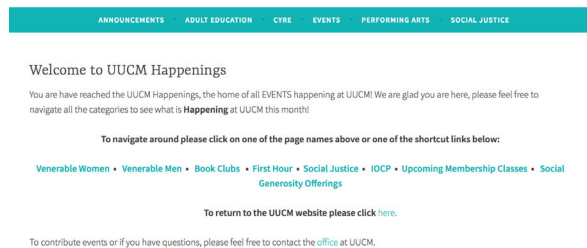




FINAL UUCM NEWSLETTER

This month is our LAST UUCM Newsletter! But, never fear, we have created this change to make it easier for you to get only the details you want for everything that is going on at UUCM - and there is a LOT going on! Articles will be posted on our new UUCM Happenings website and linking to them in the newly revised Friday Update emails! Each Friday's email will include a calendar of what is happening at UUCM, along with links to articles of news and announcements that you need to know. Anytime you want more details, just go to www.UUCMHappenings.com and catch up on all the news!



Church Group Photo May 6th 2018



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UUCM MISSION STATEMENT

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

The theme for the month of June is Blessings. That made me wonder how the concept of blessings fits in a Unitarian Church. What do we bless with and where do we bless from when we bless another? Why bless at all? I discovered



some of the answers in our values, mission and ends, for these describe who we are as a

congregation now and where we are heading.

Our values of wonder and connection are entwined with the idea of blessings. When we stop and look around and notice the wonder in nature, in the people we meet, and the richness of our lives we become aware of how we are blessed in so many ways. We can feel beloved of the Spirit at the heart of life. Taking time to do this every day is a wonderful spiritual practice and allows us to experience life as generous, not threatening. When we feel the overflow of grace-filled surprises, we have no trouble passing those blessings on to others. We become a blessing!

Blessings don't just enrich us, they connect us. If we consciously bless another person, we first gather ourselves - reaching below the surface mind and personality, down to a deeper source within us - the soul. Blessings from soul to soul are a connection at a deep spiritual level. Whenever one person takes another into the

care of their heart, they have the power to bless. It is the offering of a beautiful gift. When we bless another we do not fix anything, or instill health or well-being or strength, for those things are already there within all of us. A blessing is a moment of meeting, in which both people remember and acknowledge their true worth and strengthen what is whole in one another. And don't forget, we can bless ourselves.

When I started exploring the topic of blessings, I did not expect to find a connection to almost all of our ends, but there they are. Being mindful of the blessings in our lives is a deeply meaningful spiritual practice. It embraces the holy in ourselves and all that surrounds us. It can help us build relationships across differences and allows us to receive and provide support and spiritual care. It supports our community with a kind of generosity and abundance. And if we do it together this month we are creating a shared experience of beauty, truth and meaning.

Perhaps we'll all look for blessings this month - a group project! Imagine the power in that. Let's not forget the beauty of a garden, the joy of a single step. There is value in the small as well as the great... As Kent Nerburn asks, "Do we really need much more than this? To honor the dawn. To visit a garden. To talk to a friend. To contemplate a cloud. To cherish a meal. To bow our heads before the mystery of the day. Are these not enough?"

Jackie Smolen
Member, UUCM Board of Trustees
jackiesmo@aol.com

DOOR CODE CHANGE

Community room door Code Changes July 1, 2018

In the interest of safety and security the access code for the community room door will be changed July 1, 2018. Members and friends who need access to the building outside of normal open hours should contact one of the following; Judy Regan, office administrator; Bob Dachelet, facilities; Andrea Heier, DRE; Paul Winchester, music director; or any Board of Trustees member.

As we enter this summer season of anticipated and hoped-for relaxation and more flexible schedules, it seems that the theme of blessing, of “What does it mean to be a people of blessing?”, is quite timely. Blessing is a two-sided term. For UUs, blessings are not something we give to each other as much as they involve us helping each other notice all that’s already been given to us. Pointing to blessings repairs our relationship with life, allowing us to see it as generous, not threatening, full of grace-filled surprises rather than dominated by a cold indifference.

