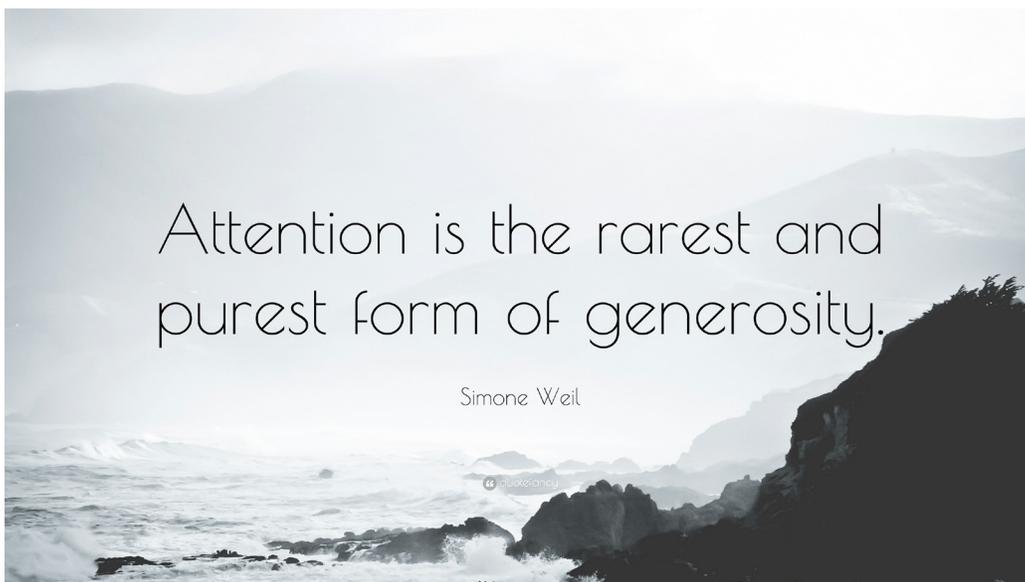
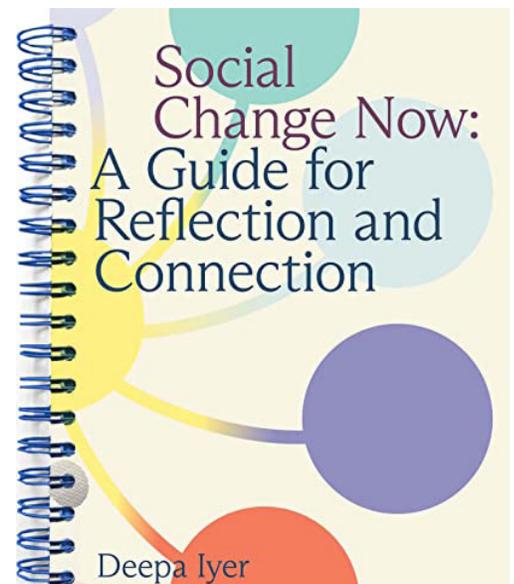
The UUA's Common Read selection for 2025-2026 speaks directly to this issue. The book is *Social Change Now: A Guide for Connection and Reflection* by Deepa Iyer. A description can be found here: <https://uuabookstore.org/products/social-change-now> You can also order a copy from the UUA Bookstore at that link; you are also welcome to purchase it elsewhere or obtain it from the library if you prefer.

Rev. Diana will lead a series of three discussions on the book.

Please email her at minister@mnvalleyuu.org by **March 15 to register** and receive the Zoom link and other details.

The discussions will be held on the following Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30pm: March 17, 24, and 31.

Please plan to attend all three sessions if at all possible, and please read the book before the first session.



Uni-Sun

MVUUF Events

NEW TO MVUUF?

Sunday, March 15th
@ 11:45am

Learn more about
UUism and MVUUF

STARTING POINT

WELCOME!



Pastoral Community Gathering Space
2nd & 4th Thursdays 5:30pm



Join Rev. Diana and other members/friends for an opportunity to be together in a nurturing space of love and concern.



