



Michael Servetus Unitarian Society

Volume 50, Issue 8

April 2017

Minister's Message

April's Worship Theme is Transformation

In every life there are certain moments which partake of another, higher order of experience – peculiarly precious moments which offer serenity, hope, and strength and which allow us to return to the demands of daily life with renewed vitality and confidence.

The growth of a spiritual dimension in each of us as individuals seems to result in a multiplication and a deepening of such moments both in ourselves and in the world. - Elizabeth M. Jones, quoted by John Buehrens in Our Chosen Faith



The wonders of science, when viewed through the eyes of awe and mystery, can feel miraculous. I remember the Director of Religious Education at Unity Church-Unitarian telling stories of spring awakenings that evoke such wonder including as the beauty of budding tulips and the choir of song created by spring peepers (the small frogs that emerge from a frozen winter hibernation).

We witness the transformation of our natural environment throughout each season in Minnesota. Sometimes, our lives parallel such radical transformation and other times are more commonplace. Unitarian Universalism asks us to pay attention and recognize the “peculiarly precious moments” in our days. Our faith, which focuses on the journey of this life versus the destination of an afterlife, acknowledges the importance of each life and calls us to live with intention.

Daily spiritual practices turn us toward attention and intention. Spiritual practices including meditation, prayer, walking, coloring, or cooking can help us recognize the interconnection of our lives and our desire to be of use and at peace. I love Ralph Waldo Emerson's statement, “Our life is an apprenticeship to the truth, that around every circle another can be drawn; that there is no end in nature, but every end is a beginning; that there is always another dawn risen on mid-noon, and under every deep a lower deep opens.” We are forever learning and in apprenticeship to some truth (with a little “t”). His words are anything but stagnant, they are words of motion, relationship, transitions, depth, and transformation.

How does being a part of Michael Servetus Unitarian Society contribute to your life? My hope is that this place, these people, and our living tradition help multiply and sustain your own spiritual growth, curiosity, and contributions to the world so desperately in need of our love and care.

President's Letter

By Laurie Young

In my first newsletter article written in June 2016, I talked about the investments this congregation has made to position itself for growth. Those include:

1. *Electing to call a full-time minister*
2. *Increasing the hours of support staff*
3. *Conducting two services*
4. *Adopting a vision statement and aligning our work with the direction set by that statement.*
5. *Removing the wall between two classrooms upstairs*
6. *Increasing our visibility in a number of ways including developing a sign placed on Mississippi Street every Sunday.*
7. *Realignment – Changing our organizational structure to be more efficient and effective*

Now we have been presented with another opportunity - the potential to purchase a new building. No decisions have been made on anything, including moving at all. After some preliminary scoping, if it is determined this site is a possibility, there will be lots of discussion and opportunities for all to provide feedback. Any final decision will, of course, be made by the congregation.

This possibility offers us the opportunity to articulate what our priorities are for new space. A larger sanctuary? More religious education classrooms? More space for the music program? An industrial kitchen? A larger social hall? Others? I want to encourage everyone to be part of the conversation regarding this particular opportunity and more generally about our needs for additional space. Having this conversation will help us evaluate this opportunity or those in the future.

It is also important to become aware of our finances. Take time to review and understand our upcoming budget and become familiar with our operating costs, income, and investments. This is critically important information for making a decision about potential moves.

Please contact me or a board member if you would like to express your opinion or ask questions.

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DRE Dispatch

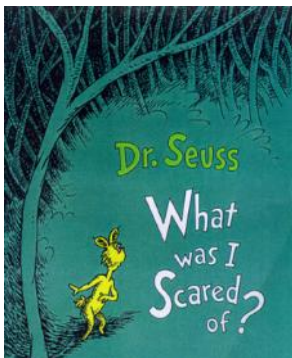
Our April theme of “transformation” ties in well with our scheduled stories of change, and our examination of our place in the Universe with our RE Sunday service on the 23rd, titled “Blue-Green Hills of Earth.” As Spring brings us warmer weather and the emergence of new life, we’re reminded that transformation happens around us on a regular basis. An important part of Unitarian Universalism is the sense of mystery and wonder that triggers a “Wow!” feeling inside us. This month’s RE Sunday, which is an Earth Day focused service, uses the congregation’s imagination and a system of maps to draw our gaze outward, from our street, to our city, to our state – all the way to our Milky Way galaxy. Part of this service involves a “Recycling Offering,” so please bring a recyclable item of some kind with you to contribute.

