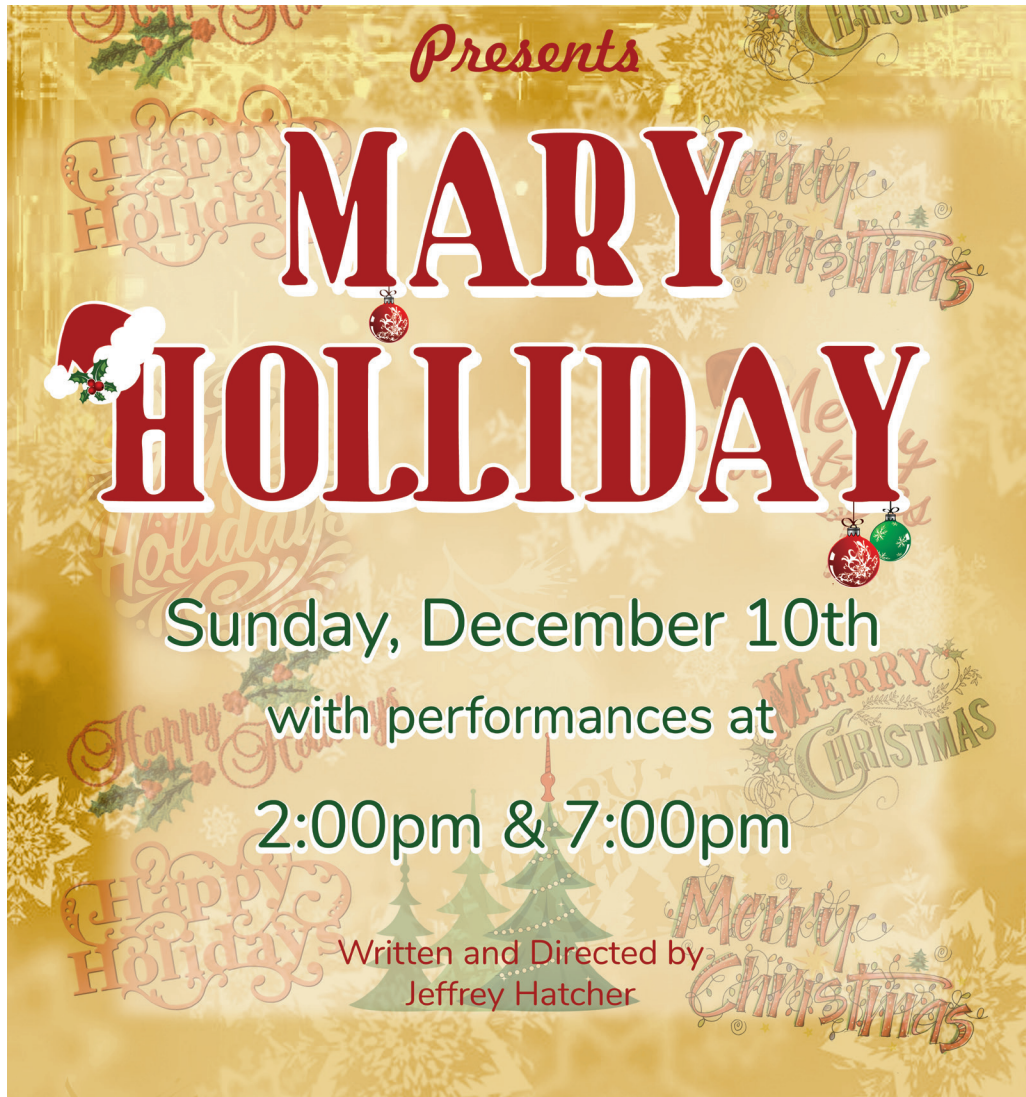




ANNOUNCING the 2017 UUCM ANNUAL HOLIDAY PLAY!



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Join us again for another comical and exciting Holiday Play written and directed by UUCM's own Jeffrey Hatcher. This year's story is about Mr. Humlicker a new principal at Flatline Middle School with his first order of business being no students and teachers may say "Happy Holiday," it's "Merry Christmas" or else. So when Mrs. Warfel-Holz the Home Ec. instructor accidentally does a mash-up of the two phrases, faculty and kids must join together to save her job and answer the question: "Who is Mary Holliday?" Tickets are a suggested contribution for adults/children/seniors of \$12/\$7/\$7 and groups of 10+ of \$5/Person.

