Minister’s Message

May your new work excite your heart,
Kindle in your mind a creativity
To journey beyond the old limits
Of all that has become wearisome.

May this work challenge you toward
New frontiers that will emerge
As you begin to approach them,
Calling forth from you the full force
And depth of your undiscovered gifts.

May the work fit the rhythms of your soul,
Enabling you to draw from the invisible
New ideas and a vision that will inspire…

May you come to know the work,
Which emerges from the mind of love
Will have beauty and form.

May this new work be worthy
Of the energy of your heart
And the light of your thought.

May your work assume
A proper place in your life;
Instead of owning or using you,
May it challenge and refine you,
Bringing you every day further
Into the wonder of your heart.

From To Bless the Space Between Us by John O’Donohue

A wise colleague suggested I take time during my first day at Michael Servetus Unitarian Society to sit in the sanctuary, light the chalice, and ground myself in the history and spirit of this place. I imagined the sanctuary in its prior locations down the road and on top of the current building. I imagined the services, speakers, music, weddings, memorial services, plays, and child dedications. So much has happened over fifty years of assembling as a Unitarian Universalist community. We have a strong history to build on.

The text above is part of the blessing I read and reflected on my first day. I see this as a call for my own ministry as well as yours. I’m humbled to join all of you in the joyful work ahead of us. I come ready to engage in all of the dimensions of Michael Servetus Unitarian Society from religious education across the life span to leading worship, engaging in social justice, creating supportive volunteer systems, and facilitating life passages that honor both joys and sorrows.

You have chosen to invest in a full time minister. That is a remarkable act of commitment and hope. May I be worthy of your trust and vision. I will begin leading services the last two weeks in August and will be inviting congregants to Hopes and History small group gatherings in the fall. I look forward to getting to know all of you and leading this small and mighty congregation into the future.

Rev. Laura Smidzik
Children’s Religious Education

Anna Paquette, Acting Director of Religious Education

As we squeeze out the last moments of summer vacation before the fall pushes things into full swing again in RE, I’d like to share with you some of the exciting things we have coming up this month!

This year, information for parents, volunteers, and anyone generally interested in what is happening in religious education can be accessed here: http://msusreligiouseduca.wixsite.com/home While still a bit of a work in progress, information on our curriculum, the full RE schedule for this church year, information on signing up to volunteer to lead classes, upcoming special events, and even necessary forms to download and complete to register children are available now. (The resources tab hosts the vast wealth of this information, so be sure you don't miss that section!)

If you know you are interested in signing up to lead a class during the year, have older youth who are interested in being a leader, or in reading the weekly story to the class, please follow this link to our Sign Up Genius page: http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4eae2aabf2-religious There is a full listing of all of the RE classes for this church year, along with the title of the story for that week. A link to the page with all of the lesson plans for each week is also included. If you have a favorite Seuss story, don’t hesitate to sign up for the week it’s featured now! (Sign Up Genius will automatically remind you that you signed up, so don’t worry that you’ll forget as the date draws near.) The "youth reader" slot each week is intended for anyone in grade 4 or up so, adults, if you’re interested, you’re also welcome to sign up and read. It’s a great way to dip a toe into the RE experience if you’re not sure you’re ready to lead a class or are limited in your ability to be involved. I will be in the classroom every week again this year, so, if you are interested in helping lead, I assure you that you and the youth leader will not be on your own. Please feel free to contact me with any comments/concerns/questions you may have.

Additionally, I am working on implementing the opportunity for children and youth to return to the RE classroom space during hospitality on Sunday mornings. In order to do so, both the child and their parent(s) will have had to read and agree to abide by the expectations for use of the space during that time. I will be on hand to monitor what is happening, but this is by no means intended to be additional childcare. This is an opportunity for the children and youth to responsibly enjoy their time together at MSUS in a welcoming space we hold especially for them. If there are groups planning to meet in the classroom on Sundays, you are absolutely still welcome to do so, but it is important that they are scheduled in advance with Beth so they are on the calendar and can be planned around in advance.

