



Connections

September 2018

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Cultivating People of Vision

Rev. Alan Taylor, Senior Minister

It's been only a couple of years since I started wearing glasses to see distance. For decades, I enjoyed 20/20 vision. I could see what was right in front of me and what was on the horizon as well as anyone. But now, I can't read a thing without strong magnification up close, and I would not be able to read street names while driving if I didn't wear my distance glasses. And so I am among those who rely on bifocals to move through my days.

However, vision isn't just about looking through the proper lenses to seek greater clarity, as important as this is. To be people of vision, of course we need to be able to see what is, to recognize reality for what it is, in all its beauty and its ugliness, but people of vision are capable of seeing more than what is in front of us. People of vision cultivate the ability to see



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Rev. Alan C. Taylor,
Senior Minister
ataylor@unitytemple.org

REFLECTIONS

Rev. Alan Taylor will share and reflect on his sabbatical time away with the congregation on Sunday, September 23 at 7pm at Unity Temple. Join Rev. Taylor for a presentation and dialog about some of his learnings during his sabbatical time, which included an exploration of historical sites in Andalusia, meeting Unitarian Universalists in Geneva, Switzerland, living in southern France in Toulouse on a home exchange, and becoming more familiar with the history of southern France. A reception will be included.

what isn't there but could be—and should be. People of vision discern over time where to stand, where to root oneself, to bring forth the kind of world that we know is possible.

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a genius when it came to vision. He could see what could be and should be. He articulated the transcendent vision of the Beloved Community where all people treat one another with dignity and respect. His own vision was sustained by narratives of hope and the beauty he witnessed in the faces of those he encountered. I've given a lot of thought to what cultivates people of vision.

Over the past few months, while I took leave from UTUUC for sabbatical and vacation, I have reflected and acted upon what cultivates my own vision—and I believe the heart of vision is cultivating attention, hope, and joy. I will share from these experiences and reflections over time. It was a great blessing to be relieved from my responsibilities, to travel abroad with my family, and to have time for reflection and exploration. Practicing mindfulness and yoga more consistently has cultivated my capacity for paying attention. By encountering many narratives of hope through reading and listening, I find myself strengthened in spirit, despite the ongoing headlines of despair. Spending quality time with family has strengthened my primary relationships. All of this has helped me become ever more human again and gone a long way in helping to more effectively manage my health challenges.

A significant path of every human being is to cultivate attention, hope and joy. I love how Krista Tippett calls hope a spiritual muscle that we build up and maintain muscle memory. I believe the same can be said for attention and joy. May we help one another in this community to build up the muscles of attention, hope, and joy. I believe these are key to cultivating people of vision. Here at Unity Temple, we cultivate people of vision in several ways as a progressive spiritual community.

First, through mindfulness practice, Soul Connections deep listening groups, and other small groups, where we strengthen our muscles of attention. Second, through encountering narratives of hope in this deeply broken world—for as we nurture hope and courage, we can engender narratives of hope, both among ourselves and among people of compassion beyond our community. Third, we keep open to joy, especially as we engage the challenges of our days; for joy reminds us of our humanity and connects us with others when it is shared.

As we launch our new worship year, I am grateful to serve you. This is an apt time to reflect on how we all cultivate our muscles of attention, of hope, and of joy. May ours be a spiritual community that cultivates a People of Vision.

I look forward to seeing you soon in worship!

As a relatively new member of Unity Temple and a new Trustee this year for a three-year term, I have learned how important the Board is in overseeing the policy and budget of Unity Temple. Our work this year includes updates to our bylaws and policies to assure that these reflect our mission and values as well as developing new ways to stay in touch with all of you and your concerns. If you are someone who would enjoy being part of this process, we invite you to apply to be a candidate for the Board of Trustees. For more information about the process and answer any questions you may have, contact the Nominations Committee at nominations@unitytemple.org. Nominations Committee members include Kathleen Clark, Clara Lewis, Dave Brumirski, Sharon Storbeck and Larry Kameya.

One of the things I have loved as a new member of the congregation is the annual auction. It has given me a chance to meet other members. I have purchased a "place at the table" for some of the highly popular gatherings offered by our members. These bring us together to celebrate Mardi Gras or enjoy an ice cream social or sample craft beers or movies on a summer night. Your generous support of our annual auction is also an important part of our annual budget and an investment in the continued vitality of Unity Temple. To continue this vital tradition the auction committee is seeking new leadership with a couple of volunteers to serve as co-leaders with an experienced and fun-loving Auction Team. If you would like to find out more or have ideas and suggestions, contact Barb Heskett at bjhmail@comcast.net.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be September 11 at 6:30 p.m., 1019 South Blvd. Board meetings are open. Please email board@unitytemple.org with questions

UTUUC 2019 Auction Team – Unity by Design, Community by Choice

It's time to start thinking about our annual auction. Unity Temple's member auction is a great way to connect with other members, meet new people, and try new things. And it generates MUCH needed revenue that our congregation depends on to achieve many of the fabulous things we do.

