



UNI•SUN

MINNESOTA VALLEY UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER SCHEDULE: See Sunday Service schedule, themes and leaders on page 2

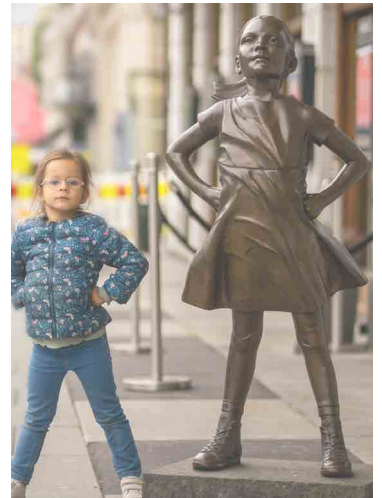
October 2026
Volume 62 Number 2

October: Courage

In our world right now, it can be easy to notice all the harm being done and become hopeless. If we look more carefully, though, we can see that there are also many reasons for hope—including people showing courage in ways large and small.

Courage might mean acts of civil disobedience, like clergy and laypeople from many faiths who have been arrested in places like Minneapolis, New Jersey, Idaho, and Vermont while protesting at legislative offices, detention facilities, and other sites connected with actions that violate our values. Those actions are intended to interrupt or prevent harm, and to model how we can live our values in the world.

Courage can also mean speaking what you believe to be true in a room where it feels like you are alone in those beliefs—whether that is a workplace, around a family dinner table, or in a business meeting. These smaller, less public acts of courage also interrupt harm and model a different way.



Of course not all courage is tied to current events. Courage might mean making a doctor appointment you have been avoiding. It might mean leaving a job or a relationship that is not healthy for you. It might mean telling someone that you are struggling and asking for help.

This month, we'll explore the topic of courage from a variety of angles. Along the way, I invite you to notice your own courage: what do you need courage for right now, and how can you tap into your own courage? Who inspires you to be more courageous? Are you inspiring courage from others?

I know I am more courageous when I do not feel alone. Here at MVUUF, may we bolster each other so that we all may act with courage.

Rev. Diana's New Schedule

As of July 1, Rev. Diana's position was reduced to $\frac{3}{4}$ time, which she is working as a 3 weeks on/1 week off pattern, in which she is working full time for three weeks and then is completely off for the fourth week. Here is a [link to a document](#) listing her "off weeks" for this congregational year. If you have questions, please reach out to her at diana@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

October 4: The Courage of LGBTQIA2S+ Folks and Their Allies with Kestrel Martin and Sarah Collins



LGBTQIA2S+ folks have been prominent in USA history, including some of the first demographics to stand up to injustice, especially in cases of intersectionality. As we begin LGBTQ+ History Month, come learn about some of the USA's queer history and how to stand up for queer people in a period of history where standing up to fascism is more important than ever.

Music by Lark Lewis.

October 11: The Courage to Take a Stand with Rev. Diana McLean and Worship Associate TBD



Unitarian Universalist history is full of people who took a stand on matters connected to our values. We'll hear a few historical examples, and explore what those examples might inspire us to do today.

October 18: Blessing of the Animals with Rev. Diana McLean and Maria Bavier, Director of CYF



In this all-ages service we will bless animals large and small—please bring only animals on leashes or in carriers; large animals or those who would not be safe or happy in our sanctuary can be represented with a photo. (Stuffed animal friends are also welcome!)

Music by Tom Ehlinger and friends.

October 25: Courage is Contagious: Noticing how Community Supports Bravery with Maria Bavier and Ian Ries



We will learn about and reflect on how courage starts and how it spreads.

Music by Lark Lewis, Tom Ehlinger, MVUUF children, and the MVUUF Choir directed by Nicole Collins.



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Letter from the Board Chair

DID YOU KNOW?

I want to share several hands-on opportunities available that shows your commitment to being an active steward of our Fellowship.

There are several areas that could use someone to oversee the group:

- The Safety and Security committee recently lost their chair and could use your help to provide direction for the group. They recently received results from a threat assessment and safety evaluation performed by the Safety Coordinator from Normandale College. They could use help in putting the results of the evaluation in action.
- Hospitality is functioning by groups of five teams but lacks a cohesive point person.
- Membership is recently without a leader of the group. This involves working with Rev. Diana being on the leading edge of growth.

The most memorable quote I heard at the recent board retreat was,

“Regarding growth, folks don’t come here to make donations and to volunteer. We need to be interested in them as human beings vs workers.”

To get connected to any of these groups, or if you have questions about these opportunities, please contact me at board@mnvalleyuu.org



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Board notes

In early September your board of trustees sent a letter to all 50 Secretaries of State thanking them for their service to the democratic process. The letter states:

“The Unitarian Universalist Association and its member congregations hold a set of shared values as our core beliefs. One of these includes the following statement (found in UUA Bylaws): “We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions within our congregations, our Association, and society at large.”

We, at Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, would like to thank you, your staff and volunteer election officials for your planning and actions to defend your state’s and our country’s democratic process from any and all foreign or domestic meddling.

You are on the frontline making our democratic process a reality.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Board of Trustees”

Ministerial Intern

Living Our UU Values: Democracy Revival Training on Oct. 1

Our Unitarian Universalist tradition calls us to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person and to uphold the use of the democratic process within our communities and society at large. In a season marked by fear and division, showing up to defend and practice democracy is how we put our faith into action.