In addition to the opportunity to help lead and read on Sunday mornings upstairs in RE, children and youth will also be able to volunteer to participate in the life of the church as service leaders and chalice lighters during Sunday services. Rev. Laura and I are working together to implement these opportunities at the beginning of the church year so, parents, watch your inboxes for more details soon!
President’s Letter

The President’s Letter authored by Laures Young will resume next month

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 to be added to the email list. Meetings are 9:00 AM in the Club Room at 20 Windsor Lane;

SEPTEMBER MEETING: September 3, 2015
- Book for discussion: Fiction. Leaving Time, Jodi Picoult
- Treats will be provided by: Kathy Forbes and Melissa Winn

CALLING ALL RECIPES!!

We are doing a cookbook for the 50th Anniversary Celebration. All you have to do is select one or more favorite dishes you would like to share with the world and e-mail it with preparation directions. Your part is done. Books will be available in time for Christmas gifts.

Deadline: Sunday, September 11, 2016 THIS IS FIRM!

Send to: office@msuu.org with “Recipe Book” in the subject line.

Name: Yours and others you would like to credit.

Format: Name of dish, list of ingredients, preparation instructions, cooking temperatures and times, category of recipe.

Comments: Add a story if you wish (subject to editing) or why you like the recipe, or how you got it (from Aunt Mary, Grandma Jones), prizes won, etc.

Categories: We are not limited to the following divisions. They represent what was done in previous recipe collections: Appetizers, Breads, Casseroles, Desserts, Main Dishes, Meats, Salads and Soups, Vegetables, Miscellaneous. Don’t forget recipes for special diets as gluten free, vegetarian, vegan, sugar free or others.
50th ANNIVERSARY TRIVIA

Michele Wallace, MSUS member, first became aware of Peace Poles when she was at Robben Island in South Africa. Seeing a Peace Pole in the area where Nelson Mandela and so many others were once imprisoned was a profoundly moving experience for her. She started advocating for one at MSUS in 2006. To raise money for the Pole and its installation, the opportunity to purchase a language plate was offered at the 2007 MSUS annual Service Auction. The MSUS Peace Pole was dedicated on World Peace Day, September 21, 2008. Michele chose English because "to be meaningful, peace must begin at home.” Learn the complete history of the Peace Pole and the chosen languages on the MSUS web site: msuu.org/About Us/Peace Pole

What do you know?

50th ANNIVERSARY TRIVIA!

What is the inscription on the Peace Pole?

BONUS QUESTION!!

Where is the peace pole at MSUS?

ANOTHER BONUS QUESTION!!

Name the languages and sponsors of Peace Pole sponsors.

Answers Appear on Page 7

Osborne Road Clean-Up

September 10, 2016—9:00 AM

Join members of the MSUS Community to help clean up Osborne Road on September 10, 2016. Meet in the Unity Hospital parking lot at 9 AM. We clean up a 2 mile stretch of Osborne Road between Old Central Ave and East River Road. Bags and reflective vests are provided but it is a good idea to bring a pair of gloves. In case of rain, we will meet the following Saturday, Sept 17th, at 9 AM. The cleanup is easy and it is fun to do this environmentally friendly task with friends. I hope to see you there. Any questions please call Marilyn Westman, at 763-381-4655.
Social Action Committee

Are You Ready to Walk for Hope?

Alexandra House will be hosting its 12th Annual Walk for Hope on Saturday, September 24, 2016, at Bunker Hills Regional Park in Anoka. The Walk for Hope event raises awareness about domestic and sexual violence and raises much needed dollars to support Alexandra House’s comprehensive services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

The Walk’s activities included a community resource fair, health screenings, healthy refreshments for all participants, a rousing Zumba warm-up, remarks by public officials, and brief keynote address.

Please join us to help every family to live free from violence. Register to walk/run or sponsor our team to help us reach our $500 goal: visit the MSUS 2016 team page today!

Making Sure Every Fridley Student is Ready for School

MSUS once again be helped with the annual Fridley Back-to-School Resource Fair. This year, the Social Action Committee committed to donating 70 backpacks full of school supplies for Fridley area elementary, middle, and high school students in need.