Currently we do not have a chair, or co-chairs, for our awesome team. We need leaders who can bring energy, excitement and engagement to this fun, important event!

Can you help us make this year's auction a success? Please email auction@unitytemple.org or visit us at the engagement fair on September 23rd for more information.

Here are some of the fun things auction winners will be doing this month:

- Thai Tasting Tapas
- September Soup Supper
- New Orleans Jazz Brunch
- King Kong Outdoor Movie Night
- Fall Film Discussion and Supper

We love to see your pictures and hear your auction stories. Please email them to auction@unitytemple.org. Thanks for your support!

Welcome Our New Intern Minister!

Zsolt Elekes, our new Intern Minister, is from Transylvania. He is preparing for the Unitarian ministry, recognized as a ministry student with exceptional potential. He is a Unitarian seminarian in Transylvania who was not raised Unitarian—very rare. I trust you will enjoy getting to know Zsolt. Last year and this year, he has been studying at Meadville Lombard Theological School in the their distance learning module.

He will be a full-time intern with us and with Third Unitarian Church where he will be preaching once a month. He will be living with Terry Grace and Judy Gaietto-Grace through January. If you would like an international experience in your home, there is the opportunity of providing a room to Zsolt February through May.

Might you have a bicycle he can use while he is with us? He's 6' 3" and

intends to get around without an automobile.

Zsolt looks forward to meeting people here, getting to know people through our various ministries, including playing softball! Be sure to introduce yourself to him during coffee hour and welcome him to our congregation. You can reach him at zelekes@unitytemple.org





Rev. Emily Gage,
Minister of Faith Development
egage@unitytemple.org

What Does It Mean To Be a People of Vision?

I have worn glasses for decades, so I can barely remember what it was like not to have them. One of the last things I do before I go to sleep is take off my glasses, and one of the first things I do in the morning is put them back on. My eyesight is not so bad that I couldn't function without my glasses. I can—when pressed—do stuff without them. But there's nothing quite like that moment when I put them on. It's like, all of a sudden, things are clearer. More focused. More vivid.

I tend to take that moment for granted. (It's one of things that it's all too easy to take for granted, until such moments as the glasses are broken. Or no longer the right prescription...) Still, though, if I take the time to pay attention, I am a little bit in awe of this technology that lets me see like I do. Would that the other kind of vision—the kind where we envision something—were so easy to find or focus on, or—if necessary, discarded, if it turned out that wasn't what we needed.

September always seems to me to be the beginning of a new year. (The result of so many years of schooling, and now working in a program year that reflects that school calendar.) It's a great time to consider the vision for our lives (or at least this chapter)—how do we want to grow this year? Where should we be pushing ourselves to deepen the meaning of our existence? What might we do to make sure our core values and beliefs align with the way we are living each day?

There are different arenas to live these questions out—different places to cast a vision. We might do this individually, or as a family, or as

a congregation. Happily, we have recently done the internal work within the congregation; our congregational vision is articulated as welcoming all, inspiring compassion, nurturing wonder, and serving community. We've got a direction—a lens through which to consider decisions we make as a congregation or for the congregation. It's a terrific tool. It helps makes things clearer, more focused, even more vivid.

One of our Unitarian Universalist principles is acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth; this principle perfectly aligns with our theme of being a people of vision. While we share a vision as a congregation, on our own individual quests we will have personal visions that are wildly diverse. What a gift—there's so much we can learn from each other's different perspectives and goals, so many ways we can cheer each other on as we each work towards where we wish to be. For us, as part of a Unitarian Universalist community, being a people of vision means embracing that particular complexity.

It just so happens that I have been getting reminders from my eye doctor, telling me it's time to set up my appointment to get my eyes checked again. I've been putting it off, feeling like it's a burden, something that I have to do that I don't really want to do. So I'm trying to remind myself of this precious gift of clear vision that I have been given. And I think of the poem *Sweet Darkness* from David Whyte:

"When your eyes are tired/ the world is tired also. /When your vision has gone,/no part of the world can find you./Time to go into the dark/ where the night has eyes/to recognize its own./There you can be sure/you are not beyond love...../Give up all the other worlds/ except the one to which you belong./Sometimes it takes darkness and the sweet/confinement of your aloneness/to learn/anything or anyone/that does not bring you alive/is too small for you."/

May our exploration of vision help bring us alive.