Join fellow congregants for a Democracy Revival Training co-hosted by the Muslim Coalition and Hennepin County. Grounded in interfaith solidarity and shared purpose, this training will equip us with practical tools to defend free and fair elections, protect voting rights, and organize for an economy and democracy that honor every individual.

When: Thursday, Oct. 1 | 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Where: [Zawadi Center, 1701 American Blvd E, Bloomington, MN 55425](#)

Hosts: Muslim Coalition & Hennepin County

Register now using the [link](#)



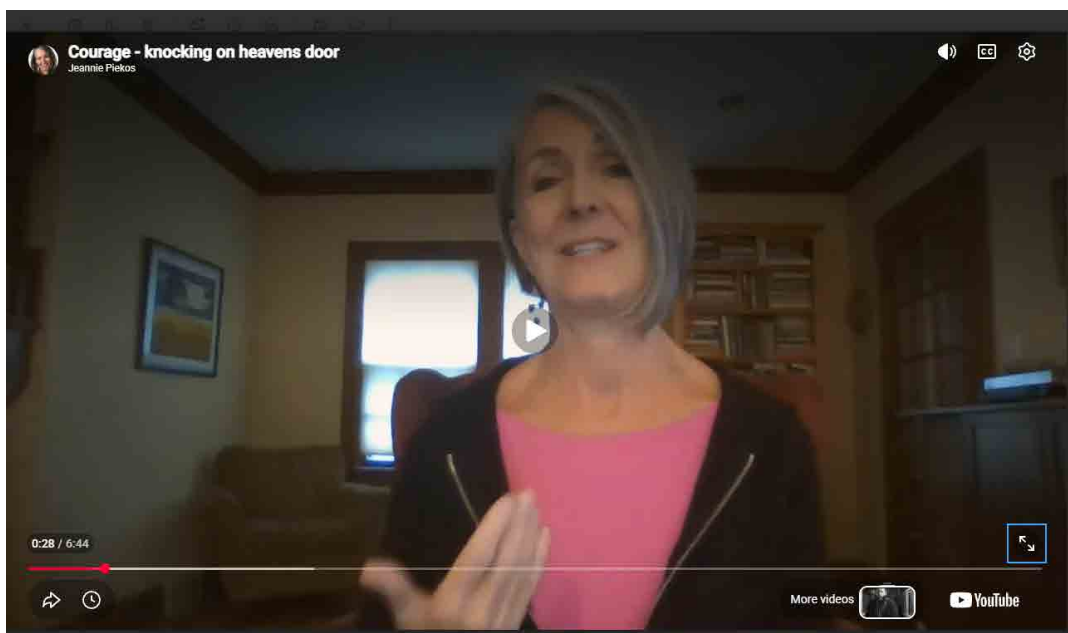
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Communications & Administration

Happy October, friends. There are so many wonderful events coming up at MVUUF that will be engaging and a good way to showcase our unique hospitality and commitment to social justice and community. Please share these events with friends and family and plan to attend.

In October, we have the documentary, [Second Nature](#), in November we have the [UU Author Book Fair](#) and in December the Holiday Bazaar! A trifecta!

Below is my second video on creating a daily practice and fitting it into our monthly theme. I've included a short breath with movement exercise called *Knocking on Heaven's Door*. It is beginner level; anyone can do it if they are able to comfortably and safely stand. I will continue to work on the video quality which is an exercise in patience and courage in itself!



Soul Matters Theme: Courage

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?

- What is the greatest act of courage that you directly witnessed?
- What was your bravest moment of not running away?
- What fear takes up more space in your head and heart than you want?



Children, Youth & Family Ministry



Children, Youth and Families are invited to register for 2026-2027 ([click here](#)).

We are creating a place for children and youth ages 6 months - 18 years to learn about Unitarian Universalist values, practice living them out and build community.

This month, we are exploring the theme of Courage and what it means to move beyond simply feeling brave to putting our courage into action. Courage is not about never feeling afraid or uncertain. It is about making choices that live into our values even when doing so feels difficult.

From celebrating our true selves to expressing difficult truths to standing up for what we believe, our UU faith advocates for a “brave faith.” Indeed, the thread of courage is woven through the entire history of our faith. Michael Servetus, one of our early Unitarian ancestors, whose story reminds us what it can mean to have courage about what we believe. Children will explore the importance of asking questions, seeking truth, following our conscience, and respecting the freedom of others to do the same.

Through stories, reflection, creative activities, and games, children are invited to discover that they already carry courage within them and that being brave with their voices and actions can make a direct and noticeable impact on the world around them.

I am thrilled that we have Halloween-inspired courage games that invite children to explore different kinds of fear in playful ways. Together, we will tackle many kinds of fear: fear of scary things, fear of the unknown, fear of failure, fear of being seen or heard. Through these games, children will discover that being brave doesn’t mean we aren’t afraid. It means we find ways to move through fear with courage and care.

(Continued on next page)



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Children, Youth & Family Ministry

(Continued from previous page)

Finally, I want to acknowledge that the themes of fear and courage are central to our adult worlds these days. There is a lot to be concerned about and scared of. So, as you help our children navigate their fears and find their courage, may you also reconnect with your own bravery and be inspired to offer it as a gift to the world.