In June’s Special Collection, and in subsequent contributions MSUS donated $302.50 to pay for the backpacks and supplies needed to meet this commitment. By having the funds allocated in advance, we were able purchase supplies at the best rates during the back-to-school shopping season. Didn’t have a chance to donate? Send a check to MSUS with “Backpacks” in the subject line.
Join us and watch a new documentary about two Unitarian Heroes

Defying the Nazis: The Sharps’ War
Tuesday, September 20, 8:00 – 9:30 pm

Come gather in the Social Hall for the premier of this powerful Ken Burns documentary. Popcorn and beverages will be provided. Please RSVP to Rev. Laura at revlaura@msuu.org or in the social hall. More information is available at http://www.defyingthenazis.org/

“The Church Year is Coming!!
The Church Year is Coming!!”
By Carlotta Stomberg, Hospitality Chairperson

Hospitality captains are needed for the next year. We have two captains who will not be able to continue.
This really is a service of love, providing snacks for after the service. Please let me know by email or phone if you an step in to cover for captains who will "take a break" for the next year.

Primary duties are to organize your team as to what will be served and to send a reminder to your team:

Greeters/ushers to greet, hand out Orders of Service, to give guests directions to the restrooms, and to invite children to the RE (religious education) classrooms; DRE Anna Paquette is generally waiting downstairs to greet children and parents;

Flowers for sanctuary (generally two plants or arrangements);

SIMPLE snacks to get us from church to home - it is not expected to be a "full meal deal."

You can reach me at 763-784-0186 (generic male voice greeting on answering machine) or by email: carlotta.stomberg@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you soon!
Carlotta Stomberg
50th Anniversary Trivia Answers!!

TRIVIA QUESTION!! ANSWERS
What is the inscription on the Peace Pole?

MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH

BONUS QUESTION!! Where is the peace pole at MSUS?
The hexagonal pole is in the northwest section of the lawn inscribed with “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in 12 languages.

ANOTHER BONUS QUESTION!! Name the languages and sponsors of Peace Pole sponsors.
ANSWERS: English: Michele Wallace; Filipino: MariCris and Tom Treuenfels; Finnish: Carlotta Stomberg; Gaelic: D'Ann Prior; German: Marcia Marks; Japanese: Barbara Hughes; Norwegian: Sig and Marti Reckdahl; Ojibway: Pat Ferrian and Susan Herlofson; Polish: Kathy Burek; Spanish: Sandra Smalley; Slovenian: Merle DeNuccio. The final language is Arabic.

MUSIC NOTES

Alumni Choir!! Since we are celebrating our 50th Anniversary at MSUS, it would be fun to have you alumni singers sing with us a couple times. If you are interested, let me know. I am selecting songs from the past and if you have songs you’d like to sing please let me know!!

The Dr. Seuss music for the Winter/Christmas concert looks like a lot of fun. That, and music from our first two Winter Concerts, are what we are currently working on, plus special music to fit our 50th anniversary and to fit with MSUS’ monthly themes. The choir and band will be busy again.

We always welcome new members to our band and choir, sit in with us to see what we are doing.

Musically -
Bruce Van Bronkhorst
Music Director
music@msuu.org
Resources on Racism

There have been two sermons examining race, white privilege, and racial injustice this past summer. Kathy Burek and Rev. Laura have put together a suggested reading list for congregants who are interested in diving deeper into the topic. Copies of this list will be available in the Narthex.