At the end of the month, I will be attending Regional Assembly in Chicago as part of my continuing education for the church year, which helps to create some professional transformation. I am looking forward to the workshops I have registered for, “CommUnity@Heart” led by Nancy Combs-Morgan, and “Resources for Small Congregations” led by Nancy Combs-Morgan and Phillip Lund. If you will also be attending Regional Assembly and would like to meet up for a meal or worship, send me an email at dre@msuu.org, or come and see me on a Sunday morning, and I’d be happy to share my cell phone number with you so we can connect while we’re there.

April’s Spiritual Practice Saturday will be the last in the series. Our focus for the month will be cooking and eating together, and will take place at the church on Saturday, April 15th, from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. We will be working together to prepare some brunch favorites, which we will then enjoy together. I would like to thank all of you who have come to one (or more!) of the Spiritual Practice Saturday events this year. It was wonderful to try out various ways to recharge and reconnect with something larger alongside all of you. If you’ve enjoyed the multigenerational opportunities and are concerned about Spiritual Practice Saturdays ending, don’t despair. I have plans in the works for some other great new options for next church year.

Since I will be out of town at the end of this month, we have a need for an additional teacher the last Sunday in April, so please consider coming upstairs to enjoy some Seuss filled fun in RE this month. Many thanks to those of you who have already signed up!

April RE Volunteer Opportunities



- | | | |
|--------------------|---|----------------------|
| April 2nd | What was I Scared of?
Leader: NEEDED | Reader: Lois Burnett |
| April 9th: | I Can Lick 30 Tigers Today
Leader: NEEDED | Reader: Collin Ray |
| April 16th: | Practice for RE Sunday | |
| April 23th: | NO RE CLASS—Multigenerational Service “Blue Green Hills of Earth” | |
| April 30th: | McElligot’s Pool
Leader: #1 NEEDED Leader: #2 NEEDED Reader: NEEDED | |

Sign up is available at church, online (<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4eaeae2aabff2-religious>), or via email at dre@msuu.org.

Upcoming Adult RE Opportunities

Book Study of Understanding the Bible: An Introduction for Skeptics, Seekers, and Religious Liberals,

by John A. Buehrens

Tuesdays: April 4 and 11, 2017 from 6:30-8:30 pm, Social Hall

The book study of *Understanding the Bible: An Introduction for Skeptics, Seekers, and Religious Liberals* continues in April. Authored by John Buehrens, a past president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, the book is designed to help those of a progressive outlook to reclaim the Bible from literalists. In making accessible some of the best contemporary historical, literary, political, and feminist readings of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, it encourages all who would find in the biblical heritage an ally and not an enemy in the quest for a more just and humane world. The text includes four preliminary chapters on the why, who, which, and how of biblical understanding, followed by eight brief thematic chapters covering the core of the Hebrew Bible and six covering the Christian scriptures, plus chronologies, maps, and helpful suggestions for further reading.

On April 4 we will cover pages 72—133 and on April 11 we will finish the book covering material on the Christian Scriptures. Feel free to join us for these sessions, even if you missed Part I.

Please note:

Participation from home using Zoom (video conferencing) is available. Contact Rev. Laura if you plan to attend revlaura@msuu.org, 763-710-0435.

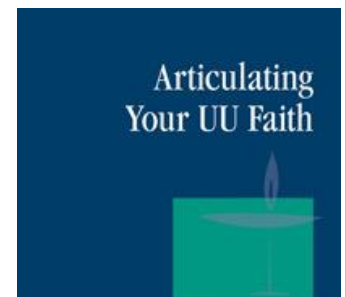


Articulating Your Faith - A Three Part Workshop

Half-day workshop on April 22, 2017 from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Followed by two evenings: Tuesdays, May 2, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, and May 9, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

We will share our current beliefs, what we used to believe, mistruths about Unitarian Universalism, times when we were not able to respond adequately to questions about our religion, and times when we were. The course also includes short statements about Unitarian Universalism—examples of ways to concisely explain what Unitarian Universalism is. Participants use these to help write their own. Includes essays by the authors on "What Do I Say After I Say I'm Unitarian Universalist?" and on explaining UU history.