Maria Bavier

Pronouns: she, her, hers

Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry

Maria@mnvalleyuu.org

[Link to register for CYF](#)



Picture caption: We had a backpack blessing time-for-all-ages during our Water Ceremony Ingathering this September. We rolled up an imaginary ball of fun and tossed it into each other's backpacks. The congregation gathered up their hopes and intentions to launch us into this year. Participants received a bag tag that reads, "Keeping Love at the Center" reminiscent of our UU Values: Love, Transformation, Pluralism, Equity, Interdependence, Generosity, and Justice.

Our Children, Youth and Family Ministry Programming Calendar

All Sunday programming is from 10:30-11:30 a.m. unless noted otherwise. Please check the Friday Email for additional events, activities and details.

- 10/4: Nursery|Preschool Gathering
Elementary Gathering
- 10/11: Nursery|Preschool Gathering
Elementary Gathering
Youth Group - Exploring Unitarian Universalism
Social Action Movie Viewing, Childcare Available Upon Request, 1:00-2:30 PM
- 10/18: All-Age Worship Service, Animal Blessing
Nursery|Preschool Childcare Provided
- 10/25: All-Age Worship Service
Nursery|Preschool Childcare Provided
- 10/28: (Wednesday) CYF Teacher Gathering 7 PM, Zoom
- 11/1: All-Age Worship Service, Day of Remembrance
Community Night at MVUUF, 5-7 PM dinner and games



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Music at MVUUF

Music by Members

*Bring your instrument, your curiosity,
and your beautifully imperfect self.*

Next Session Wednesday, 10/7 5:30–6:30

Contact Nicole for music

*Open to adult
instrumentalists of any
level. Perfection free zone!*



This month we celebrate the joy of making music together — not polished, not perfect, just real, which is an act of courage. Our worship band jam is open to all who want to play, sing, or simply soak in the rhythm of community. Whether you strum, hum, tap, or try something new, your sound belongs here.

Join us for a perfection-free musical gathering where curiosity leads and connection sings. It's music by members, for members — a space to explore, have fun and make music! Bring your instrument, your voice, or your listening ear. Let's make something beautiful together.

[MVUUF Choir Calendar](#)

Nicole Collins

Director of Music Ministry

pronouns she/her/hers

Music@mnvalleyuu.org



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MVUUF Committees

Social Action

Each month Soul Matters themes invite us to delve deeper into our Unitarian Universalist faith. We explore them in our Sunday services, and they're especially powerful when tied to our UU values. Although reflections are a meaningful way to continue the search for truth, generosity invites us to give both our time and talents in addition to treasure. So, to assist in keeping systemic change in the forefront year round, Social Action (formally known as SARJ) is dedicating time each month to have a stronger newsletter presence. Both in education tying social action to the Soul Matters themes, and tangible ways to support the wider community. For October the Soul Matters theme is Courage:

If anyone's familiar with social action work, the term microaggression sometimes gets used. Which refers to actions from someone coming from a place of privilege with good intent when those actions inadvertently cause harm. And although those actions can often seem innocent, micro in this context refers to the number of people harmed not the impact caused by the harm. Often brushed off by words that imply the victim is too sensitive or that it was just a joke.

When we're coming from a place of privilege, our personal biases lead to microaggressions. It takes courage to recognize harm caused both within ourselves and others. If we're a bystander, it can be intimidating to stand up for someone. Especially if we're worried about our own personal sense of safety. In order to interrupt and repair harm caused, we have to be receptive to the UU values pluralism and transformation. That invites us to be receptive to diverse perspectives and use them as a tool for growth. Here are some ways to put love at the center and be courageous in repairing inadvertent harm caused within our congregation:

- Understand the difference between intent and impact. One can have good intent and still have a negative impact. In that case it is our responsibility to take steps to acknowledge harm caused and attempt to repair it.
- Use an I/feel statement. (Examples: I'm overwhelmed, I'm upset, or I'm uncomfortable). It creates space from the conflict and invites the other person to be curious about what is causing those emotions without placing blame.
- Restate what the other person said. (Example: "I heard you say neopronouns aren't real English. Am I understanding correctly?") It invites the other person to reflect on and clarify what they're saying without feeling shamed.
- Ask if they're receptive to talking in a more private setting. It allows for a follow-up conversation without the victim being exposed to further harm.
- Ask for help. Sometimes one person is needed to call in the person doing harm, and another is needed to check in with the victim and remove them from potential future harm

-Kestrel Martin, Social Action Chair



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MVUUF Committees

SAVE THE DATE!

Have you ever wondered about the sexuality of wild animals? Do they exhibit nonbinary or transgender characteristics? What does science say about this?