Suggested Readings on Race and Racism
* Indicates UU Author

**Whiteness/White Privilege**

McIntosh, Peggy, “White Privilege: Unpacking the White Knapsack”
www.deanza.edu/faculty/lewisjulie/White%20Priviledge%20Unpacking%20the%20Invisible%20Knapsack.pdf

*Thandeka, Learning to Be White, New York, NY, Continuum, 1999

Wise, Tim, White Like Me, Berkley, CA, Soft Skull Press, 2008

**Unitarian Universalist Association and Race**

*Unitarian Universalism and the Quest for Racial Justice*, UUA, Boston, MA, 1993


*Morrison-Reed, Rev. Dr. Mark (ed.), Darkening the Doorways: Black Trailblazers and Missed Opportunities in Unitarian Universalism*, Boston, MA, Skinner House, 2011

**Racism**

Marsh, Jason, Rodolfo Mendoza-Denton, and Jeremy Adam Smith (eds.), *Are We Born Racist: New Insights from Neuroscience and Positive Psychology*, Boston, MA, Beacon Press, 2010

Mondoza-Denton, Rodolfo, and Amanda Danielle Perez, “Race and the Narrative of Biological Inevitability”,
http://www.otheringandbelonging.org/racism-and-the-narrative-of-biological-inevitability/?mc_cid=4310ba522a&mc_eid=e83687a6f2

**African-American Perspectives**


Coates, Ta-Nehisi, Between the World and Me, New York, NY, Spiegel & Grau, 2015
Where Did The Calendar Go?

The MSUS calendar is located on the MSUS webpage. The calendar changes daily as committees schedule meetings and the normal course of church business occurs. Music and Interest groups add items to the calendar throughout the month. To obtain the most up-to-date information on what is happening at the church, please click on this MSUS church calendar link or go to http://www.msuu.org/services-events-calendar.

September Dates of Interest:

Music Rehearsals:
- Tuesday—String Band 7:00 PM
- Wednesday—Choir 7:30 PM
- Thursday—Chalice Singers 7:30 PM
- Sunday—Band Practice 8:30 AM
- Sunday—Delphi Jazz 3 PM

Building Use
- CSA Pickup, Weds 4—6 PM

Regular Meetings:
- Comm. Restructuring—Sept 1, 7:00 PM
- L&F Walk-through—Sept 3, 1 PM
- Green Sanctuary—Sept 6, 7:00 PM
- Mom’s Group—Sept 11, Noon
- Membership—Sept 15, 7:30 PM
- L&F—Sept 19, 7:30 PM
- Personnel—Sept 20, 3 PM
- Worship—Sept 22, 7:30 PM

Offsite MSUS Events:
- Women’s Book Group Sept 3, 9:00 AM
- Sun. Night Book Group, Sept 18, 7:15 PM
- Covenant Group, Sept 24, 8:30 AM
- Osborne Road Cleanup, Sept 10, 9:00 AM
- Board of Trustees, Sept 27, 7:00 PM

Member Opportunities:
- Hopes and History—See Page 10

Rental:
- Theatre Group, Sept 15—17 Evenings

Resources on Racism continued


Morrison-Reed, Rev. Dr. Mark, *In Between: Memoirs of an Integration Baby*, Boston, MA, Skinner House, 2009

West, Cornel, *Race Matters*, Boston, Beacon Press, 1993


Mass Incarceration & Criminal Justice

Rev. Laura invites you to attend a small group, facilitated discussion about your perspective of the hopes and history of MSUS. Each group will be 8 people and childcare is available **upon request** for the sessions noted below.

Sign up will be available in the social hall or you can email or call Rev. Laura to sign up at revlaura@msuu.org, (763) 710-0435.

**Hopes and History Schedule**
Saturday, September 17, 10:00-11:30 am  
Sunday, September 18, 12:00-1:30 pm (childcare provided, rsvp by Tues, Sept. 13)  
Tuesday, September 20, 7:00-8:30 pm  
Sunday, September 25, 12:00-1:30 pm (childcare provided, rsvp by Tues. Sept. 20)  
Thursday, September 29, 6:30-8:00 pm

**UU EVENTS OUTSIDE OF MSUS**

**UU Class Conversations, Saturday**  
October 1, 9:00 am- 4:00 pm  
First Unitarian Church of Rochester, 1727 Walden Lane SW, Rochester, MN

Unitarian Universalist Class Conversation educates UUs about class awareness and inclusion, empowering our religious movement to dismantle classism within our congregations and communities in order to bring a fairer and more equitable world. Contributions to fund the workshop are welcome and encouraged, but not required. Free childcare and lunch will be provided. RSVP required at uurochmn.org/classconversation Questions? Contact: office@uurochmn.org or 507-696-9567. Please let Rev. Laura know if you plan to go.