Please note: Childcare available for April 22 (**Must RSVP for childcare** with Rev. Laura by April 7), Participation from home through Zoom video conferencing available May 2 and 9.

Summer 2017

By Rev. Laura Smidzik

We recently announced the gift of a Chalice Lighter Grant to support a summer minister who will lead Sunday services, offer limited religious education for adults, and pastoral care as needed during June and July. Over the past few years we have been offering more summer services than in our first few decades. Last year, there were services the first three weeks in June, one in July, and two in August. This summer we will offer services every Sunday except on June 25 when the church closes and congregants are encouraged to go to the Twin Cities Pride Festival in Loring Park.

Here are some of the reasons we are switching to summer services:

- Summer is often a time when families “church shop.” If they engage during the summer, then they are more likely to sustain that practice as the school year starts and enroll their children in Religious Education;
- New members tend to attend services in the summer because they have just intentionally joined a new faith community;
- If there is a crisis in the community, country, or in a congregant’s life we need to be together;
- Other faith traditions worship year round.

What will summer look like at MSUS?

- We will have one service at 10:00 AM.
- Simple snacks will be purchased and available without hospitality hosts.
- Services will continue to have music and a service leader (if available), and a Story for All Ages.
- Religious Education will offer mixed-aged, weekly activities.
- Nursery care will be available.
- We will be requesting limited volunteer assistance as needed.
- The News from the Office will continue, but may be less frequent.

What will be ON PAUSE during the summer:

- Regular committee, team, and board meetings.
- The monthly newsletter.
- Regular Hospitality Teams.
- Third Thursday for 60+ year olds.
- Our young chalice lighters.



If you are able to help support summer services please contact me at 763-710-0435 or revlaura@msuu.org.

2017—18 Pledge Drive Kicks Off April 2

By Katie & Byron Johnson, pledge drive leaders

The 2017-18 Pledge Drive begins Sunday April 2. Pledge drive packets will be available in the fellowship hall after services on April 2 and April 9. Pledge commitments are due by April 30.

Two years ago we as a community took a risk and decided to ask for a full time minister during our ministerial search. Last year we voted unanimously to call Rev. Laura to join our community as that full time minister. In October, at Rev. Laura's installation ceremony, the MSUS congregation made this statement:

We, the members of Michael Servetus Unitarian Society, install you, Laura Smidzik, as minister of our congregation. We celebrate this congregation's call to joyfully welcome all, create a sanctuary for growth and wholeness, and unite to serve others and create justice on earth. We seek one who will lead with a prophetic voice, an ear for the soul's yearnings, and a call to share our message in the community... Know that we count ourselves as partners in shared ministry and will support you.

Rev. Victoria Safford, Laura's colleague from White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church, led the Charge to the Congregation at the installation. She said:

I charge you to honor your history and the best way to do it is to set your sights squarely on the future. Honor your past, tell your beautiful story, and write the next chapters in a bold hand. Pour your heart, mind, soul, and strength into what happens next. . . .

You are embarking on a wild adventure and so is Laura. Your aspirations are undergirded by this powerful partnership so don't look back. Honor your past, trust this good soil you are planted in, and set your hearts on the new members who you have not met. Set your intention on welcoming them in, inviting them in. Not to "your" society, but to their own. I charge you Michael Servetus Unitarian Society to be as brave as your namesake, invest your trust in this shared ministry with your new minister who has placed her trust in you.

We are so grateful to be part of this community as it embarks on this "wild adventure"! Now it's time for each of us to reflect on whether we are committed to fulfilling the vision that we laid out as we entered into covenant with Rev. Laura. And yes, at this time we are specifically talking about the financial support of our community.