UUCM MISSION STATEMENT

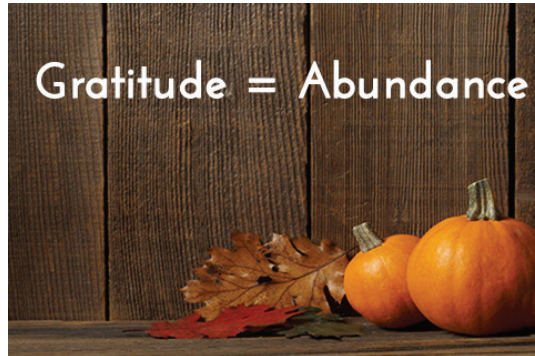
"In a spirit of wonder and with courageous love, we connect, grow, and act".

In his book, *The Active Life*, Parker Palmer writes: “The quality of our active lives depends heavily on whether we assume a world of scarcity or a world of abundance. Do we inhabit a universe where the basic things that people need – from food and shelter to a sense of competence and of being loved – are ample in nature? Or is this a universe where such goods are in short supply, available only to those who have the power to beat everyone else to the store? The nature of our action will be heavily conditioned by the way we answer those bedrock questions. In a universe of scarcity, only people who know the arts of competing, even of making war will be able to survive. But in a universe of abundance, acts of generosity and community become not only possible but fruitful as well.”

Our theme for the month of November is “abundance.” But these days it seems we are living in a society and a world that is behaving as though we live in a “universe of scarcity,” a universe where only the rich should be in control of money, where only the people who are heterosexual should have all the civil rights, and where only white people (and especially men) should have all the power.

In a world where many people have this skewed

view of resources and of humanity, it is not only an act of radical resistance, but a supreme gift of abundance to view and to proclaim the equality and the inherent dignity of all humanity. At our best, this is what we offer in our church, with our teaching and preaching and action. We do not teach those in power “to beat everyone else to the store.” Instead, our theology calls us to recognize, to learn, and to behave with the understanding that we live in a universe of abundance. In Universalism, we find that we live in a universe of unrelenting love.



This month, as we look forward to our annual auction fundraiser, and our annual sleep out to raise money for Interfaith Outreach to assist people who are homeless, and as we look forward to the Thanksgiving holiday, may we find a generosity of spirit, and a spirit of abundance – in small ways if that’s all you have the strength for right now, and in large ways if you are in such a plentiful place. Take care. Know that you are held by a universe of love that created you, and that you are enough.

Moving in faith,
Rev Kent Hemmen Saleska
revkent@uucmtka.org

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

November 5th: Abundance and Gratitude

Member Troy Coulliard; Worship Associate Lisa Myers

November 12th: Abundance vs. Greed: When is Enough Enough?

Member Laurie Moser; Worship Associate Stefanie Bell-Egge

November 19th: Thanksgiving

Reverend Kent Hemmen Saleska; Worship Associate Laurie Moser

November 26th: Living into Abundance

Reverend Kent Hemmen Saleska; Worship Associate Lisa Myers



NOTES from the DIRECTOR of RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The question this month is “What does it mean to be a people of abundance?”. But my question for you is a bit different. If you had an abundance of something, what would you choose?

I have often dreamed of having an abundance (not sure how it would have come about!) of money, so that I could donate to causes and issues that I think would best promote the betterment of our society, country and world. What fun that would be! Of course I do realize that money is not the answer to all problems – but it can sure help a lot of them!

In the children and youth religious education classes, they will also be examining what kind of abundance would be most advantageous to the greater good of the world. This is such a different consideration of the abundance many of us has in our own lives – besides how much abundance might feel to be beyond what we



personally deserve. These may be quite foreign questions to many of the young lives amongst us.

None of these questions have easy answers, which is why they are important to our spiritual challenge and growth. These are the kind of questions that help all of us to discern who we want to be as individuals with lives of meaning and purpose.