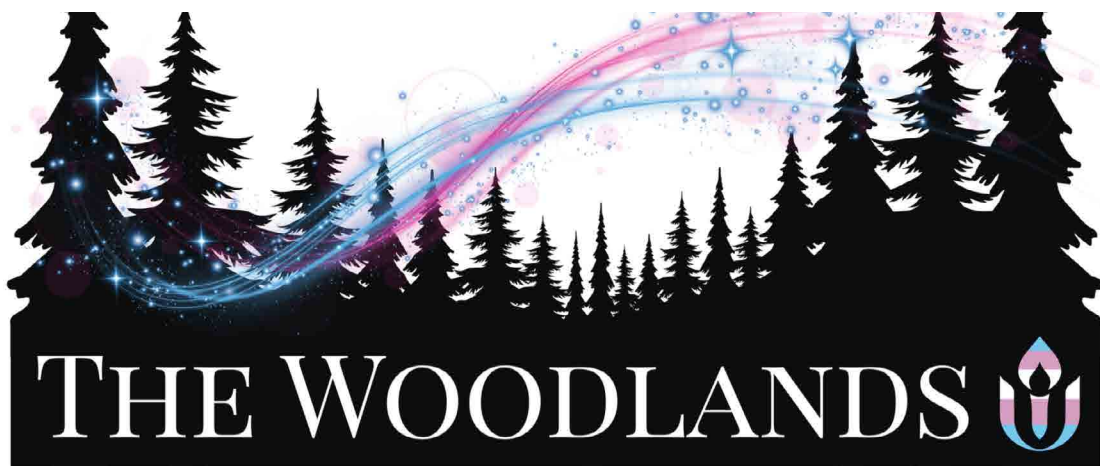
Join us at MVUUF for a documentary that explores these ideas through the current science behind animal sexuality and gender identity.

On National Coming Out Day, October 11th, 2026, MVUUF will be screening the documentary *Second Nature: Gender and Sexuality in the Animal World*, narrated by Elliot Page and produced and directed by Drew Denny. You can view the trailer [here](#).

- Where: MVUUF Sanctuary
- When: The film will start sometime between noon and 1 pm. Exact timing TBD.
- Film length: 82 minutes.
- Rating: This film has not been rated. It does show animal mating activities and animal genitalia. It may be challenging for the very young to understand.

This is a free event, and donations are suggested at \$5.00 per adult. We will allow as many viewers to enter as we can safely and comfortably seat in and behind the sanctuary (where there is viewing on a TV monitor). The entire film will have closed captioning. This event is open to the public and will be advertised widely. Bring friends, family, and neighbors! There may be refreshments and/or open discussion afterwards in the Fellowship hall on the lower level.

Childcare will be provided. Please sign up by October 5. Please email Maria at CYF@mnvalleyuuu.org



Check out this [link](#) from the UUA to The Woodlands, a monthly Trans and non- binary pastoral care space.



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MVUUF Events

MN Valley UU Fellowship presents

SECOND NATURE

A FILM BY DREW DENNY & ELLIOT PAGE

OFFICIAL SELECTION
NEW FEST
The New York
LGBTQ+ Film Festival
2025

2025
REELWILD
SPECIAL JURY AWARD

SXSW
EDU
2026 FILM SELECTION

Join us to Celebrate National Coming Out Day with this hilarious and heartening romp through the animal world.

October 11, 2026 1 PM
MVUUF 10715 Zenith Av S 55431
\$5 suggested adult donation
Stay for snacks and discussion.
Everyone is welcome. Bring friends!



MVUUF Committees

MVUUF Endowment Fund

Did you know that MVUUF has an Endowment Fund? We established this back in 2011 to look beyond the dollars raised to cover our regular operating expenses. It's a reserve fund to help us achieve long-term financial health. The money is invested in the UUA Common Endowment Fund.

Committees or members can ask for a distribution from the fund for special shows, projects, advisory help, etc. to a total yearly maximum of 4.5% of the current Endowment Fund balance. Distributions can also be made on a larger scale for church improvements.

Please consider making a contribution to our Endowment Fund. The Endowment deepens your commitment to the Fellowship community and ensures that the core values we believe in will be carried into the future. MVUUF is part of a long Unitarian and Universalist heritage of working to assure and sustain equality, freedom, and social justice for everyone.



Your contribution need not be large and you can make it once or on a regular basis. Many give donations in memory of a family or church member who has passed. Also, if you have IRA funds that have a Required Minimum Distribution they can be sent directly to the MVUUF Endowment Fund without you paying taxes on it.