On March 26 there was a budget hearing where the proposed 2017-18 MSUS budget was presented. We learned that in order to meet our budget needs, we'll have to use investment income to cover 27% of our expenses – that's an extraordinarily high amount compared to past years. Our financial position will be much stronger if a greater number of us contribute and if we increase our pledge income so that our investment income can be reserved for special initiatives rather than used for day-to-day expenses.

Please pick up and review your pledge materials, and consider whether you can stretch a little further in financial support of MSUS. Let us come together to be the church we aspire to be!

Thank you.

2017 Service Auction was a Great Success!

Thanks to all who made the 2017 Service Auction a success. It was successful on many levels. We had great attendance! We had a delicious dinner! We had a lot of laughs! We had creative offerings and old favorites for the live auction, poster parties, and silent auction! And, we raised a lot of money! All expenses are not in yet, but it looks like we are on track to raise the budgeted \$20,000.



It took the time, talent and energy of many people to make this happen and co-chairs Ben Withhart and Laurie Young want to thank you.

Volunteers

Co-chairs: Ben Withhart and Laurie Young

Decorations: April Anderson designed. Laurie Young, Liz Haworth, Leslie Vissage, and Alli Champion-Anderson assisted with putting them up and some fabrication

Auctioneer: Bruce Van Bronkhorst

Recorders: Andrea Zander, Janice Sankot, Kathy Burek, Michele Wallace, Ben Stelmach, Jane Shallow, Bob Dakin and Linda Smidzik

Check out: Chris and Sarah Greene, Pat Ferrian and Merle D’Nuccio

Chefs: Ninky Mullin and Maricris Treuenfels

Sommelier: Byron Johnson

Set-up for ‘Buy It Now’: Marcia Marks

Poster Party Posters: Gretchen Zell and Laurie Young

Registration Desk: Sig Reckdahl and Ben Withhart

Clean-up and Dishes: Jon-Erik Hokenson, Lisa Monson-Hokenson, Jamie Hubbard, Marilyn Westman, Doug Root

Set-up: Tom Treuenfels, Ed Burek, Ben Withhart

Sound System and Podium: Bob Marks

Runners: Hailey Shagar and Marie Phillips

Dessert Volunteers: Karen Hokenson, Wahnita Giebel, Leslie Vissage, Sarah Greene, Lois Burnett, Ah-li Monahan, Jamie Hubbard, Lynne Schuman

Beverage Donations: Ben Withhart

Catalog Data Entry: Laurie Young

And a special thanks to all who donated services and items for this auction.

Staff

Many thanks to our childcare worker, Jackie Steuwe, as well as our youth childcare workers Alli Champion-Anderson and Isabella Saldana Haworth.

Many, many thanks to Beth Hitomi, Office Administrator for production of the catalog, invoicing and other support. She goes the extra mile to ensure that the processes and materials necessary for bidding, and invoicing are in place and operate smoothly.



50th Anniversary Party!!!

June 11, 2017 - 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

IT'S A PARTY – you and your entire family are invited!

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

We will culminate our 50th Anniversary year celebration with a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. after the June 11th 10 AM church service. The fully catered luncheon will be held at the Banquets of Minnesota hall, 6310 Hwy 65 NE, Fridley, is just 3-4 blocks south of the church.

We'll have a speaker, food, exhibits, door prizes and fun! Look for your printed invitation and reservation information in your mailbox in the next few weeks.

Please mark your calendar NOW! Join with MSUS members, past and present as we start our next 50 years!

50th ANNIVERSARY TRIVIA

Food seems to be a part of many of our MSUS functions. Whether it is a dessert bar after a concert, treats provided by Hospitality teams or sharing a box of Girl Scout cookies during a committee meeting, food is present in the MSUS way of life.

Do you know our food history? Can you answer these questions about food at MSUS?

What was the first special food events held at MSUS?

BONUS QUESTION!! When did Second Sunday potlucks begin?

ANOTHER BONUS QUESTION!! What were Circle Suppers and Bouncing Brunches?

STILL ANOTHER BONUS QUESTION!! What have youth done with food?