**THE REVIVAL “The Revival: Time for a Moral Revolution of Values”**  
Monday, October 10, 6:30–8:30 pm  
Unity Church–Unitarian, St Paul, MN

The Revival is a national tour to redefine morality in American politics. The Revival is co-led by the Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr., and the Rev. Dr. William Barber, II, architects of the historic Moral Monday Movement. Minneapolis/St. Paul is one of 12 cities on this important national tour. Reverends Forbes and Barber will be joined by other local and national social justice leaders in revival services with testimony from people who have been impacted and hurt by regressive policies.  
http://www.moralrevival.org/

**Beyond Boundaries: Controversies, Frontiers, and Growth in Unitarian Universalism**  
October 27-30, 2016 (Registration Required by October 15, 2016)  
Airport Hilton, Bloomington, MN

Attention UU history fans! The Unitarian Universalist History and Heritage Society is gathering of ministers, scholars, students, and all others who cherish the history, heritage, and future of Unitarian Universalism. See the schedule for details. This conference is offered every couple of years and we are fortunate to have it in the Twin Cities! More information and registration at [www.uuconvo.org](http://www.uuconvo.org) Full registration cost is $285.00, the daily rate rages from $50-$100. Please let Rev. Laura know if you plan to go.
September Theme  Covenant

September 4, 2016  Having Faith
Speaker: Chad Snyder
Service Leader: Amy Luedtke

Special Music: Marty Phillips Vocal / Guitar
Hospitality: Pat Ferrian

In a religious tradition that tends to enshrine reason, we Unitarian Universalists need to remember sometimes, what it means to have – and to be – a faith.

September 11, 2016  Was Dr. Seuss a UU, or a Cultural Propagandist?
Speaker: Steve Danko
Service Leader: Michele Wallace

Special Music: Collin Ray
Hospitality: To Be Determined

A look into Dr. Seuss’ life, motivations, art and stories from a UU perspective. Steve Danko is a longtime member of the Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Bloomington and he and his wife, Jean, own Jean Stephen Galleries in St. Louis Park, which is one of the largest authorized dealers of Dr. Seuss’ artwork in the country.

September 18, 2016  The Covenantal Cornerstone of Unitarian Universalism
Speaker: Rev. Laura Smidzik
Service Leader: Leslie Vissage

Special Music: Ben Johnson—Flute
Hospitality: To Be Determined

The Cambridge Platform, written in 1648, states: There is no greater church than a congregation which may ordinarily meet in one place.” We will explore how the history of liberal faith in America defines what Unitarian Universalism is today.

September 25, 2016  Living Into Our Covenant
Speaker: Rev. Laura Smidzik
Service Leader: Kate Burek

Special Music: MSUS Choir
Hospitality: April Anderson

Covenant has been described as “The silk that joins Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations, communities, and individuals together in a web of interconnection.” What are the ramifications of being a covenantal versus creedal faith? How do we continue to live into the possibilities of Unitarian Universalism?
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.

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.

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.

Submissions for the Newsletter need to be emailed to office@msuu.org. Deadline for October Newsletter is noon, September 21, 2016.

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.

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.

Music Director:
Bruce Van Bronkhorst
music@msuu.org

President: Laures Young
Vice-President: Kate Burek
Recording Secretary: Jennifer Ray

Trustees: Christopher Greene
Connie Metcalf
Lisa Monson-Hokenson
Santhi Muniandy
Lynne Schuman
Chad Snyder

Treasurer: Gerald Wichmann, Non-Board Position

Acting Director of Religious Education:
Anna Paquette
DRE@msuu.org
Please contact Anna by email

Blessing of the Backpacks
We invite all students, teachers, and educators to bring their backpacks, literal or figurative, with them to the 10:30 AM service on Sunday, September 18th as we fill them with well wishes for the start of the new school year.