Adult Religious Enrichment

Pagan and Earth-Centered Voices in UU Book Discussion

Join us to discuss essays from "Pagan and Earth-Centered Voices in UU" Jerrie Kishpaugh Hildebrand and Shirley Ann Ranck, editors. Books are available for purchase at Ex Libris, coffee hour table and uua.org. We have a limited number of books to borrow. Discussion open to all adults whether practicing or curious about the connections between earth-based spirituality and the UU tradition. Facilitators are Sharon Storbeck, Alice Muciek, Nina Brewer-Davis and Jennifer Evans. Meets on September 20 and 27th 7-9pm at 1019 South Blvd. Contact adultre@unitytemple.org to register or for more information. Please allow 1 week notice for childcare or accommodation requests.

Unitarian Universalist Elevator Speech Workshop!

Have you ever felt tongue-tied when someone asks you give a quick explanation of Unitarian Universalism? Would you love to talk about what we are all about but can't quite figure out how to do it? Come to our elevator speech workshop on Saturday, September 29 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. and develop your own version of how to answer that (potentially challenging) question: What IS Unitarian Universalism? Questions and RSVP to Tina Lewis at tlewis@unitytemple.org.

Talking about Media and Race

Join us to watch clips from popular TV/internet programs created by POC (People of Color), such as Queen Sugar and Love Is, and engage in a discussion led by Reesheda Washington of Live Cafe and Communities First Association. Our pilot event this past Spring was well received, and we are excited to offer a new and expanded version. The event will take place on Tuesday, October 16 from 6:30 - 9:30 pm at 1019 South Blvd. You are encouraged to RSVP, or send questions, to race_ed@unitytemple.org

Are you hoping to connect with other people from our congregation? Are you wanting to deepen your experience of being a Unitarian Universalist? Are you looking for a way to renew your spirit? Soul Connections is a great way to answer all these questions. Contact Rev. Emily Gage at egage@unitytemple.org with questions.

Connection Resource Packets

Soul Connection resource packets can be downloaded through the member portal at http://www.unitytemple.org/sites/default/files/UTVisionSep18_0.pdf.

Soul Connection Registration

Registration is now open; forms may be found online www.unitytemple.org. For more information, contact soulconnections@unitytemple.org or call 708-848-6225 x102.

Soul Connections 2018 Themes:

September: Vision
October: Sanctuary
November: Memory
December: Mystery

Soul Connections



Mindful Reflection Community

Please join the Mindful Reflection Community for meditation, dharma talks, discussion, and friendship. Come for all or part of the meeting. The Community meets every Tuesday evening in Unity House from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Meditation starts at 7:20 p.m. All are welcome, whether you can come sporadically or regularly. For more information check out this link: <http://unitytemple.org/calendar/mindful-reflection-communitycontact>



Skype Dharma Talk :: Tuesday, September 18

The Mindful Reflection Community will have a live Skype dharma talk by Peter Williams from Boulder, CO. Peter is a Buddhist Meditation and Dharma Leader as well as a Transpersonal Psychotherapist. Terry has been on three dharma retreats with Peter and is very excited that Peter will be presenting live, via Skype, to our community! Peter's talk will be on the "Wisdom of the Body." Please join us for what will be a very special evening! Dana, financial generosity, will be received.

Mindful Reflection Community 2-Day Overnight Retreat

will be held on Saturday/Sunday Oct. 6-7. It will be held at Camp Duncan in Ingleside, IL about an hour from Oak Park. We will have our own cabin overlooking a lovely lake. Scholarships will be available and the cost will be \$80. Rideshare will be coordinated. The dharma talks will be given by Jay Cohen and Terry Kinsey and the topic will be Practical Strategies for using the 4 Noble Truths (the 4 assignments) in our daily lives. Come for Saturday and Sunday or just stay for Saturday (cost is the same). All food and accommodations are provided (bunk beds). No additional dana (financial generosity) will be received. For registration forms please contact Terry at mindful@unitytemple.org.

Sacred Wanderings (a subgroup of the Mindful Reflection Community)

Meets the 3rd Saturday of each month. Join us on Sept. 15 for the next Sacred Wanderings event held in Thatcher Woods (North Parking Lot, next to the Pavilion) at 8030 Chicago Ave, in River Forest IL from 8:30-10:30 a.m. RAIN OR SHINE! Simplicity and Reverence will be our guides. Join Krista Mikos and Terry Kinsey as we explore a new way of experiencing nature - the Sacred Wandering Way. If you yearn to be rooted down with earth's healing power, join us. Throughout the millennia, people have gone to the forests and mountains to connect with themselves and the sacred in themselves. Ascetics, monks, indigenous people, Thoreau, Buddha and even Christ went out into the wilderness to practice a form of Sacred Wandering. We will be slowly moving through the out-of-doors with an intention to connect with nature's healing power. There will be silence and discussion. The group will meet no matter what the weather so come prepared and bring something to sit upon.