A FINAL BONUS QUESTION!! What food events are notable?



Answers Appear on Page 9

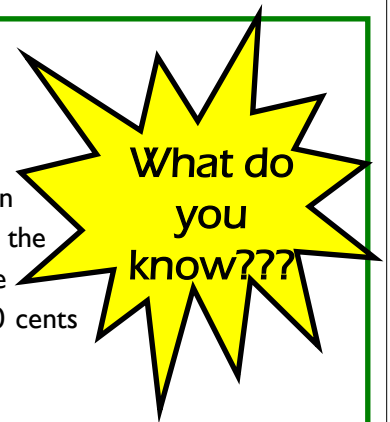
MSUS Sources Supper—Postponed

The MSUS Sources Dinner previously announced for May 5, 2017 has been **postponed** until the Fall. New dates will be announced in late summer.

50th Anniversary Trivia Answers!!

TRIVIA QUESTION!! ANSWERS

What were the first special food events held at MSUS? The Women's Club cooked an Easter breakfast in 1967 in the basement of the East River Road church before the Sunday service. The basement was so small and the crowd so large (90 people served!) that the meal was served in three shifts! Cost was 80 cents per person; 40 cents for children.



The first potluck was an Adult Only event held on a Wednesday evening in November of 1968. The Calling Committee, making phone calls, invited each adult in the congregation to attend and determined what dish would be brought. This assured a well balanced variety of dishes to be served at the meal.

Every year from 1966 to 2006, Sunday services were suspended for the summer. The church year ended with an annual picnic on Memorial Day Sunday. Locations varied: Fridley's Locke Park and Manomin Park, Springbrook Nature Center, East Bethel Park, members' homes and other places were visited.

BONUS QUESTION!! When did Second Sunday potlucks begin? After moving to our current location, the spacious Social Hall allowed for regular potlucks. Coupled with the monthly Social Action Committee food shelf collections, a Potluck took place after the services on the 'Second Sunday' of each month. For a couple years, we designated monthly alphabet themes so members would bring foods beginning with that designated letter. Games at each table allowed people to list as many foods as they could think of which began with that letter. In later years, the Scorched Fork ... and the Scorched Spoon were given as awards to the dishes that were voted as the 'best' of the month.

ANOTHER BONUS QUESTION!! What were Circle Suppers and Bouncing Brunches? Both the suppers and brunches were arranged in member homes as ways for small groups to gather over meals. Sometimes they were used as ways to get better acquainted and build friendships. Other times important congregational discussions took place – deciding about ministry, creating a vision and mission statement, or expanding our building, etc.

STILL ANOTHER BONUS QUESTION!! What have youth done? Pancake breakfasts were planned, prepared, served and cleaned up after by youth groups at various times starting in the 1960's through the 90's. Currently, children serve at 'SoUUpper Sunday' meals prepared by the RE families. Both activities were/are sponsored to raise money for youth activities, trips, registrations for conferences, etc.

A FINAL BONUS QUESTION!! What food events are notable? When chicken prices dropped to 25 cents a pound, church members were invited to a bring-the-fixins' to a potluck where baked chicken was abundant. Strawberry Festivals were held during as outreach activities, once as the MSUS contribution to the Fridley 49er' Days festival. Once, when Christmas was on a Sunday, Doyle Mullin and Barbara Hughes arranged dinner for the singles at the church. Barb roasted the turkeys and others helped make a cheerful holiday! The Men's Club hosts Christmas holiday brunch and a Mother's Day Picnic annually and the Mom's Group returns the favor by hosting the Father's Day social hour.

SEE PHOTOS ON PAGE 13

Social Action Committee

Big Thanks for a Day of Service

The Social Action Day of Service on Saturday, March 11, 2017, was a resounding success! More than two dozen MSUS members and friends came together to:

- Make care packages for our homeless neighbors
- Construct bird nesting material tubes for your yard
- Prep books for distribution to local Little Free Libraries
- Construct furniture and clean the Hope4Youth drop-in center in Anoka
- Cooked a meal of meatloaf and baked potatoes at Alexandra House

Huge thanks to everyone who helped plan, provide supplies, and helped participate! You are all amazing!



