



PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

The **Minnetonka Civic Orchestra** returns to UUCM on **Friday, May 4th** at 7:00 PM. Created in 1976, the Minnetonka Civic Orchestra provides enjoyable, educational and artistically solid musical experiences for its members and audience. The concert is free and open to the public and held here at UUCM in the Sanctuary.

On **Saturday May 5th** we will be having our very own Joyce Lyons concert from the UUCM auction. We have 20 tickets available with a suggested donation to UUCM of \$15.00 each. People are invited to bring something to eat and drink and gather starting at 7:00 PM and the concert will begin at 7:30 PM. Tickets will be sold on a first come first served basis so hurry! Please email Marc Doepner-Hove at doepnerhovem@277apps.org to reserve yours.



Please join us on **Sunday, May 20th** at UUCM. The Performing Arts Series is excited to have the duo of Dusty Rose perform at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Rich vocal harmonies of Barbara Jean and Molly Dean merge with intimate layers of guitar, fiddle and banjo to define their lush sound. Brought together through a shared wanderlust and love for musical harmony, the powerhouse duo has crafted a dynamic and haunting

sound rooted in the vast landscape of the American Heartland. (Barbara Jean is the daughter of Bob and Katy Meyers, who are members of our church.) Tickets are now on sale on Sunday mornings for \$20 each.

In this issue...

- 1 Performing Arts Series:
Minnetonka Civic
Orchestra
Joyce Lyons
Dusty Heart
- 2 Notes from the Board
- 3 Notes from the Director
of Religious Ed.
Youth Chili Fundraiser
- 4 First Hour
Hike & Picnic
New Goddess Group
- 5 UUCM's New Pulpit
Worship Services
- 6 Invitational Choir
Women's Retreat
Garden Helpers
Annual Cong. Meeting
7. Photos of Variety Show
- 8 April Social Generosity
CYRE Registration
Affinity Groups

UUCM MISSION STATEMENT

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

CREATIVITY

The theme for May is “creativity” – the use of the imagination or original ideas to produce something new, whether tangible like a book, or



intangible, like the concept of democracy. But why should we consider creativity in the context of Unitarian

Universalism? How are creativity and spirituality connected?

The UUA offers this compelling argument:

Creativity is central to the spiritual life.... Creativity is arguably the dividing line between progressive and conservative religion, especially among the three great Abrahamic faiths—Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Whereas conservative traditions tend to reinforce the values of obedience, conformity and discipline, progressive religious strains affirm the creative values of individuality, personal authority, innovation and change. We Unitarian Universalists stand firmly in this latter camp. Alongside many others, we’ve repeatedly found creativity to be one of the primary means to an encounter with the sacred—and one of the primary means by which the sacred “enters” the world.

The adherents of most conservative religions believe that God has already revealed everything he or she intends to reveal to humans and conserved them in sacred texts like the Koran and Bible. But most UUs find this idea shortsighted at best. As humans have learned about the world, they have created new ways of living in it and new ideas about science, art, philosophy, epistemology, and religion. This is the ongoing

progress (or revelation) that we as UUs refuse to ignore.

The incredible creativity of the human mind has been associated with the divine itself. Again quoting from the UUA:

Indeed, this is how our most famous UU theologians, Charles Hartshorne and Henry Nelson Wieman, distinguished themselves—with Hartshorne speaking of God “not as a supernatural being but as the creative becoming and possibility in every moment” and with Wieman defining God as “creative interchange—that part of the creative exchange between people that is not you or them but the third mysterious thing.

I venture to guess that nearly all of us consider creativity to be a gift, whether we think of it as a fortuitous genetic endowment or bestowed by a divine source. Most of us have a modest gift and a few of us, an exceptional one. Think of people who fashion useful items from wool or wood, or find ways to communicate with an autistic child, or paint a mural in the entrance to the local high school. And those who painted the Mona Lisa, or developed the first electronic computer or vaccine for polio, or envisioned the Theory of General Relativity. We see that all of these gifts contribute to the human experience. They all improve the quantity or quality of our lives.

Our challenge, as members of UUCM, is to bring our individual creativities to bear on the task of creating a special environment: an environment of acceptance, encouragement, and engagement that will allow us to feel fulfillment within ourselves and to improve the lives of others in the congregation and the world. What will your creative contribution be?

Melissa Martinson,
Member, UUCM Board of Trustees
martinsonfamily@msn.com

I was delighted to recently get a letter from our former interim minister, Rev. Barbara Earl who served at UUCM during a key point in the church's development in the late 1990's. She was much loved and also appreciated for successfully guiding us through a difficult transition from one to two worship services, with coinciding religious education programs, while we were rapidly growing in numbers.