At the same time we are called to consider “How are the blessings in your life leading you to bless others?” In other words, blessings don’t just enrich us; they connect us. And maybe that is the greatest blessing of all.

Throughout this summer, I suggest you use your hand as an accessible symbol of blessing, whether for yourself, individually, or together with those you love,

- Look at your hand, and first consider your thumb as a blessing for your family and the earth, all the things that are closest to you.
- Then see your pointer finger, as a blessing for all those who help point you in the right direction, such as teachers, colleagues, church family, friends, doctors, nurses, neighbors, mentors...)
- Your index finger, the tallest finger, represents your appreciation for those who lead and guide

you, that you may be blessed with wisdom and justness.

- The ring finger symbolizes the many blessings vital to those in need who are experiencing trouble and pain, hunger and homelessness, war and loss.
- Your pinkie finger stands as a blessing for yourself, that you may continue to learn and grow into the best person you can be to serve this beautiful and broken world with confidence and affirmation.

And if you really want to challenge yourself in this month of Blessing, try finding 100 blessings in your day, which comes from a Jewish traditional goal. When you try it, you discover that it’s quite difficult to find one hundred things each day for which to be thankful. So difficult, in fact, that you spend most of our time looking.

Wishing you many blessings through the summer, whether you participate in worship services and the RE Summer Fun programming, or engage in other activities important to your personal and family values.

Please know that you are blessings to me and this congregation beyond your imagination. Such is the wonder of blessings and love.

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

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR JUNE

Sunday, June 3rd | 10:00 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE - Choir Sings
FLOWER COMMUNION
Laurie Moser; Worship Associate
Lisa Myers, Worship Associate

Sunday, June 10th | 10:00 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE
Namaste: Meaning and Magic in Daily Life
Laurie Moser, Worship Associate
Lisa Myers, Worship Associate

Sunday, June 17th | 10:00 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE
Summer Solstice
Lisa Myers, Worship Associate
Stef Bell-Egge, Worship Associate

Sunday, June 24th | 10:00 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE
Disability Justice and Blessing
Guest Speaker Laura Cannta,
UCC Member in Discernment
Laurie Moser, Worship Associate

FIRST HOUR IN JUNE

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.



JUNE SOCIAL GENEROSITY

Our **JUNE Social Generosity Offering** will go to **UUA The Promise and the Practice of our Faith**. **Imagine what our faith** would look like if we upheld and centered the history, the perspectives, the voices, and the leadership of Black Lives of Unitarian Universalists... Following General Assembly in New Orleans in June 2017, the UUA launched The Promise and the Practice of our Faith, inviting all Unitarian Universalists to be part of this historic commitment through 1) their financial support, 2) by scheduling at least one worship service around the campaign's themes, and 3) by making a long-term commitment to dismantling white supremacy, racism and oppression within our congregations, our Association, and beyond. The congregational giving component of The Promise and Practice campaign invites every UU congregation to pledge the equivalent of \$10 per member (or souls served). For more information please visit <https://www.uua.org/giving/areas-support/funds/promise-and-practice>.

UUCM AFFINITY GROUPS

Venerable Women Group

The Venerable Women will meet on **Friday, June 8, 2018 at 12:00pm** at Bev Montgomery's Party Room, 14601 Atrium Way, Minnetonka MN. Please bring your own lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Program: Film Iron Jawed Angels starring Hilary Swank Portrayal of women fighting to get the right to vote in 1918-19. Historically interesting politics, costuming and cultural realities of rights of women in that era. NO RSVP this time.

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, June 5th** 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 will meet on **Tuesday, June 12th at 7:00 PM** to discuss the book, *A Hero with a Thousand Faces*, by Joseph Campbell. 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, June 11th at 7:00 PM** at the home of Christy Dachelet to discuss the book *Profiles in Courage* by John F. Kennedy. 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, June 18th at 11:00 AM** at UUCM in the Community Room. The group will be discussing *The Invisible Thread* by Laura Sheriff and Alex Trisniowski. Please direct any questions to Bev Montgomery at bevmontgomery@comcast.net. New members are always welcome.