Show Your MSUS Pride

Haven't gotten your new MSUS t-shirt yet? There are still some left. The new shirt features the UU chalice on the front, along with the church name and year we were formed. The back includes the new Vision statement and the URL for the church website. Find an order form on the bulletin board in the Social Hall and order yours today! Completed forms and checks should be placed in the Social Action mailbox.



Special Collections

For March's Special Collection, MSUS donated \$540 to [SACA \(Southern Anoka Community Action\)](#). SACA has been serving the communities of Columbia Heights, Hilltop, Fridley, and Spring Lake Park for 39 years. Using the Client Choice food shelf model, they serve 500 – 625+ in-crisis families (1450 to over 1650 people), giving out 39,500 – 45,000 plus pounds of food monthly.

Our April Special Collection will be conducted during the service on Sunday, April 9, 2017, and will go [Springbrook Nature Center](#). Springbrook includes 3 miles of hiking trails through oak and aspen forests, past prairies and through wetlands with floating boardwalks. Along the way, view native plants and wildlife. It also offers an Interpretive Center, where visitors can get up-close and personal with live snakes, frogs, and more! Springbrook offers our community the opportunity to get closer to nature and is a valuable resource for learning about our environment.

Thanks to you all for your generous donations.

MSUS Women's Book Group

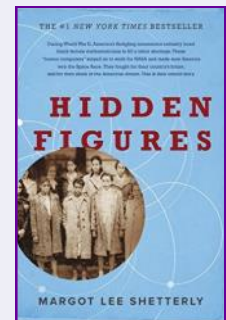
The MSUS Women's Book Group is a gathering of female MSUS members and friends who meet the first Saturday of each month to discuss women-authored books. The group alternates between fiction and non-fiction works recommended by one or more of the members. Contact **Lois Burnett** (burnahan@gmail.com) to be added to the email list. Meetings are 9:00 AM in the Club Room at 20 Windsor Lane. New Brighton, MN

APRIL MEETING: April 1, 2017

- Fiction - *Fangirl*, by Rainbow Rowell
- Treats will be provided by: Merle DeNuccio and Pat Ferrian

MAY MEETING: May 6, 2017

- Non Fiction - *Hidden Figures*, by Margot Lee Shetterly
- Treats will be provided by: Marilyn Hiatt Westman



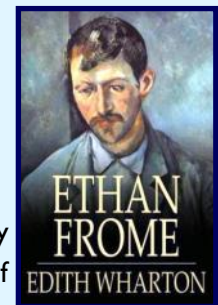
Sunday Night Book Club

April 9th - Ethan Frome by Edith Wharton

Meeting at about 7:15 p.m. at Norma Anderson's.

About the book

Perhaps the best-known and most popular of Edith Wharton's novels, **Ethan Frome** is widely considered her masterpiece. Set against a bleak New England background, the novel tells of Frome, his ailing wife Zeena and her companion Mattie Silver, superbly delineating the characters of each as they are drawn relentlessly into a deep-rooted domestic struggle. Burdened by poverty and spiritually dulled by a loveless marriage to an older woman. Frome is emotionally stirred by the arrival of a youthful cousin who is employed as household help. Mattie's presence not only brightens a gloomy house but stirs long-dormant feelings in Ethan. Their growing love for one another, discovered by an embittered wife, presages an ending to this grim tale that is both shocking and savagely ironic.



About Edith Wharton:

Edith Wharton (born Edith Newbold Jones; January 24, 1862 – August 11, 1937) was a Pulitzer Prize-winning American novelist, short story writer, and designer. She was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1927, 1928 and 1930. Wharton combined her insider's view of America's privileged classes with a brilliant, natural wit to write humorous, incisive novels and short stories of social and psychological insight. She was well acquainted with many of her era's other literary and public figures, including Theodore Roosevelt.

Body Brave Basics Workshop

Sunday, May 7, 2017—12:30 – 2:30 PM

Join us for a Body Brave Workshop following the Sunday service on May 7. Body Brave Basics is a two-hour introduction to body positivity and Health at Every Size®. The session will be led by Ani Janzen & Cat Polivoda, the co-creators & change agents at Body Brave Consulting.