Affinity Groups at MVUUF

Spirit Grove

Join Spirit Grove in Magickal Arts

“There’s a difference between knowing the path and walking the path,” Morpheus tells Neo in the Matrix.

Spirit Grove works to give everyone a voice and an opportunity to show their talents. At February's in-person Spirit Grove meeting, I led a discussion and workshop on the use of candles in magic(k)al practice, and together, we rolled our own candles out of beeswax. In January, Anthony taught us how to craft our own sigils, and in December Birch taught us to make rune staves. The cliché is true; teamwork makes the dream work!

Teaching anything related to religion is weird. Do I try to convey the journey to where I beheld the sunset, or somehow, impossibly, convey the glory, the serenity, and the many-layered deep truths of the sunset itself? The latter seems a futile effort, so I stick mostly to the former.

To set up our discussion, I read from Scott Cunningham’s *Earth Power*, published in 1983, and a 4-year-old Reddit post from a user called Witchthief. We discussed fire safety, magical correspondences, and reusing sacred objects.

“The most basic candle spell is a banishment spell. When it is dark, and you feel alone and scared. Light a candle. Now you can see, and what was once a mystery in darkness is now revealed to you.” - Witch Irkalla

I think the most essential, nurturing thing we do is taking the time and space together to learn from each other.

I am grateful for this space and these teachers. I hope that other people who are searching for a community will find us and join next month.

Blessed Be,
Alison Rognas
Member of Spirit Grove
Friend of MVUUF
Witch



Uni-Sun

Affinity Groups at MVUUF

UU Christian Fellowship

Please join UUCF on **March 22nd** after the Sunday Service. Jerry Gale, a member of Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church in Minneapolis, will speak on *“Understanding and Responding to Christian Nationalism.”* Christian nationalism seeks to merge Christian and American identities, damaging both the Christian faith and America’s democracy. It implies that to be a good American, one must be a Christian. This workshop provides information about Christian nationalism and ways for Christians, people of other faiths, and secular individuals to respond to Christian nationalism.

Gale first became aware of Christian nationalism on Jan. 6, 2021, after seeing footage of Christian symbols being carried by those who broke into the U.S. Capitol. Shortly after that, he discovered the website [Christians Against Christian Nationalism](#). In January 2024, he formed the Christians Against Christian Nationalism Minnesota group and is sharing his message throughout the state.



The poster features a stylized graphic of colorful, flowing lines in shades of teal, brown, and yellow. A circular logo with a white 'U' and a cross is positioned on the left. The text 'Exploring' is written in a bold, blue font within a yellow rounded rectangle. Below it, 'UU Christian Fellowship' is written in a bold, black font. The date and time 'March 22nd after Sunday Service' are written in a white, serif font. At the bottom left, the text 'unitarianuniversalist' is written in a bold, black font, with 'CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP' in a smaller, black font below it. The phrase 'freely following jesus' is written in a cursive, black font at the bottom.

Exploring

UU Christian Fellowship

March 22nd after Sunday Service

unitarianuniversalist
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

freely following jesus



Uni-Sun

Affinity Groups at MVUUF



Spirit Grove
of the
Twin Cities

IN-PERSON
2ND SUNDAY
AFTER
SERVICES

ONLINE
4TH SATURDAY
AT 6PM

Spirit Grove is a new Pagan affinity group at MN Valley UU Fellowship in Bloomington. The group is open to all.

Contact Anthony Dallozzi for more information at SpiritGroveTC@gmail.com

 **MINNESOTA VALLEY**
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP



Winding River Sangha
Saturdays at 3pm

go
as a river
go as a
sangha

Winding River Sangha meets weekly in the Sanctuary on Saturdays at 3pm. All are welcome to attend regardless of prior experience with Buddhism or meditation.



Uni-Sun

MVUUF Committees

Service Auction

The 2026 Service Auction is Coming!

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, April 12th** when we'll host our annual service auction. As usual we'll have plenty to bid on: plays, dinners, services, food and more. We've contacted many venues and businesses for their donations.