Krista teaches about Environmental Justice and Advocacy at DePaul and is a 25-year practitioner of Qi Gong. Terry has led numerous outdoor retreats and has been a practicing UU-Buddhist for two decades as well. Please NOTE that our October meeting will be an exception and will be held on the second Saturday, October 13th. Join us!!

"Dedicated Practitioner's Group":: October 11 - November 8

taught by Peter Williams from Boulder, CO. Peter is a Buddhist Meditation and Dharma Leader as well as a Transpersonal Psychotherapist. Peter will be our live Skype dharma teacher on Tuesday, Sept. 18. This will be a "closed" group once the meetings have begun. Participants will commit to all 5 meetings held on Thursday evenings starting Oct. 11th through Nov. 8th, 2018 at 1019 Bldg. We will meet from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Peter will join us for the entire evening via Skype. Suggested donation is \$100 per person. Scholarships will be available.

The tentative topic for the 5 weeks is "Wisdom of the Body". Awareness of the body helps us work with pain, skillfully navigate difficult emotions, and have the spiritual insight that leads to deep happiness.

We must have a minimum of 12 people sign-up for this group to occur.

Religious Education for Children and Youth

Registration is Now Happening for Religious Education 2018-19

We return to our full programming year at Unity Temple with two worship services at 9:00 and 10:45. Now is the time to register and to decide on volunteer opportunities! We ask everyone to register each year to stay in the information loop, make sure your contact info is updated, and let us know what your children need to be successful in our program. We will have computers set up on Sunday so you can do so at coffee hour, or you can register online. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Emily Gage at egage@unitytemple.org.

OWL (Our Whole Lives values-based sexuality education programming)

The 8th grade OWL parent meeting is Sunday, September 9th 6:30-8:30 p.m. at 1019 South Blvd. 1st and 5th grade OWL program begin in January; parent/child orientations will be held the weekend of January 11-13.

HELP WANTED :: Nursery Supervisor and Childcare Coordinator

Unity Temple is looking for a warm, welcoming, and experienced Nursery Supervisor and Childcare Coordinator to work with the youngest among us on Sunday mornings in the nursery as well as coordinate babysitting for congregational events outside of Sunday mornings. Please contact Rev. Emily Gage, Minister of Faith Development, at egage@unitytemple.org with interest and questions.

Dedication of Babies and Young Children

In Unitarian Universalism we celebrate the new lives among us in a dedication ceremony where the gathered community acknowledges their role in helping the new lives unfold. If you are a member and would like to have your child(ren) dedicated, please contact Rev. Emily Gage at egage@unitytemple.org.



Rev. Emily Gage,
Minister of Faith Development
egage@unitytemple.org

Religious Education Calendar

Sept 9	Regular Classes
Sept 16	Regular Classes
Sept 23	Regular Classes
Sept 30	Regular Classes



Summer RE Exploring Trees

Summer of Seuss



Homecoming Sunday



HOMECOMING SUNDAY TREE
RAFFLE WINNERS:
Kathy Clark, Ada Dolph, Emme Chadha,
Janet Holden & Tom Barnes & Julia,
Nick, Lucas, and Margaret Loper



Tina Lewis,
Membership Director
tlewis@unitytemple.org

We Begin Again

Homecoming Sunday was as always, a heartwarming and joyful celebration. The foyer was filled with friendly faces, the chalice and water communion table was adorned with four beautiful trees, and choir rocked the house. The membership committee provided a special Coffee Hour and of course it was good to have Rev. Alan Taylor back from sabbatical. It is always good to welcome members and friends back from summer adventures and especially fun to see how our young people have grown and changed in just a few short months.

At home our summer volunteer teams and staff continued to serve our faith community with warmth and enthusiasm. With a robust worship and music calendar and a super fun summer RE program, our attendance was not only high among members and friends, but visitors as well.

As we embrace another new year and enjoy established relationships, may we also be aware of the many new people on Sunday mornings and help them connect in meaningful ways as they develop their own sense of belonging. Our congregation grows not only in numbers, but in depth when we share the responsibility and joy of welcoming newcomers. So, don't be shy! Please say hello and introduce yourself when you notice a new person next to you in the pews or at Coffee Hour. Your care and attention might truly be a defining moment in a person's experience on Sunday morning and inform their decision to return.

Cheers to a new year!

~Tina

Sunday Morning News!

Ex Libris Bookstore

Ex Libris continues to be open after each service on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. Come browse for titles about Unitarian Universalism, social activism, meditation, children's topics and others.

Name Tag Requests

Newcomers, friends and members alike are invited to wear a name tag. If the name tag fairy has made off with your name tag and you need a new one, please add your name

to the list at one of the welcome tables located in the foyer or contact Tina Lewis at tlewis@unitytemple.org.