Ani & Cat have expertise in training and facilitation, as well as shared knowledge and passion around body positivity & activism. Unlearn five lies weight loss culture has perpetuated as Cat & Ani introduce you to a new framework for approaching health and happiness.

Look forward to a session jam-packed with information and also includes space for processing & reflection - both as a group & individually. The session also includes a short workbook and access to follow-up resources. A light lunch will be provided, and childcare is available with an RSVP by no later than Sunday, April 30th. (The minimum age to attend this event is 15.) Registration for this free event can be done via the sign-up sheet in the social hall or via dre@msuu.org. If you have any questions, please see Anna Paquette.



Bouncing Brunch,
Annual Picnics, and
Potluck dinners .
1966– 2007



April 2017 Services

April Theme: Transformation

April 2, 2017

Speaker: Rev. Laura Smidzik

Service Leader: Kate Burek

How Can I Keep from Singing?

Special Music: TBD

Hospitality: Beth Strootman's Team

This Sunday marks the start of our annual pledge drive. There are many parts of the Michael Servetus Unitarian Church community that draw people in and connect them to the congregation. Today, we will explore the joy we find at MSUS and how that impacts the rest of our lives.

April 9, 2017

Speakers: Lisa Monson-Hokenson, Carlotta Stomberg, Michele Wallace, Gretchen Zell, Chad Snyder

Service Leader: Barbara Hughes

Special Music: Bluegrass Band

MSUS: From 2000 to present

Hospitality: Marilyn Westman's Team

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Michael Servetus Unitarian Society, our speakers will cover the history of our church from 2000 to the present. This era took the church into professional ministry and efforts to move beyond a 'family' church. Come and learn more about our beloved church, both past and future.

April 16, 2017

Speaker: Rev. Laura Smidzik

Service Leader: Doug Root

Examining the Transformative Power of Prayer

Special Music: TBD

Hospitality: April Anderson's Team

We will examine prayer, an old term, in new ways. For all of us who are a part of this complicated and often broken world, prayer can be a wellspring. Prayer can be a source of strength and invite a posture of humility. It can be a container for our rage, a moment of peace, and also wake us up to the needs of the world and our own agency to create change.

April 23, 2017

Speaker: MSUS Youth and Children

Service Leader: MSUS Youth and Children

Blue Green Hills of Earth

Special Music: TBD

Hospitality: Carlotta Stomberg's Team

An important part of Unitarian Universalism is the sense of mystery and wonder that triggers a "Wow!" feeling inside us. This Earth Day service uses the congregation's imagination and a system of maps to draw our gaze outward, from our street, to our city, to our state – all the way to our Milky Way galaxy. Part of this service involves a "Recycling Offering," so please bring a recyclable item with you to contribute.

April 30, 2017

Speaker: Rev. Laura Smidzik

Service Leader: Marie Phillips

Lessons from Young Men

Special Music: Sam Sharp & Byron Johnson

Hospitality: Pat Ferrian's Team

Our lives are often transformed through relationship with others. Rev. Laura will share stories of two young men who have taught her about mental illness, pain, resilience, and mortality. .

April Calendar Events

The monthly calendar is located on the MSUS webpage. The calendar changes daily as committees, music and interest groups schedule meetings and the normal course of church business occurs.

To obtain the most up-to-date information on what is happening at the church, please click on this [MSUS church calendar](http://www.msuu.org/services-events-calendar) link or go to <http://www.msuu.org/services-events-calendar>.

Music Rehearsals:

Wednesday, Choir, 7:30 PM
 Thursday, String Band, 7:30 PM
 Saturday, Special Choir Practice, 10:00
 (offsite at Bruce Van Bronkhorst's home)
 Sunday, Band Practice, 8:30 AM
 (April 2, 16 and 30)
 Sunday, Delphi Jazz, 3:00 PM

PLEASE NOTE: Rehearsals may change at the discretion of the Director. Please contact Bruce for updated information.