We need your help, too. What can you offer to be sold at auction? By far the most popular items are dinners. Don't feel that you can't contribute there - you can host 2 people or 20 people. You can host in your home, at the Fellowship or even at a restaurant. And food can be anything from a coffee date to pizza to gourmet dining. Or maybe offer to make a pan of lasagna or enchiladas to be delivered when convenient for you and the purchaser.

If nothing with food interests you, offer a service such as light cleaning or handyman work, teach a hobby or craft. The ideas are endless and we can help you with that!

During March we ask for your donations and we will have forms you can fill out that have plenty of ideas to choose from. The auction committee will be contacting those who donated last year to see if they want to help with another donation. We'll also have a section where you can ask for help with a particular project. Watch for more information in the Friday emails and on the table outside the sanctuary.



Uni-Sun

MVUUF Committees

SARJ - Social Action/Racial Justice

Fundraising Event for our Ukranian Family Saturday, March 14th from 5:30-7:30.

Did you hear Reverend Diana's account about the power of song and unity and how that bolstered her courage when she was at the planned arrest at the MSP airport a few weeks ago? Did you know that numerous studies have focused on the effect of music interventions on individuals in a clinical setting? Many of these studies concluded that music interventions positively impact mood and anxious or depressive symptoms in both children ([Kim and Stegemann, 2016](#); [Yinger and Gooding, 2015](#); [Kemper and Danhauer, 2005](#)) and adults ([Carr et al., 2013](#); [van der Wal-Huisman et al., 2018](#)).

Come see the power of music and belonging on **Saturday, March 14th from 5:30-7:30.**

We will engage in rest AND resilience by singing songs of joy and resistance accompanied by violinist and music therapist, Kristin Rupp. We will raise money to help our Ukrainian family cover rent costs for the next few months as they await their Temporary Protective Status and work visa renewals.

Snacks, desserts, and beverages will be served. Let's lift each other up, help a family caught in this immigration backlog, AND brainstorm our next steps because we know the ICE drawdown is not the end.

Ways to give: You can give to GoFundMe now or during the event:

- <https://gofund.me/5c657cea5>.
- Or you can write a check to MVUUF with Ukrainian support in the subject line.



Uni-Sun

SARJ - Social Action/Racial Justice

March Sunday Sharing Partner Camp UniStar



Camp UniStar is a non-profit, volunteer-managed camp for people of all ages, aligned with Unitarian Universalist values & principles. Families and individuals come seeking personal growth, community, friendship, and a deeper connection to nature.

Camp UniStar

Rest, restoration and renewal are all key to resilience - to bouncing back and getting back in the game.

As a people called to fight for justice and help our neighbors, UUs often push ourselves beyond our limits. But, "*You can't pour from an empty vessel...*" Places like Camp UniStar offer Unitarian Universalists the perfect place to indulge in self-care in meaningful ways such as being in nature, meeting other like-minded folks, and learning new ways to engage with our world.

Learn more at <https://www.campunistar.org/>



Uni-Sun

MVUUF Member Groups

LIFT March 7th 10:30

LIFT presents Luis Fitch. International artist and designer.

Luis Fitch is an international artist, mentor, and creative entrepreneur specializing in visual art and working across gallery and urban art settings. His artistic repertoire encompasses various mediums, including screen prints, stencils, stickers, masking film illustrations, wheat paste, collages, sculptures, posters, paintings, and murals.

You may have seen his work on postage stamps, at Target and recently at the Bloomington Art Center. Luis has received many awards and is well known in the Americas as well as Europe. He will have books and other merchandise available to sell.

Catered lunch available for \$10. Number of lunches are limited. Contact Kathy soon!

\$5 to attend, if you are not a member of LIFT.