Most significantly, Barbara helped us to believe that we should grow, that we should be open to welcoming others beyond our doors, and that we would be the better for it. It was a momentous time for this congregation that feared losing personal relationships, worried about a change in our homey identity, and thought we could never successfully achieve such a change.



Best of all Barbara conducted this process with an attitude of humility, creativity and joy -although it was obviously a challenge and a lot of hard work. Second to our recent move to a new building, it was the greatest accomplishment I have seen in this congregation.

I believe the key to Barbara's success was her creative imagination – that we could do together more than we ever believed, that our forbearers had set the stage for us as creative models of aspiration, that moving forward was a creative

expression of the belief in the greater good attainable through our liberal religious faith.

You may not realize that May 12 is the anniversary of the merger of our two denominations, Unitarian and Universalist in 1961. It took creative imagination to envision one new religion out of two. Notably it was the creative leadership of UU youth that inspired this vision, since the two youth groups had combined nearly 10 years before the adults succeeded. You will note that my name tag faithfully bears a button claiming "Youth Rock" – and for good reason.

Barbara Earl suffers from a progressive neurological disease that impacts her physical functioning but not her mental acuity. I was delighted that she was able to sign her letter personally, although it was primarily dictated to a care giver. She wrote:

*I really appreciate your Christmas letter each year. Communications are difficult for me as I no longer write or use the keyboard. The brain, however, continues to be strong so don't give up on me! I have many happy memories of Wayzata.
Love from Barbara.*

I will never give up on you, Barbara! We, in Unitarian Universalist religious education, value creativity as part of our theology.... I am grateful for all our sources of creativity – those within us and those all around us. In this month of creativity may we strive in that spirit to carry forward.

Andrea Heier,
Director of Religious Education
dre@uucmtka.org

MAY 20th SOUP/CHILI LUNCH FUNDRAISER

Are you worried about the sounds your belly makes when empty? Does low blood sugar make a loved one "Hangry?" Have you figured out how you'll eat lunch in between the church service and the Annual Congregational Meeting on May 20th? Let your worries melt away like the April snow.....Enjoy a delicious soup/chili

lunch immediately following the service, provided by UUCM youth who are traveling to Kentucky this summer to repair homes with the Appalachia Service Project (ASP). Free Will Donations are accepted. Thanks for supporting our Youth!
~Lori Arnold (Trip Chaperone and Mom of ASP youth volunteers Alex and Ben)

FIRST HOUR IN MAY & JUNE

Sunday, May 6th – Uncover Your Courage and Creativity...

...through the teachings of former FUS and noted author/journalist Brenda Ueland. Author, courage teacher and Unitarian, Brenda Ueland, serves as an inspiration for our personal creativity. Brenda believed everyone was interesting and had talent. During this First Hour Forum discussion we'll discover why and how this is true. Plan to learn and share ways solitude, compassion and courage lead to spirituality and creativity.



Sunday, May 20th Exploring UUCM

Part 2 of 2 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. Facilitated by Barb Halsey, Membership Ministry.

Sunday, May 13th – Review of Single Payer Health Care in Minnesota and the U.S.

There is growing support for this and a recent poll showed that over 50% favor this sort of a health care system. With the upcoming elections in November it will be important to know candidates' position on this topic. We will also talk about the Rally scheduled for Tuesday, May 15th from 2:00 to 5:00 PM at the Minnesota State Capitol Rotunda sponsored by PNHP-MN and Health Care for All MN. We hope to have a large turnout.

Sunday, June 10th Exploring UU History & Beliefs

This class is part 1 of a 2-part class on a path to membership at UUCM, allowing 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. Current members and friends are very welcome to join in the class also. Facilitated by Christy Dachelet, Membership Ministry. (There is only one class in June).

FAMILY FUN EVENT - HIKE & PICNIC



Come and join us on **Sunday, May 6th** after church for a Spring hike and Picnic at Minnehaha Falls. We will meet after church and can carpool or drive separately. We will meet up in the picnic area near the big shelter at the Minnehaha Falls Pergola Garden at 1:00 PM, so there is time to buy your picnic lunch on the way! Then for those who like to hike we can hike the Falls or just walk around to see them, whatever strikes your fancy! Sign up in the Community Room. Contact Amy Putkonen at amyputkonen@gmail.com with questions.

NEW GODDESS GROUP

Please join us for a new Goddess Group to explore themes of women's equality and empowerment. We will meet monthly at UUCM on the second Tuesday of every month from 7:00 - 8:30 PM in the Chapel on the lower level **starting on Tuesday, May 8th**. This event is free to anyone who wants to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Putkonen at amyputkonen@gmail.com or Cyndi Barthel at cyndibarthel@gmail.com. We will have a sign up sheet in the Community Room so please sign up if you are interested in attending so we can contact you if needed.