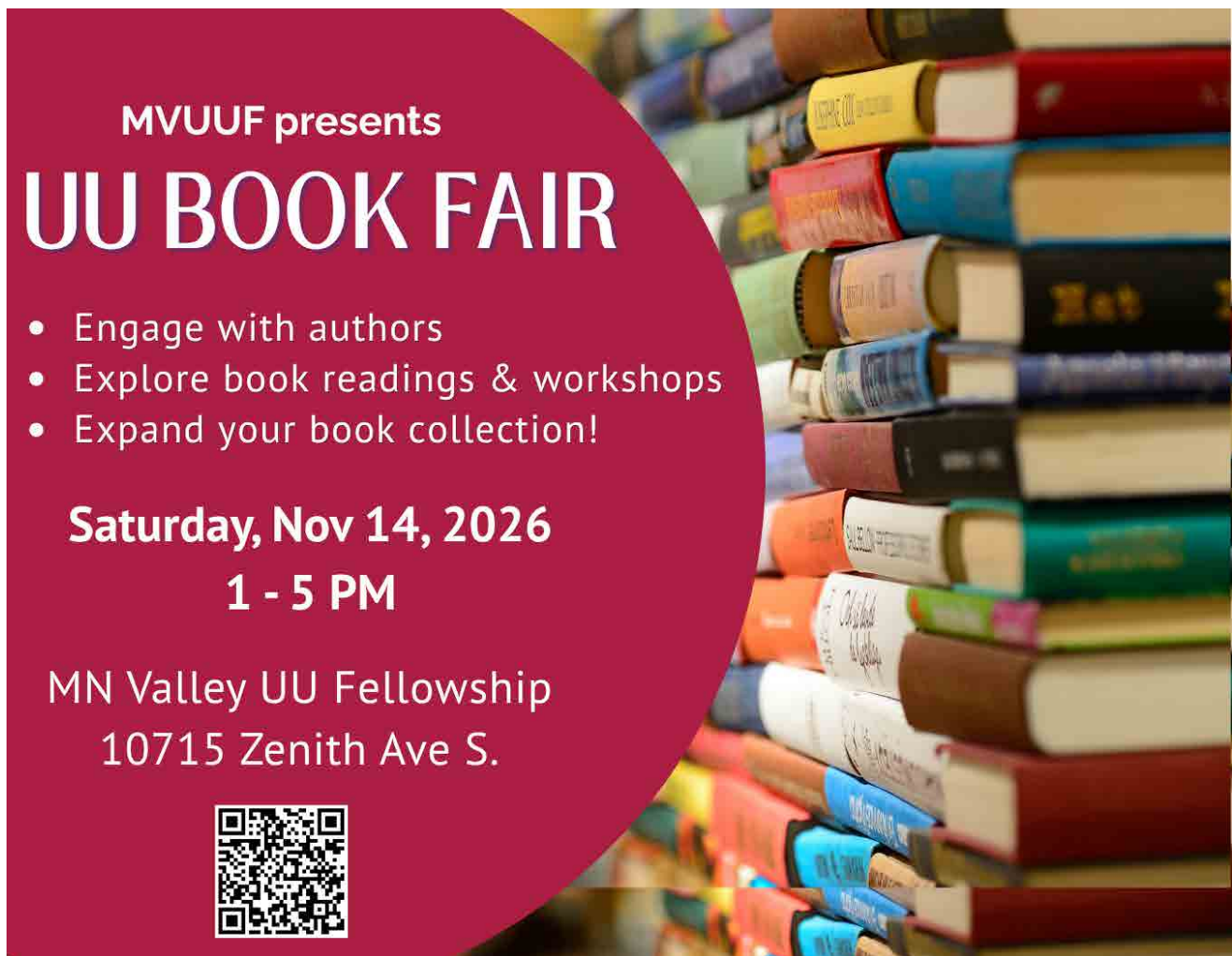
Our Endowment Committee has 3 rotating members to handle inquiries and distribution. Current members are Jean Danko, David Mykkeldt and Leslie Swenson. Feel free to contact us with your questions or comments.

Jean Danko, Endowment Committee Chair



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MVUUF Events



MVUUF presents

UU BOOK FAIR

- Engage with authors
- Explore book readings & workshops
- Expand your book collection!

Saturday, Nov 14, 2026
1 - 5 PM

MN Valley UU Fellowship
10715 Zenith Ave S.



MVUUF will host a UU author book fair on November 14 from 1 to 5 PM. To apply or find out more information, please visit the UU Book Fair website [here](#).

Do you know any UU affiliated authors? Please share the link. We are still in the planning stage but if you are interested in participating by volunteering, having a table or promoting the event please reach out to Jeannie, Rev. Diana or Holly, our ministerial intern.

We define a UU author as anyone closely associated with a UU organization whether by being a staff member, a congregant or a friend. Please help us promote this great event!



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MVUUF Groups



Soul Matters Sharing Circles News

Our Soul Matters (SM) Sharing Circles program has tripled in size for 2026–2027 and now includes 19 participants.

As our new year begins we now offer two groups, one that meets on 4th Mondays at 2 PM, the other on 4th Thursdays at 7 PM. Both are in-person groups but offer Zoom participation as well. If our numbers grow slightly we will expand further, adding a third group later this fall that will meet on either a Monday or Wednesday evening.

SM Sharing Circles are part of the Unitarian Universalist Association's small group ministry initiative. Participants reflect individually on common monthly readings, then meet late each month to share their perspectives and life journeys. The program is listening- rather than discussion-oriented. Groups are bound by covenantal relationships that emphasize nonjudgement, caring, and mutual support. The result is an opportunity to explore UU values in greater depth and a chance to develop deeper relationships with other MVUUF members.

If you would like to learn more or join a group, contact Steve Vincent at stephen-vincent1@live.com. We would be happy to have you with us.

Our 2026-27 Themes!

September: Beginnings

October: Courage

November: Healing

December: Awe

January: Thresholds

February: Commitment

March: Balance

April: Emergence

May: Play

June: Horizons



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Affinity Groups at MVUUF

A poster for Spirit Grove of the Twin Cities. The background is a photograph of a path lined with pink cherry blossom trees. In the center, there is a green Celtic knot logo. To the right of the logo, the text "Spirit Grove of the Twin Cities" is written in a brown, serif font. Further to the right, in a white box, are the meeting details: "IN-PERSON 2ND SUNDAY AFTER SERVICES" and "ONLINE 4TH SATURDAY AT 6PM". Below this, a paragraph states: "Spirit Grove is a Pagan affinity group at MN Valley UU Fellowship in Bloomington. The group is open to all." At the bottom left, contact information is provided: "Contact Anthony Dallozzi for more information at SpiritGroveTC@gmail.com". At the bottom right is the Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship logo.