Saturday, March 7th, 10:30 am
Join LIFT for International Artist
Luis Fitch A conversation about the
crossroads of **Art** and Design



Catered Lunch \$10.00 Contact Kathy by Monday March 2nd



Uni-Sun

MVUUF Member Groups

Evening Book Club

Despite our wonderful mid-February thaw, winter plods on. Take an adventure without leaving home. Intrigued by a topic? Books are full of explanations. Read a book on our list and join us for discussion. Our next few meetings will include the following book choices, alternating fiction and nonfiction, they are:

March 19, 2026, *The Age of Diagnosis: How Our Obsession with Medical Labels is Making Us Sicker* by Dr. Suzanne O'Sullivan

April 16, 2026, *This Strange Eventful History* by Claire Messud

May 21, 2026, *Pathogenesis: A History of the World in Eight Plagues* by Jonathan Kennedy

June 18, 2026, *The Quiet Librarian* by Allen Eskens

July 16, 2026, *Why Nothing Works: Who Killed Progress and How to Bring it Back* by Marc J. Dunkelman

August 20, 2026, *Breathless* by Amy McCulloch

The Evening Book Group meets on the third Thursday of the month throughout the year at 7 PM usually via Zoom. The only requirement to participate is that you read, or attempt to read, the monthly selection. Feel free to come to any or all of the meetings. Let us know a little ahead of time so we can send you the Zoom link. We welcome newcomers! Questions? Email Joyce at joyceamcmartin@gmail.com or text at 952-210-1372.

Religion, Ethics & Ideas March 26 7 PM

REI will meet on Thursday March 26 at 7 PM on Zoom. Our general topic will be US Immigration Policy. Likely topics and questions include the ones listed below as well as many more.

- Should the US adopt a policy of unlimited immigration so that any person who is in good health and does not have a criminal record will be allowed to immigrate to the US? This was roughly, the US policy between the civil war and 1924; the exception being the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act.
- How many people should be allowed to legally immigrate per year? Should legal immigration quotas be expanded?
- Should local government officials be required to cooperate with Federal Officials in enforcing immigration laws?
- Should US policy be "benign neglect" toward unauthorized immigrants so long as they do not commit serious crimes? Should immigration policy favor college educated and skilled workers over unskilled workers? Should reunification of families remain a major objective of immigration policy?
- Should there be a path to citizenship for immigrants who are in the US in violation of US immigration laws? What criteria should be used in granting political or religious asylum?
- Questions – contact John Peloquin.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85050159344?pwd=UjS74tcaaoptPaACjF3CkVs7lvb81i.1>



Uni-Sun

MVUUF Member Groups

Second Thursday March 12

Second Thursday will meet on Thursday March 12 at 7 PM on Zoom.

The speaker is John Pollard and his topic will be lobbying and the legislative process in Minnesota. John Pollard is well qualified to speak on the topic; he is currently the Legislative Director for Local 49 International Union of Operating Engineers (heavy construction equipment operators). John has more than twenty years of experience in the legislative process.

Most recently, John served as the Chief of Staff to the Senate DFL Caucus. Previously he worked as the Legislative Director for Minnesota Management and Budget (the state's budget agency) under two administrations. He has served both House and Senate Majorities Leaders, as the Senate Communications Director, and as an aide to the Senate Transportation and Public Safety Committee. All members and friends of the fellowship are invited and welcome to attend.

Questions contact John Peloquin. [Zoom link here.](#)

Like Games?