INTRODUCING OUR NEW PULPIT

UUCM's new pulpit was officially dedicated on Sunday, March 25th. At that time Pulpit Committee Chair, Christy Dachelet, explained the symbolism incorporated into the design. For those members and friends who were not in attendance that Sunday here's what you should know about the design.



Overall, the pulpit reflects the contemporary design of our new space with its use of wood and metal. The pulpit incorporates white oak wood from both our past and future. The dark stained wood on the left side is from the large white oak felled by lightning at the 605 Rice St. address

about 5 years ago. The triangle, or hill shape, on the left is a nod to our 50 plus years on “Piety Hill” in Wayzata. The lighter wood on the right front and on both sides is from white oaks felled at our current 2030 Wayzata Blvd. E. address during preconstruction site preparation.

The double, concentric circles design on the left side is the symbol adopted when the Unitarian and Universalist churches merged in 1961. The intent was to make the overall pulpit light and airy, so as not to have it present as a solid barrier between the congregation and the speaker.

The pulpit is double wide so that it will comfortably accommodate two speakers. A step stool slides under the right side for use by children or shorter speakers. There are two mics and a dimmable light for the reading surface. And, finally, the pulpit is on wheels for ease of moving.

Members of the Pulpit Committee were Cindy Busch, Bev Montgomery, Mary Cotton, Rev. Kent Saleska and Christy Dachelet. The pulpit was designed by David Kopfmann of Yardscapes. It was made by Alex Schroeder and Tyler Christensen of MetalSmiths.

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR MAY

The theme for May is CREATIVITY

Sunday, May 6th | 10:00 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE - Choir Sings
and New Member Ceremony
We are Family
Speaker Laurie Moser;
Lisa Myers, Worship Associate

Sunday, May 13th | 10:00 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE
What Endures ?
Speaker Ben Kyriagis
Laurie Moser, Worship Associate



Sunday, May 20th | 10:00 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE - Choirchimes
Decades Sunday
Members of UUCM are speakers,
Laurie Moser, Worship Associate

Sunday, May 27th | 10:00 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE
God as Creativity
Guest Speaker Andrea Johnson
Lisa Myers, Worship Associate

INVITATIONAL CHOIR

Mark Brekke's Final Invitational Choir



Singers are invited to join the UUCM Choir for our Sunday, **June 3rd** Flower Communion service. Our Choir Director, Mark Brekke, will not be returning next year, so this will be the last time

he will lead the Choir. For our theme this year, "Blessings", the Choir is preparing three anthems:

- *Ubi Caritas* by Maurice Durufle

- *Amazing Grace* by Stephen Hatfield
- *Sure On This Shining Night* by Morten Lauridsen

Your commitment would be to attend three rehearsals:

- Wednesday, May 16th, 7-8:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 23rd, 7-8:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 30th, 7-8:30 p.m.

and the final rehearsal and performance:

- Sunday, June 3rd, 8:45-11 a.m.

If you are interested in joining us, contact Mark Brekke at 612-618-6104.

UUCM ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

Ladies, mark your calendar's now before you start really enjoying the summer weather. Put check boxes on **Friday, October 5th (evening) and Saturday October 6th** for the day. You are invited to the *Power of Laughter*, the UUCM Women's retreat. It will be at Camp Eden Wood in Eden Prairie again and you'll have the option to stay over Friday night. There will not be an option of not having a good time. Laughter, joy, relaxation and conversation are sure to be had. Make this a priority in October. Questions, ask Becky Halat, MaryAnn Wiborg or Janna Sundby.



GARDENERS & OUTDOOR HELPERS

Meet Tuesday mornings starting May 15th

Join us to do garden maintenance, plant flowers, water flower pots and keep our church grounds looking good. We will meet on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM whenever you can; no need for a permanent commitment.

Many hands make light (and fun) work. Bring gloves & hand tools (if you have preferred ones). Talk to Mary Cotton if you have any questions.