Spirit Grove
of the
Twin Cities

IN-PERSON
2ND SUNDAY
AFTER
SERVICES

ONLINE
4TH SATURDAY
AT 6PM

Spirit Grove is a 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

A poster for Winding River Sangha. The background is a light blue and white marbled texture. In the center, there is a large, hand-drawn black circle. Inside the circle, the text "go as a river go as a sangha" is written in a cursive, handwritten style. In the bottom right corner of the circle, there is a small, stylized signature.

go
as a river
go as a
sangha



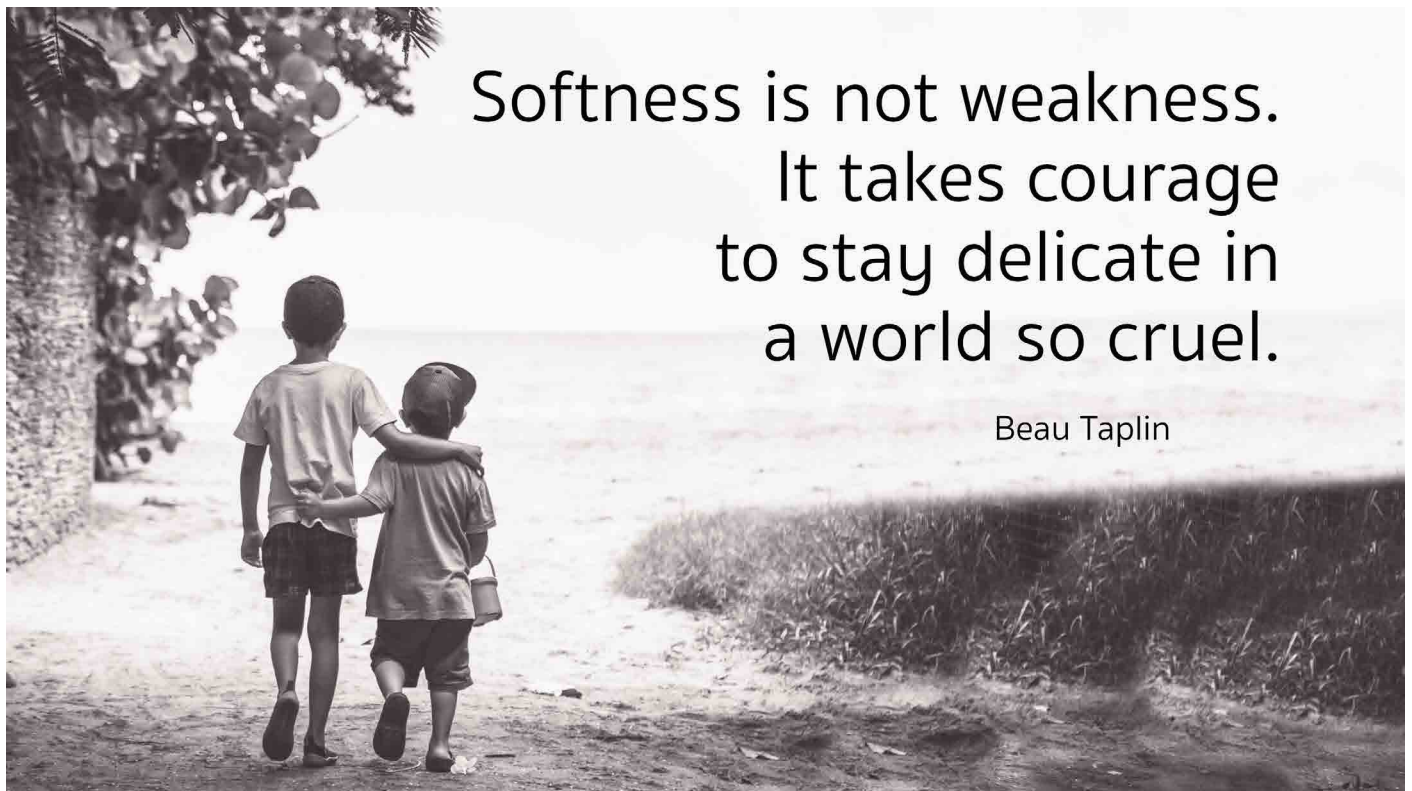
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Affinity Groups at MVUUF Winding River

Winding River Sangha News

Winding River recently celebrated its first anniversary. More than 25 MVUUF members have participated and we have attracted 10 to 15 adult visitors who have learned about us through the MVUUF website or our members' personal recommendations. Much like Sunday services, weekly attendance varies but we are always available at our appointed time and place, Saturdays at 3 PM in the Sanctuary.

Feel free to drop by if you'd like. We are open to all, regardless of experience with meditation or knowledge of Buddhism. We embrace values such as compassion, nonjudgment, community, serving the larger world, and environmentalism. Our current shared reading is Thich Nhat Hanh's *Love Letter to the Earth* (2013), a hopeful work urging us to reduce climate change through a greater awareness that we are not separate from the earth but inextricably bound together as one.