Entering and Exiting Unity Temple

The back door by the kitchen will remain locked at all times to ensure safety and security. If you need assistance unloading items, please ring the doorbell. Our front doors will generally be open from 8:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. depending on activities planned for the afternoon. Please exit

through the back door if the front doors are locked. If you are unable to exit through the back door, please ask for assistance in order for the front doors to be locked behind you. Thank you for your patience, understanding and cooperation.

Kitchen Korner

With the joys of our new kitchen in Unity Temple also comes changes in the way we are using this space. Please help us maintain this space with a few simple steps!

- If you are hosting a meeting or event at Unity Temple, please remove ALL food/drinks when your event is over. Please do not leave any items in the refrigerator thinking that someone else may use them. This also applies to all items remaining from coffee hour.
- Also, if you use a tablecloth and it is still clean, please hang it back up. If it is dirty, please take it home and launder and bring it back and hang it up in closet. There is a sign out/in form in the kitchen to fill out if you are taking tablecloth(s) home. Please indicate

on the form when you return the tablecloth(s). If you currently happen to have any Unity Temple tablecloths at home, please return as soon as possible as we are attempting to inventory!! Thanks for your assistance, and for all that you do!

Coffee Hour Signup

Please sign up to bring cookies. We now have online sign up at <https://goo.gl/forms/Kb2RZLIShrAeHqbc2>
This is the link to the spreadsheet where the responses will appear: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1o8YILSJoY9cjGIHiuHttNXKrDG9AEqz0VIWqfmN_Qp8/edit?usp=sharing. Our goal is to have 2-3 households sign up for each Coffee Hour. For more information, contact coffeehour@unitytemple.org.

google.com/spreadsheets/d/1o8YILSJoY9cjGIHiuHttNXKrDG9AEqz0VIWqfmN_Qp8/edit?usp=sharing. Our goal is to have 2-3 households sign up for each Coffee Hour. For more information, contact coffeehour@unitytemple.org.

Congregational Life Tables

If you would like to reserve a table to promote a UTUUC activity, event, volunteer need, or fundraiser during Coffee Hour, please contact tlewis@unitytemple.org or 848-6225 x102.



Beyond Sunday Morning

Connecting Conversations

Members, friends and newcomers are invited to participate in Connecting Conversations. This new collaboration between Faith in Action and Membership is designed to help build relationships by connecting newcomers and long-time members alike with meaningful ways to engage in the life of our congregation and community. If you are interested in learning more, a member of the Connecting Conversations team will contact you to set up a one-hour meeting to get acquainted, share about your life journeys, and explore meaningful ways you might like to engage in upcoming actions, and/or receive support. We look forward to fostering deeper connections throughout the congregation, and inspiring one another to live our covenant by welcoming all, inspiring compassion and serving community. Contact connecting@unitytemple.org for more information.

Women's Connection BBQ :: Sept 9

All women are invited to the annual Women's Connection Summer BBQ on Sunday, Sept. 9 at Jenny Earlandson's house. Come at 2:30 pm if you would like to attend our kickoff planning meeting for our annual women's retreat (Feb 15-17, 2019). At 4 pm, we will serve food. Come then to socialize with old friends and new. Bring a side or dessert to share if you wish. Email womensconnection@unitytemple.org for more info.

Rise Up Singing :: September 14

Rise Up Singing is an informal hour and a half of group singing where the only requirement is to love to sing. We continue the age-old tradition of getting together to sing informally, passing on the love of old and new songs to our young people. Gathering in Gale House

at 7pm, friends and members share the joy of singing together, usually with guitar accompaniment and plenty of percussion instruments for the kids. All ages are welcome.

Autumn Equinox :: September 22

The Unity Temple Earth Centered group will celebrate the Autumn Equinox - one of the two balance points of the year. All ages and all genders are invited to join us at 7pm in Unity House, including those who have been earth centered for a short or long time, and those who are curious. Refreshments will be served after the ritual. For questions or to RSVP, contact earthcentered@unitytemple.org

Fall Engagement Fair :: September 23

Unity Temple groups, teams, committees and events/activities will be providing information and inviting YOU to join in on Sunday, Sept 23 following both services during Coffee Hour. Please plan to attend!

"That's My Story" Men's Retreat

will be held Jan. 25~27th, 2019 at the Cabrini Center, Des Plaines. This event will focus on our personal narrative through introspection, interaction and fellowship. Activities will include yoga, drumming and a nature hike. All Men Welcome. To register contact mensretreat@unitytemple.org

Fall CoEd Softball Sign up

Fall is upon us and our softball teams need players, especially women. No experience, not very athletic? No problem. For a good time, or more information about our teams, contact us for details: sports@unitytemple.org.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer teams are now forming to support the upcoming program year beginning August 26. If you are looking for ways to meet new people, develop a deep

sense of belonging, contribute and have fun, please join in. We need YOU!