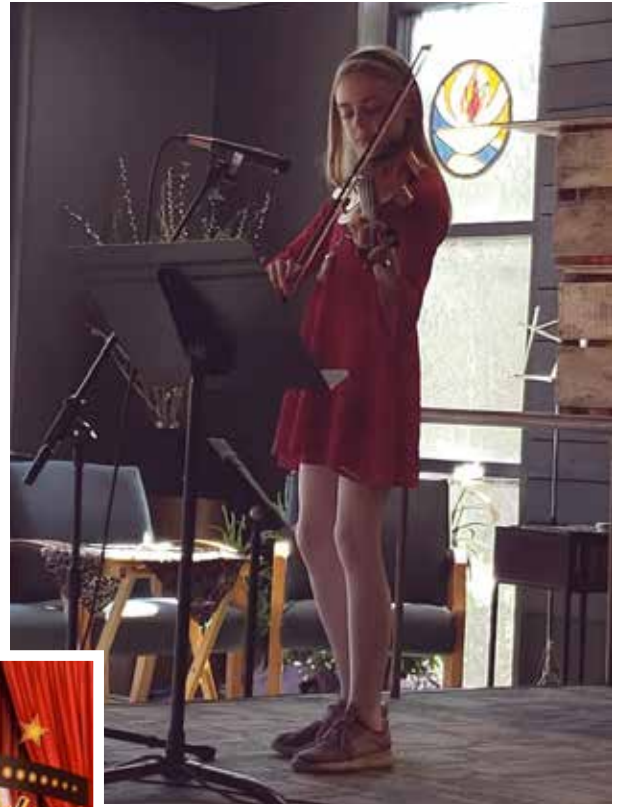
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



On **Sunday, May 20th, 2018** UUCM will hold its Annual meeting shortly after the "Decades" service. The Board will be updating the Next Steps in our Transition as we await the arrival of our Interim Minister.

Members of the Congregation will be voting on the election of Officers, Board members and the approval of the next year's budget - 2018 – 2019. Everyone is welcomed to help us celebrate the first year in our new building!

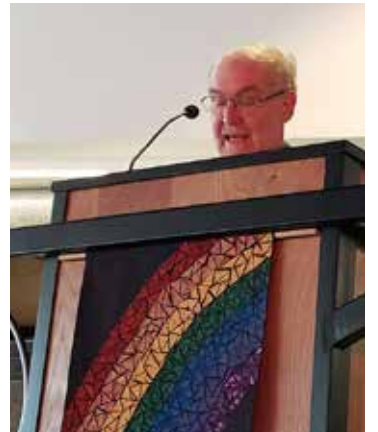
VARIETY SHOW PHOTOS



UUCM
VARIETY SHOW
Saturday,
April 21st
at 5:00 PM

★ A FAMILY EVENT ★
BRING FOOD AND
REFRESHMENTS TO SHARE
FREE ADMISSION

The poster features a red curtain background with a marquee sign. Below the text are five circular icons representing different activities: a person walking, a guitar, a microphone, a person at a podium, and a person playing a piano.



MAY SOCIAL GENEROSITY

Our MAY social generosity offering will go to support the UUCM youth's mission trip to Appalachia in June. The money raised in May will help offset the \$9,000 the youth need to fundraiser to finance their trip. This is a youth mission trip that fits nicely into the church's social justice activism to make houses warmer, safer, and drier for people in need in the Appalachian Mountains. (Note: In addition to the monthly social generosity offering, the youth will also be raising money by serving a free will donation chili and soup lunch prior to the annual general meeting on May 20th and selling "projects" in May. They appreciate all the support you can give them.)



CYRE REGISTRATION 2018-19

Wow! It is time for the annual Religious Education Registration and Recruitment Drive for Children and Youth! The 2018-19 program is nearly here, plus there are plans for some fun summer programming too. Help out the CYRE Team by registering your child today at <http://tinyurl.com/CYREreg18-19> Check out the many creative ways you can take part and give back.

UUCM AFFINITY GROUPS

Venerable Women Group

The Venerable Women will meet on **Friday, May 11th** at noon at Lake Minnetonka Shores Club Room at 4515 Shoreline Drive, Spring Park. Mary Opheim is host. You can either bring a lunch or purchase one at the bistro, come early if you plan on purchasing lunch. Please RSVP to Mary at 952-471-4120 by Monday 7th. Topic this month is: Have you had a "MeToo" experience?

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, May 1st** 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.

Men's Book Group

The Men's Book Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month at church. They next meet on **Tuesday, May 8th at 7:00 PM** to discuss the book, *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, by John Irving. If you have questions, please contact Adam Schenck (schencka1@gmail.com) or Gary Charles (gcharlesmn@gmail.com).

Women Who Read Book Group

The *Women Who Read* Book Club will meet on **Monday, May 14th** at 7:00 PM at the home of Cathy Fischer to discuss the book *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance. 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, May 21st** at 11:00 AM at UUCM in the Community Room. The group will be discussing *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann. Please direct any questions to Bev Montgomery at bevmontgomery@comcast.net. New members are always welcome.