Building Use

Community Use, Free Tax Preparation
 Monday, April 3, 10, 17, 4 PM
 Member Rental, Sundays, Noon - 3:00 PM
 Outside Rental, April 26,
 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
 Outside Rental, April 30, 3:00 PM



Member Opportunities:

Pledge Drive Kick-off, April 2, All Day
 Understanding the Bible, April 4, 6:30 PM
 COA Extended Day, April 9, Noon
 Understanding the Bible, April 11, 6:30 PM
 Spiritual Practice Saturday,
 April 15, 10:00 AM
 Restructuring TF, April 17, 7:00 PM
 Third Thursday for those 60+,
 April 20, 11:00 AM
 Articulating Your Faith, April 22,, 9:00 AM

Newsletter Deadline, April 20, Noon

Regular Meetings:

Green Sanctuary, April 4, 7:00 PM
 Mom's Group, April 9, Noon
 Worship Committee, April 13, 7:30 PM
 L&F Meeting, April 17, 7:30 PM
 Board of Trustees, April 25, 7:00 PM

Offsite MSUS Events:

Women's Book Group, April 1, 9:00 AM
 Sun. Night Book Group, April 9, 7:15 PM
 Music Committee, April 20, 7:30 PM
 Covenant Group, April 22, 8:30 AM
 Committee on Ministry, April 23, 7:30 PM

Michael Servetus Unitarian Society
6565 Oakley Drive NE, Fridley, MN 55432
Phone: 763-571-5229
E-mail: office@msuu.org

Submissions for the Newsletter need to be emailed to office@msuu.org. Deadline for May Newsletter is noon, April 20, 2017.

Announcements for Order of Service: need to be emailed to office@msuu.org no later than Thursday evening; if a late breaking event causes you to miss the deadline, hand your legibly written announcement to the Service Leader no later than 10:15am.

MSUS is a vital and vibrant congregation where religious liberals of different religious, political and social beliefs can join in loving community to explore religious and ethical questions and serve the community beyond our walls.

The mission of Michael Servetus Unitarian Society is to:

Promote Unitarian Universalist traditions of liberty and respect, justice and compassion, and the use of reason; empower our members in their search for meaning by fostering intellectual and spiritual growth; support our members in living ethical lives based on integrity and service; celebrate together and minister to one another in good times and bad; and work, as individuals and as a congregation, to improve the larger community and our natural environment.

2016–2017 Board of Trustees	President: Laures Young	Trustees: Christopher Greene
	Vice-President: Kate Burek	Connie Metcalf
	Recording Secretary: Jennifer Ray	Lisa Monson-Hokenson
		Santhi Muniandy
		Lynne Schuman
	Treasurer: Gerald Wichmann, Non-Board Position	Chad Snyder

Minister:

Rev. Laura Smidzik **RevLaura@msuu.org**
Office hours are flexible to meet the needs of the community.
Please call or email 763-710-0435 to schedule an appointment.



Office Administrator / Bookkeeper:

Elizabeth Hughes Hitomi **office@msuu.org**
Office hours are most Weds 12 - 4 pm, Fri from 8 -11 am and Sun. from 8:30 - noon. If assistance is needed outside these hours, please email office@msuu.org. In emergencies, please call 763-334-3212 and immediate services will be provided.

Acting Director of Religious Education:

Anna Paquette **DRE@msuu.org**
Please contact Anna by email



Music Director:

Bruce Van Bronkhorst **music@msuu.org**
Please contact Bruce by email.

Spring Concert

Get out your date book or personal computer and enter this date!!

The Spring Concert will be **Saturday, May 13** at MSUS. Start time for this musical evening is 7:30 PM and will be followed by refreshments and socializing.

Part of the concert will be a "nod" to MSUS' 50th Anniversary with the band and choir each performing a couple songs from our earliest concerts. Also featured will be selections from "Seussical, The Musical" performed by the combined band and choir. There will also be surprise conductors for some of the band and choir pieces.

Please bring friends and relative to this fun evening. We will have a free-will offering to a group TBA.

Thank you for supporting the music program at MSUS!!!