Unity Temple

Community Center Sunday Morning Greeters

Volunteers will commit to staffing the reception desk and buzz people in the door during one service/one Sunday per month September-May. Contact recommittee@unitytemple.org for more information.

Congregational Life Team

This team will explore new ways to create community through fun activities and events, as well as support existing offerings such as Secret Pals, Circle Suppers, Lunar New Year Celebration and Summer Potlucks. Contact tlewis@unitytemple.org for more information.

Your Voice Needed! Join Our Communications Team

As our work grows, so does our need to get the word out! UTUUC's Communications Team is looking for new volunteers. We have a specific need for additional writers, graphic artists, videographers and video editors, but other artists, writers and creative types are welcome too! We have a variety of projects of different shapes, sizes and time commitments, and one might be just right for you! Email us at communicationsteam@unitytemple.org or stop by and see us at the UTUUC Engagement Fair next month to meet us in person!



Music Ministry

Martha Swisher,
Music Director
music@unitytemple.org



September at Unity Temple begins with music provided by our collaborative keyboardist, Peter Storms. As singer, pianist, and organist, his versatility is a gift to the congregation.

On September 9 and 23, the Unity Temple Choir returns singing texts by Emma Lazarus and Peter Silvestri. On September 16, our a cappella ensemble, The Unity Temple Singers will present a piece by UU composer Elizabeth Alexander titled, "Do Not Leave Your Cares at the Door." On September 30, we are pleased to present two of the 2018 Vocal Music Scholarship Competition winners. These two Chicago Public School students will share music learned from private instruction provided by our congregation.

Rise Up Singing, our informal musical gathering in song, will take place September 14 at 7 p.m. in Gale House. Grab a guitar or just join in, as Laurie Bellmar and community musicians sing popular and folk music.

The 2018-19 Music Program at Unity Temple will offer some special events for members and friends. On Friday, November 2, the Carl Kennedy Trio will perform during an evening titled, "Jazz at Unity Temple." On November 9-11, Eliot Chapel UU Congregation in Kirkwood, MO will host the Unity Temple Choir as we travel to their congregation for an evening concert and two services. Yes, the choir is going on tour! And we'll host that congregation's Eliot Chapel Choir, on March 2, in a collaborative concert as they visit us on their tour. On Saturday, January 26, an afternoon of rarely heard Afrikaans art songs for piano and voice composed by 20th and 21st century South African composers will be sung by member and professional singer, Henriët Fourie Thompson! The Spring Music Festival will take place this year on Saturday, May 4. This important showcase of Unity Temple members and friends subsidizes the Unity Temple Vocal Music Scholarship Competition for High School Students.

In addition to these highlights, there will also be, as usual, our children's choir program (2018 Chalice Singers), the Women Inspired by Song Ensemble (WISE), the Unity Temple Bells, and Rise Up Singing programs. Your participation is welcomed – and needed - in order to spread the joy and the impact of music in our lives.

SUMMER THOUGHTS

This past summer, I attended the Association of Unitarian Universalist Musicians conference in Portland, Oregon. Several sessions, such as "Ableism, a guide to Accessibility," "Circle Singing," and "Multicultural Music," led by master teacher Melanie DeMore, were the highlights. As an association "Good Officer," our training involved a day-long presentation by Race Lovell Woods. "Courageous Conversations about Race," by Glenn Singleton, served as our guide as we deepened our understanding of how to be engaged in meaningful conversations, utilizing tools and strategies addressing this sensitive subject. Of the many awarenesses I experienced — which included systematic racism, micro-aggressions, white privilege, and how to partner or support minorities in our communities — the most important things I learned were being aware of our discomfort and listening first. I would welcome conversation about this topic and the materials that were shared with me.



Faith in Action

Rev. Coleen Vahey
Faith in Action Coordinator
cvahey@unitytemple.org

UU ADVOCACY NETWORK of ILLINOIS (UANI) :: Voting Our Values

UANI challenges each UU in Illinois to proactively affirm and promote our 5th Principle – the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process – by taking the UANI Voting Our Values pledge, and encouraging others to do the same, with the goal of 100% participation. Take the pledge here: <http://bit.ly/VotingOurValues2018>

Join with UUs across the state to work for justice, beloved community, and a healthy planet! Sign-up to receive the UANI action of the week: <http://bit.ly/UANIActions>

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE TEAM

Rally To End Money Bond :: September 18, 10-11:00 a.m.