So welcome this November, which offers opportunities for gratitude, for giving (hint: Sleep Out for the Homeless), and for simple appreciation and discernment of the many gifts of our lives. Amen.

Andrea Heier
Director of Religious Education
dre@uucmtka.org

YOUTH SLEEP OUT FOR THE HOMELESS

Sleep Out for the Homeless

If you want to survive an overnight of sleeping outside on our new wooded property in support of Interfaith Outreach Community Partner’s (IOCP) most important fundraiser, it is time for cardboard creativity. Otherwise you should feel called to support those who struggle daily with your donations that are so much needed. Watch for more information about how you can make many lives better.





***The Abundance of Fall,
the Abundance of our Church Life***

This week I told myself: don't blink, don't miss the glories of the amazing colors of this Fall! I felt a certain desperateness that I might miss the breathtaking colors; it is all such a flash in time. I felt that I somehow had to grab and hold the abundance of it. That it would be gone and lost all too soon.

Yet, I know that any moment can be a glorious moment. We have to grab all moments and do something with them so that they can last. In the last week, I took many photos of the joyous Fall colors around me. I guess that is how I was trying to make them last.

Our new gorgeous church building, and our inspiring new mission and vision – these too are glorious moments of abundance. We all are appreciating the specialness of this time in the life of our church.



For our church this month, November's theme is abundance. And we know that appreciation is important to this theme. In the Soul Matters, Small Group Curriculum, November, 2017, the idea of appreciation is further explained: "So, yes, appreciation is central to this month. Noticing the abundance around us is clearly the work we are called to do. But one wonders if that's enough. It all depends on what you do after the noticing is done."

"In short, appreciation only gets us part of the way there. Noticing places abundance in view, but only new commitments put it within reach. Without a decision to change our lives, noticing becomes nothing more than nostalgia."

So what will you do to grab this moment of abundance in our church life? What commitment will you make that will make a difference in your life (within us), or the life of the church (among us), or for lives of people outside of our church (beyond us)?

We ask you to notice the abundance of our church life this Fall, to appreciate it, and to make a commitment to make a change in your life, in our church's life, or in our community's life. It is in this way that the abundance persists.

***Cynthia Busch,
Board Member
Board of Trustees
cynthiabusch@gmail.com***

NOTES ON MUSIC

Improvisation is a large part of our musical language here. I regularly improvise under the Life Passages and for the Musical Response, other pieces are often improvised as well, and the question box services are entirely improvised. This past month, keeping with the courage theme, there was even more improvisation, including some done by the choir. I just wanted to note why we improvise. Often, improvisation is seen as a compensation for a lack of planning, and while improvisational skills can be used to aid if there has been little or no planning, the actual building of the ability to improvise is the exact opposite. It requires an understanding of your instrument or your own voice, an understanding of the room, an understanding of what would sound good and what wouldn't, as well as an understanding of how to adjust when you think something will work and it doesn't. It demands intense focus, listening, and study because any notes are possible, not

just the ones on the page. So why do this? Why open up to potential mistakes and put in the extra work to



be able to respond? There are a few technical answers to that question, but the main one is because it lets us speak directly and uniquely of the moment. We can react to the rest of the service, to ourselves, to our fellow musicians, and to the congregation. It allows an improviser to make the most direct musical statement possible to the listener, of sincerity, vulnerability, and connection, which I think is worth the work and the risk.

Paul Winchester

Music Director

musicdirector@uucmtka.org

FIRST HOUR FOR NOVEMBER

First Hour classes are held downstairs in the Oak Room at 9:00 AM on most Sunday mornings. This month's schedule is:



Board uses to assess whether the church is moving in alignment toward our mission. Be assured there will be merriment and a multigenerational mix of metaphors.

Sunday, November 5th - The Power of Partnership

Joins us as we discuss *The Power of Partnership* with special guest IOCP Executive Director LaDonna Hoy as part of this month's social generosity offering to IOCP's Sleep-Out for the homeless.