Mah Jongg

Fridays at 10am

Poker

1st Friday at 7pm



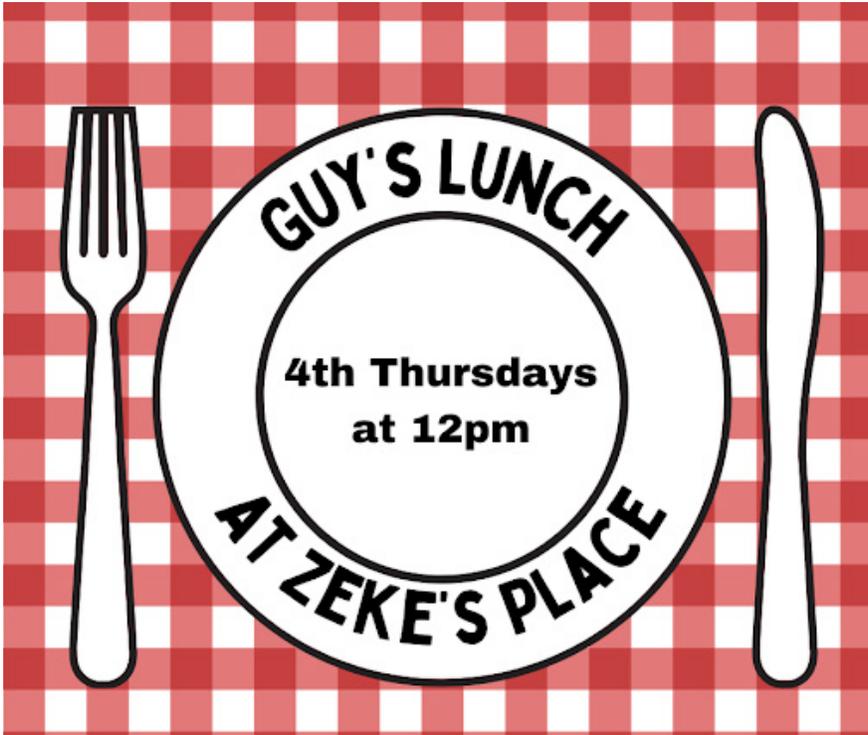
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MVUUF Member Groups



Beyond Sunday Group

Friendship & Conversation
1st & 3rd Tuesdays @ 1:00pm
Perkins Restaurant at 8324 Lyndale



GUY'S LUNCH
4th Thursdays
at 12pm
AT ZEKE'S PLACE



Uni-Sun

Helpful information

More to Recycle at MVUUF!

Do you think we are making a difference with Ridwell? Ridwell recently reported that together Ridwell clients have saved 40 million pounds of garbage from the landfills. They said that we on track to surpass more than 50 million pounds by the end of 2026. How much is 40 million pounds? If it were all plastic bags, you'd have 200 million of them—enough to circle the Earth 1.5 times. So yes, we are making a difference with Ridwell.



March pickups are the 11th and 25th. Please have your recycling sorted properly by March 10th and 24th

MVUUF members and friends can recycle the following: multi-layer plastics, batteries, light bulbs, **plastic 6-pack rings, plastic bottle caps, prescription bottles, cords and cables**. Please be sure your items are clean and that your batteries are not corroded. Place items in the appropriate bag inside the box on the lost and found shelf by the front door.

Additional information about what can be included is on the front label of the box. Thank you for helping MVUUF make a difference!

Remember plastic film goes in the bins on the outside by the front doors. Linda Hayden takes them to a different recycling service where they can be transformed into park benches.

For questions about recycling at MVUUF or Ridwell, please contact Jeannie at office@mnvalleyuu.org.

What Kind of Plastic Is This?

There are two ways to tell. You can check the Ridwell app ([Download for iOS](#) [Download for Android](#)) or watch the video below which explains the difference between multi-layer plastic and plastic film. If you have other questions about our recycling email office@mnvalleyuu.org.