(Meet at Oak Park Ave. green line platform at 9:15am to travel together)
Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph St., Chicago 60601

For decades, legally innocent people have been incarcerated at Cook County Jail simply because judges set monetary bonds that they could not pay. In September 2017, following years of organizing and a lawsuit challenging this unconstitutional practice, Chief Judge Timothy Evans issued General Order 18.8A- stating that no one should be incarcerated at Cook County Jail solely because they cannot afford to pay their bond. More than eight months after General Order 18.8A went into effect, however, approximately 2,500 people remain jailed in Cook County because they cannot afford to pay their money bonds. Join us to demand action!

Sign the petition: <http://bit.ly/BondReform>

To learn more about Unity Temple's Restorative Justice team contact: restorativejustice@unitytemple.org

Immigration and Refugee Response :: September 9 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Immigration & Refugee Response - Team Meeting

Unity Temple Community Center, 1019 South Blvd., Oak Park

Join us for complete updates and to learn more about upcoming actions with Unity Temple's Immigration and Refugee Response team.

Thank you to all who donated to the Refugee One back-to-school collection drive, participated in the Rapid Response Training with PASO, supported the DACA renewal workshop, and who provide ongoing tutoring. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Questions, or to be added to our immigration team email, please contact: immigration@unitytemple.org

ECO-JUSTICE :: Green Team Summit September 22 10-5:00 p.m.

Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago 60605

Join with hundreds of people of diverse faiths from across Chicago for the Faith in Place 3rd Annual Green Team Summit - an action-packed day of connecting and networking about environmental justice. The event is free!

Please contact Unity Temple's Eco-Justice team to register and learn more: ecojustice@unitytemple.org

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Each Sunday we give our collection to an organization that aligns with our principles and values. Here are the collection recipients for September 2018:

September 2
Community Renewal Society

September 9
Unity Temple Faith in Action Network

September 16
National Alliance on Mental Illness
(NAMI Metro-Suburban)

September 23
Faith in Place

September 30
UU Advocacy Network of Illinois

Thank you for your generous support!

Calendar of Events

September 6 :: Grief Support Group
Meets at Gale House from 7:30-9:00

September 9 :: Introduction to Unitarian
Universalism
Meets in the Unity Temple Library from 12:45-12:00 pm

September 9 :: 8th Grade OWL Parent Orientation
Meets at Unity Temple Community Center
from 6:30-8:30 pm

September 11 :: Mindful Reflection Community
Meets at Unity Temple from 7:15-9:00 pm

September 14 :: Rise Up Singing
Meets at Gale House from 7:00-8:00 pm

September 18 :: Mindful Reflection Community
Meets at Unity Temple from 7:15-9:00 pm

September 20 :: Pagan Voices in Unitarian
Universalism
Meets at Unity Temple Community Center from
7:00-9:00 pm

September 22 :: Autumn Equinox Celebration
Meets at Unity Temple at 7:00 pm

September 23 :: Fall Engagement Fair
During Coffee Hour after both services

September 23 :: Sabbatical Reflections
Meets at Unity Temple from 6:00-9:00 pm

September 24 :: MyHat Support Group
Meets at Unity Temple Community Center from
7:00-9:00 pm

September 25 :: Mindful Reflection Community
Meets at Unity Temple from 7:15-9:00 pm

September 27 :: Pagan Voices in Unitarian
Universalism
Meets at Unity Temple Community Center from
7:00-9:00 pm

September 29 :: UU Elevator Speeches
Meets at Unity Temple Community Center from
8:30-10:30 am

Care Network

Please remember that from time to time we all have needs that are exceptional, and may require the support and acceptance of our beloved community. For those whose struggles are made evident in our worship or congregational activity, may we respond with love and compassion.

Pastoral Care

UTUUC's Pastoral Associates augment the pastoral work of our ministers, providing a ministry of presence and promoting the spirit of community among members of the congregation. Their role is to provide support, companionship, and attentive listening during times of stress, illness, or major life transition such as disability, job loss, divorce, or death of a loved one. They also call and visit hospitalized and homebound members. If you or someone you know could benefit from the services of a Pastoral Associate, please send information to pastoralassociates@unitytemple.org or call Kathy Clark at 708-218-4463. Pastoral Associates are Alice Ocrey Brent, Kathy Clark, Diana Coates, Jay Cohen, Carol DiMatteo, Judy Gaietto-Grace, and Jay Petersen.

Care Coordinators

UTUUC is a place where you will be cared for and called upon to care for others. Care Coordinators organize caring needs that include meals, rides, and dog walking. If you or someone you know is in need of care, please contact caring@unitytemple.org or 848-6225 x102. Care Coordinators are Vanessa Crowder, Aisha Ellis, Shirley Lundin, Tory Ondrla, and Marianne Protes.