Sunday, November 12th - Congregational Survey Results

Please join members of the Board of Trustees for a rousing review of the results of previous Annual Congregational Surveys and the process of constructing this year's survey addressing our new Mission/Ends. The Congregational Survey is one of the most important monitoring processes the

Sunday, November 19th - Exploring UUCM

Join us for the second class on a path to membership, we will continue to respond to your questions, and explore information and opportunities about our particular church, and how we relate to the wider UU Region and the Unitarian Universalist Association. Visitors and friends who have attended both of these "Exploring UUism" classes are eligible to become members of UUCM. The class will be facilitated by Melissa Martinson of the Membership Ministry.

Sunday, November 26th – No First Hour today
(Thanksgiving weekend.)

NEW MEMBER CORNER

WELCOME TO RECENT NEW MEMBERS:

Please meet **Stephanie Siewert**. Stephanie was attracted to UUCM after she moved to the west metro last year, and after many years away from church



involvement, recently decided to search for a community where she could connect with others, enhance her spiritual practice and become involved in social justice work. Visiting UUCM for the first time in July, she experienced a warm welcome and found kindred spirits; people who desire to live life with open hearts, minds and hands. After

learning more about UU and church history, Stephanie felt compelled to become a member. She loves the diverse blend of people, the services, the first hour offerings, the music and the opportunities to engage with the local community and beyond.

Stephanie loves serving and connecting with others in a variety of ways, sharing stories and finding common ground. She is eager to learn more about what she can do to make a difference in treating all beings with dignity and in caring for our planet. Her career background includes working with children and adults in many capacities, including teaching, customer service and administration. She also loves planning big and small events and finding things to celebrate in the everyday. Stephanie dabbles in creative endeavors (photography, painting (on walls and canvas), playing piano/keyboard) and love reading books across many genres.

Stephanie grew up in a conservative, protestant family.

Her father, grandfather and uncle were ministers, so organized church, traditions and doctrine were a large part of her life. In her early adult years, she veered away from that into the “spiritual, but not religious” category. The “absolute” answers didn’t seem to satisfy her burning questions. Now, her practice involves living in the questions and not needing to arrive at specific answers. She believes love and compassion are unifying threads in the universe and across all religions; being open and present in each moment is key. Immersing herself in nature feeds her soul and she tries to unplug and take “meditation” walks as often as possible (more often when the temps are above single digits.)

Stephanie says she is not currently employed (figuring out that next chapter...) but loves being involved with Interfaith Outreach Community Partners (through Great Expectations, PEAK Family University, and Resale Select.) Her family includes her husband, a 14-year-old son, 3 adult daughters, 2 active Yorkies and 1 reptile.



Welcome new member **Allison Laura** to UUCM. Allison lives in Hopkins and has one son, Owen who is 2 years old. Allison was attracted to UUCM by the



open-mindedness, depth of spirituality and commitment to social justice. Allison likes singing, ecology and connecting with nature, writing and she says she is always exploring and learning

new things about her own spirituality and the world around me. Love is at the center of it all!

NOVEMBER SOCIAL GENEROSITY



Our NOVEMBER social generosity offering will go to support Interfaith Outreach’s Sleepout for the Homeless. Support our youth and minister who will be sleeping out again in support of the homeless! Full details of the sleepout can be found at:

<http://www.iocp.org/donations/sleep-out/>

September’s total of \$2,066.00 went to Hurricane Relief through the UUA/UUSC. Thank you for your continued generosity!



Whether you are interested in becoming a member of our congregation, or if you simply would like to know more about the history, principles and structure of our church, please join us for our next “Welcome to UUCM” session and/or our next “Exploring UUism” classes.

WELCOME CLASSES

“Welcome to UUCM: A CLASS ESPECIALLY FOR NEWCOMERS” is a 50 minute information session offered on occasional Sunday mornings following services. If you have been visiting UUCM and would like to find out more about Unitarian Universalism and our congregation, we invite you to join us for a “Welcome to UUCM” class. Together, we will explore the mission and vision of this church, as well as historical and contemporary Unitarian Universalism. There will be time to reflect on our own faith journeys and religious questions. We’ll also have information about our “Exploring UUism classes”. Please join us near the piano after the service on the dates below. The next class will be offered on: Sunday, April 2, 2017 after the 10:30 am service.