Uni-Sun

MVUUF Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10am - OWL Conf. 10:30am - Sun. Svc 11:45am - SARJ -	2	3	4 9:30am - Brass band 6pm - MA Marijuana 6:30pm - Choir 7:30pm - Trio	5	6 10am - Mah Jongg 11am - Uke Jam -	7 10:15am - 1st Sat. 3pm - Buddhist Sangha 4:30pm - Kid's Night,
8 10am - OWL Conf. 10:30am - Sun. Svc 11:45am - OWL 11:45am - Spirit Grove 1pm - Healing Event	9 10am - Piano tuning	10 10am - Needlework 6:30pm - BoT 7pm - Needlework	11 9:30am - Brass band 6pm - MA Marijuana 6:30pm - Choir	12 5:30pm - Pastoral Gathering 7pm - Second Thursday	13 10am - Mah Jongg 10am - Needlework 7pm - Poker Group	14 3pm - Buddhist Sangha 4:15pm - Fundraiser and Sing
15 10:30am - Sun. Svc	16	17 10am - Needlework	18 9:30am - Brass band 6pm - MA Marijuana 6:30pm - Choir 7:30pm - Trio	19 5:30pm - Cong Care 7pm - Evening Book	20 10am - Mah Jongg 11am - Uke Jam - 5pm - Chess Group -	21 10am - NWG - Stitch 3pm - Buddhist Sangha
22 10:30am - Sun. Svc 11:30am - UUCF @ 12pm - Music Comm	23 10:30am - Soul	24 10am - Needlework 7pm - NWG evening	25 9:30am - Brass band 6pm - MA Marijuana 6:30pm - Choir	26 12pm - Guys Lunch 5:30pm - Pastoral Gathering 7pm - REI on Zoom	27 10am - Mah Jongg	28 3pm - Buddhist Sangha 5:30pm - WiCoM
29 10am - OWL Conf. 10:30am - Sun. Svc	30	31 10am - Needlework	1 9:30am - Brass band 6pm - MA Marijuana 6:30pm - Choir 7:30pm - Trio	2	3 10am - Mah Jongg 11am - Uke Jam - 7pm - Poker	4 10:15am - 1st Sat. 3pm - Buddhist



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. Please see our website for more information. mnvalleyuu.org

<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 MVUUF events.

If you would like to volunteer to help as a Greeter, Usher or treat-bringer, please contact Steve Vincent or email the office at office@mnvalleyuu.org.

Print copies of Uni-Sun

Would you prefer a print copy of the Uni-Sun? We can mail you one, or look on the wall by the nametags for the current month. If you want one by mail, please email Jeannie at office@mnvalleyuu.org

Church Directory



Are you a member of MVUUF?

Would you like a directory of Fellowship members or would you like to access our online membership software program, Breeze?

Email Jeannie at office@mnvalleyuu.org for an electronic or hard copy directory or get signed up with Breeze.

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

Staff, Committee & BOT

BOARD OFFICERS OF THE FELLOWSHIP AS OF 7/1/2025	
Chair & Board Member	Linda Hayen
Chair-elect & Board Member	Becky McPeek
Secretary & Board Member	Kathleen Coate
Treasurer	Richard Duffin

BOARD TRUSTEES AS OF 7/1/2025	
Trustee & Board Member	Doug Bruce
Trustee & Board Member	Tom Ehlinger
Trustee & Board Member	Stewart Smith
Trustee & Board Member	Mary Tuttle
Trustee & Board Email	board@mnvalleyuu.org

BOARD WORKGROUPS	
Vision 2028	Doug Bruce, Anthony Dallozzi, Steve Danko, Richard Duffin, Candace McClenahan, Candace Wayes

MVUUF STANDING COMMITTEES AS OF 7/1/2025	
Committee	Chair(s)
Aesthetics	Karen Olson
Archives	Kathy Eager
Children, Youth & Family	Maria Bavier
Congregational Care	Barb Gilliland
Committee on Shared Ministry	Nikki Holm
Endowment	Jean Danko
Finance	Steve Danko
Membership	Steve Vincent
Music	Barb Becker
Nominating	Kelley Hughes
Operations	Steve Danko
Social Action Racial Justice	Liv Martin
Stewardship	Holly Bruce
Technology	Richard Duffin

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 612-216-4203

Director of Administration & Communications
 Jeannie Piekos, office@mnvalleyuu.org
 612-216-4113

Director of Children, Youth & Family
 Maria Bavier, CYF@mnvalleyuu.org
 612-216-4224

Director of Music Ministries
 Nicole Collins, music@mnvalleyuu.org

Treasurer
 Richard Duffin, treasurer@mnvalleyuu.org

Accompanist
 Lark Lewis, piano@mnvalleyuu.org

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