MyHAT Support Group

The MyHAT Support Group is for individuals living with mental illness and those who care about them. Our group meets for deep sharing and deep listening on the fourth Monday of each month. We meet at 1019 South Blvd. from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Our group is always open to new participants and participation is confidential. Childcare is available with advance notice (email myhat@unitytemple.org by the Wednesday prior to the meeting).

Grief Support Group

If you have experienced the death of a loved one or friend and would like to share and process that grief in a safe, confidential and supportive setting, you are welcome to join us. We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Gale House. This is a drop-in group and you are welcome to attend for as long as the group is helpful.

Unity Temple Gives

The generosity of our congregation is making a difference in people's lives. Every Sunday our collection plate offerings are donated to a worthy charitable organization in support of our mission and values. Your weekly collection donations contributed the following amounts to these organizations:

June 3	UU Prison Ministry: \$1,303.32
June 10	New Moms: \$427.60
June 17	Pro Bono Network: \$614.05
June 24	Ten Thousand Villages: \$596.00
July 1	bellissima Opera: \$603.25
July 8	Church of the Larger Fellowship: \$593.00
July 15	National Alliance of Mental Illness: \$638.00
July 22	PASO/West Suburban Action Project: \$827.00
July 29	Chicago Legal Aid for Incarcerated Mothers: \$449.36

Board of Trustees

board@unitytemple.org
Alec Brownlow - President
Karen Haskins-Brewer - Vice President
Anne Devaud
Bill Crozier
Clara Lewis
Teresa Powell
Willa Shultz
David Willard - Secretary
Erik Wise

CONNECTIONS SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for Connections are due by the 24th of each month.

If you are promoting an event or group, please use the publications submission link on the lower left-hand side of the UT leader resources page, www.unitytemple.org/news-resources/leader-resources. Events planned to be held at Unity Temple must be confirmed for the online calendar before they can be promoted. Email publications@unitytemple.org

Our Staff

For calls, dial 708-848-6225 and the extension:

Rev. Alan Taylor
Senior Minister
ext. 101 / ataylor@unitytemple.org

Rev. Emily Gage
Minister of Faith Development
ext. 103 / egage@unitytemple.org

Elizabeth Plummer
Director of Operations
ext. 100 / eplummer@unitytemple.org

Tina Lewis
Membership Director
ext. 102 / tlewis@unitytemple.org

Martha Swisher
Music Director
ext. 109 / music@unitytemple.org

Rev. Colleen Vahey
Faith-in-Action Coordinator
cvahey@unitytemple.org

Tracy Zurawski
Office Manager
ext. 104 / bookkeeper@unitytemple.org

Ron Elling
Finance and Database Assistant
ext. 106 / relling@unitytemple.org

Zsolt Elekes
Intern Minister
zelekes@unitytemple.org

Jeanne Calabrese
Publications Coordinator
ext. 105 / publications@unitytemple.org

Heather Godbout
Youth Coordinator
ext. 107 / youth@unitytemple.org

Kathy Galassini
Preschool Coordinator

Peter Engel Storms
Accompanist

Through Our Differences, We Are One.

The beloved community includes people of all political parties. Here at Unity Temple we call people to live out our faith but this does not mean we share the same political or partisan perspective. May we remind one another to honor our own life experience in the development of our unique perspective while honoring that of others. The core of being a religious liberal is remaining open to and respectful of a pluralism of theological positions and political stances.

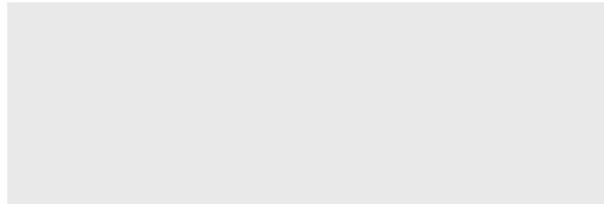
Unity Temple / Church & Sanctuary
875 Lake Street
Oak Park, IL 60301

Gale House
124 N. Kenilworth
Oak Park, IL 60301

Administrative Offices
1019 South Blvd
Oak Park, IL 60301



Unity Temple
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
875 Lake Street
Oak Park, IL 60301
708-848-6225



www.unitytemple.org

Join Us For Worship

September 2
Let Your Life Speak
Worship for all Ages
Rev. Alan Taylor
Offering Recipient: Community Renewal Society

September 9
Wake Now Our Vision
Rev. Alan Taylor
Offering Recipient: Unity Temple Faith in Action Network

September 16
Beginning Again in Love
Rev. Alan Taylor
Offering Recipient: National Alliance on Mental Illness

SEPTEMBER THEME: VISION

September 23
Conflicting Visions?
Rev. Emily Gage
Offering Recipient: Faith in Place

September 30
Looking Forward Together
Rev. Alan Taylor
Offering Recipient: UU Advocacy Network of Illinois