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MVUUF Member Groups

LIFT Oct. 3 at 10:30 AM

LIFT invites you to a talk on the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota

WRC, founded at UMN in 1979 as a student club at the Veterinary College, has grown into the world's busiest wildlife hospital, admitting 25,000 patients annually.

Join us for a presentation by Executive Director Tami Vogel who will talk about the Center and the animals it helps.



Saturday, October 3rd at 10:30 am downstairs. Then stay for treats and fellowship.

Evening Book Club

The weather is still warm enough to read outside. Take advantage of the continued sunshine to grab a book from our list and then join us for stimulating conversation. Alternating nonfiction and fiction, the upcoming selections are:

- October 15, 2026 *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- November 19, 2026 *1929: Inside the Greatest Crash in Wall Street History* by Andrew Ross Sorkin
- December 17, 2026 *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife* by Anna Johnston
- January 21, 2027 *The Demon of Unrest* by Erik Larson
- February 18, 2027 *Wolf Hour* by Jo Nesbo
- March 18, 2027 *The Brilliant Abyss: Exploring the Majestic Hidden Life of the Deep Ocean and the Looming Threat that Imperils It* by Helen Scales
- April 15, 2027 *Beautiful Animals* by Lawrence Osborne
- May 20, 2027 *Relinquished: The Politics of Adoption and the Privilege of American Motherhood* by Gretchen Sisson
- June 17, 2027 *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris
- July 15, 2027 *Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know About the People We Don't Know* by Malcolm Gladwell
- August 19, 2027 *Whistler* by Ann Patchett

The Evening Book Group usually meets on the third Thursday of the month throughout the year at 7 PM using 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



MVUUF Member Groups

Religion, Ethics & Ideas Oct 8 7 PM

Religion Ethics and Ideas will meet on Thursday October 8 at 7PM by Zoom see link below. The topic will be issues in voting and democracy. Potential questions are:

- What impact do you think wild claims of widespread voter fraud and publicity surrounding court cases to limit mail in ballots will have voter turnout in the upcoming election?
- How far in advance of election day should people be able to vote? Should absentee ballots be granted to any voter requesting them?
- Should any of the following disqualify a person from voting: having committed a felony, serving a criminal sentence, being on parole for a felony, severe cognitive deficits since birth, severe cognitive impairment because of age-related diseases? Is same day registration a good policy?
- Should voting in the wrong precinct disqualify votes for all offices on the ballot or just those impacted by being in the wrong precinct.
- How often if ever should voter rolls be “cleaned up” to remove persons no longer living in the precinct.
- Should one be allowed to give items of nominal value to voters in line at the polls? Are laws restricting campaigning at the polls a good idea?
- Are laws mandating employers give time off from work to vote a good idea? Should general election day be a national holiday? Would requiring all votes to be by US mail be a good idea.
- Are there any good arguments for keeping the electoral college? Is rank choice voting a good idea?

All are invited and welcome to attend. Questions contact John Peloquin

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81471117011?pwd=y6CbbGKenfAIYlMeJlDzaZQlrbo0LM.1>



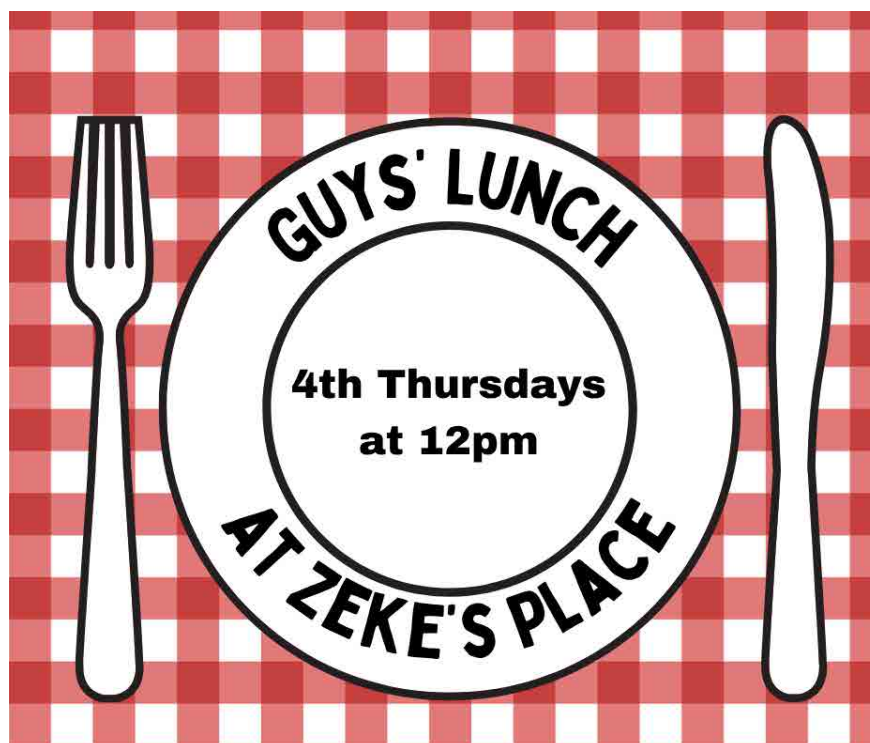
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MVUUF Member Groups



Beyond Sunday Group

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



GUYS' LUNCH

4th Thursdays
at 12pm

AT ZEKE'S PLACE



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Events of Interest



Save the Date

Ginny Christiansen Memorial

The memorial for long-time MVUUF member Virginia "Ginny" Christiansen will be Saturday, October 10th at 2 PM.