EXPLORING UUism CLASSES

In our “Exploring UUism classes”, participants have an opportunity to share more deeply their individual spiritual journeys and to explore whether membership in UUCM feels right for them. There are two classes in this series, both offered during the First Hour. Visitors and Friends who are interested in membership at UUCM should take both of these classes in any order. Members who are interested in these topics are encouraged to join us in these interactive classes whenever it fits their schedule. The class called “Exploring UU History and Beliefs” allows participants to share their own spiritual journeys and to interactively explore a broad overview of Unitarian and Universalist history and what it means to be a UU. In the class called “Exploring UUCM”, we will continue to respond to your questions, and explore information and opportunities about our particular church, and how we relate to the wider UU Region and the Unitarian Universalist Association. Visitors and friends who have attended both of these “Exploring UUism” classes are eligible to become members of UUCM.

Exploring UUism Class Schedule:

These sessions are led by our Membership Ministry. Please mark your calendars to join us!

“Exploring UUCM”

Sunday, November 19th at 9:00 AM and
Sunday, January 21st, 2018 at 9:00 AM

“Exploring UU History and Beliefs”

Sunday, December 17th at 9:00 AM

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

The Minnetonka Civic Orchestra returns to perform at UUCM on Saturday, November 11th at 3:00 PM. Created in 1976, the Minnetonka Civic Orchestra provides enjoyable, educational and artistically solid musical experiences for its members and audience. Concerts are free and open to the public and are held here at UUCM in the Sanctuary.

LIFE PASSAGES

If you recently experienced a great joy, a significant challenge, or a deep pain, and are open to reaching out and sharing (or if you want to join our Care Team), please contact our minister, Kent Saleska, or any member of our Care Team. Our love and support go out to each of these families.

Early in October Neal Lockwood went into the hospital because of some heart-related issues, and went through a surgical procedure to receive a pacemaker. He has been in recovery at The Villa in St. Louis Park, and hopes to return home soon.

On Friday, October 20, Laurie Moser was admitted to North Memorial Hospital in Maple Grove for bronchitis plus an asthma attack. She had hoped to go home the next day after receiving steroids and fluids, but she remained in the hospital with a surgery scheduled to remove a kidney stone. She welcomes any and all healing thoughts, energy, prayers, or comments on her Facebook page to aid in her healing and recovery.

UUCM AFFINITY GROUPS

Venerable Women Group

The Venerable Women meet monthly on the second Friday, and will meet next on **Friday, November 10th, 2017** at UUCM, 2030 Wayzata Blvd. E. Please bring a bag lunch. This month's hosts, Jan Geigle and Katy Meyers, will furnish dessert and drinks. Topic this month is: *Tell about a recent happening in your life. (book you've read, movie, place you went, whatever)*. Also, come prepared to discuss our meeting format. RSVP to Jan Geigle at jjesgeigle@comcast.net 952-378-1548 or Katy Meyers at katymeyers@gmail.com 763-258-7849

Venerable Men Group

Each month, on the first Tuesday, the Venerable Men meet at the Original Pancake House on Hwy 101 and County Road 6 in Plymouth. The next meeting is planned for **Tuesday, November 7th** at 8:00 AM. The group of 8 to 10 men always welcome more breakfasters! If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Johnson at jnanjer@icloud.com.

Women Who Read Book Group

The *Women Who Read* Book Club will meet on **Monday, November 13th** at 7:00 PM the home of Margy O'Leary to discuss the book *Do Not Find Me* by Kathleen Novak. Please contact Christy Dachelet at czdachelet@gmail.com if you have any questions. New members are always welcome!

Monday Morning Book Group

The *UUCM Monday Morning* Book club meets next on **Monday, November 20th** at 11:00 AM in the Chapel Room downstairs at UUCM. This month the group, led by Bev Montgomery, will discuss the book *Switched On* by John E. Robinson. Please direct any questions to Bev Montgomery at bevmontgomery@comcast.net. New members are always welcome.

BELOVED CONVERSATIONS

Mark your calendars for the next **Beloved Conversations** course! The retreat will be held on Friday night, January 19th and all day Saturday, January 20th, 2018 with 8 classes to follow. Space is limited,



so be on the lookout for the signup. We've had 27 members complete the training thus far! More info to come. To learn about the Beloved Conversations curriculum, visit: <http://www.meadville.edu/beloved>