Helpful information

Recycling at MVUUF

Please remember we are no longer participating in the plastic bag project. Please take your plastic grocery bags to a grocery store for recycling. All Cub and Kowalski's stores plus many others accept plastic grocery bags for recycling. We will accept small amounts of plastic film (no bags) through Ridwell but will have to throw out plastic grocery bags if they are left at MVUUF.



Ridwell October pickups are the 7th and 21st. Please have your recycling sorted properly by October 6 and 20.

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!

You can use Ridwell's app to help you figure out your plastics. Check it out. ([Download for iOS](#) [Download for Android](#))

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

From Linda Hayen

Thanks to everyone who brought plastic bags for the outside bins for those many months/years.

At last count, we had helped to create 17 park benches that are now scattered throughout the metro area. I originally was going to take a break for the summer in collecting the bags but as it turns out, the free park bench program has ended. The company that was making the benches out of the bags ended it due to it becoming so popular that they could no longer sustain it financially. However, they still use the bags that are brought to the local stores; Cub foods, Target, etc. They simply need to make a profit from doing it. So please continue to recycle your thin plastic bags at those stores and bring your other recyclables that are not picked up curbside here for Ridwell.

Thanks!

Linda Hayen



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MVUUF Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 10:30am - Sun. Svc 12pm - CYF - Conf. 12pm - Choir Retreat-	28 2pm - Soul Matters 7pm - Winding River	29 10am - Needlework	30 6pm - MA Marijuana	1	2 10am - Mah Jongg 11am - Uke Jam - 7pm - Poker Group	3 10:15am - LIFT 3pm - Buddhist Sangha
4 10:30am - Sun. Svc 11:45am - Music Co 11:45am - SARJ 12pm - OWL Adult	5	6	7 5:30pm - Special Music 6pm - MA Marijuana	8 6:30pm - BOT Mtg 7pm - REI	9 10am - Mah Jongg 10am - Needlework 5pm - Chess Group -	10 2pm - Memorial - Ginny Christiansen
11 10:30am - Sun. Svc 11:45am - Spirit Grove 12pm - Second Nature 3pm - Buddhist	12	13 10am - Needlework 7pm - Needlework	14 5:30pm - Special Music 6pm - MA Marijuana 6:30pm - Choir	15 5:30pm - 7pm - Evening Book	16 NWM Wksp 10am - Mah Jongg 11am - Uke Jam -	17 10am - NWG - Come 3pm - Buddhist Sangha
18 NWM Wksp 10:30am - Sun. Svc 12pm - HRT	19	20 10am - Needlework	21 5:30pm - Special music 6pm - MA Marijuana 6:30pm - Choir	22 12pm - Guys Lunch	23 10am - Mah Jongg	24 3pm - Buddhist Sangha
25 10:30am - Sun. Svc 12pm - OWL - Adult	26 2pm - Soul Matters --	27 10am - Needlework 7pm - NWG evening	28 5:30pm - Special 6pm - MA Marijuana 6:30pm - Choir	29	30 10am - Mah Jongg	31 3pm - Buddhist Sangha 5:30pm - WiCoM



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. mnvalleyuuu.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 the 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@mnvalleyuuu.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@mnvalleyuuu.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@mnvalleyuuu.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

 UUA.ORG/IMAGES



Uni-Sun

Staff, Committee & BOT

BOARD OFFICERS OF THE FELLOWSHIP AS OF 7/1/2026

Chair & Board Member	Becky McPeck
Chair-elect & Board Member	Kelley Hughes
Secretary & Board Member	
Treasurer	Richard Duffin

BOARD TRUSTEES AS OF 7/1/2026

Trustee & Board Member	Doug Bruce
Trustee & Board Member	Tom Ehlinger
Trustee & Board Member	Stuart Smith
Trustee & Board Member	Carolyn Smith
Trustee & Board Email	board@mnvalleyuu.org

BOARD WORKGROUPS

Vision 2028	Doug Bruce, Anthony Dallozzi, Steve Danko, Richard Duffin, Candace McClenahan
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MVUUF STANDING COMMITTEES AS OF 7/1/2026

Committee	Chair(s)
Aesthetics	Karen Olson
Archives	Kathy Eager
Congregational Care	Barb Gilliland
Committee on Shared Ministry	Nikki Holm
Endowment	Jean Danko
Finance	Steve Danko
Membership	Steve Vincent
Music	Barb Becker
Nominating	Anthony Dallozzi
Operations	Steve Danko
Personnel	Myra Basar
Safety & Security	Anthony Dallozzi
Social Action	Kestrel Martin
Stewardship	
Technology	Richard Duffin

MVUUF

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Bloomington, MN 55431

mnvalleyuu.org Minister

Rev. Diana McLean

minister@mnvalleyuu.org

612-216-4203

Ministerial Intern

Holly Kelchner Intern@mnvalleyuu.org

Director of Communication & Administration

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

OWL Coordinator

Carla V. Ries owl@mnvalleyuu.org

Uni-Sun Item Submission Information

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

