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**Venture Vol. 59, No. 11      April 2018**

**Our Mission: To be a compassionate, welcoming community that nurtures spiritual growth and practices justice.**

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## ***April Theme: Creativity***



**Services & Religious Education for Children  
& Youth  
at 9:00 & 11:00 am**

Childcare available during services for babies and  
toddlers (6 months+ to 3 years old)  
Fellowship between services in the Commons

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## ***Sunday, April 1 - Some Glad Morning - A Celebration of Easter & the Return of Spring***

**Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer**, Minister  
**Ann Hutton**, Worship Associate  
**Prairie Revival Band**  
**Connie Schuelka**, keyboards

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## ***Sunday, April 8 - Singing for Our Lives: Revolutions grounded in song***

**Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer**, Minister  
**Beth Atkinson**, Worship Associate  
**Mila Vocal Ensemble**  
**Connie Schuelka**, keyboards

We welcome **Mila**, a professional women's vocal ensemble from the Twin Cities grounded in the harmonic traditions of Eastern Europe and Russia.

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## **Sunday, April 15 - *What the Blank? Chaos, Order, and Life in the middle***

**Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer**, Minister  
**Anne Black-Sinak**, Worship Associate  
**Connie Schuelka**, keyboards

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## **Sunday, April 22 - *Birds of the Air - Earth Day & Justice***

**Robert Ortiz**, Guest Speaker  
**Linda Ortiz**, Worship Associate  
**Walden Hill Vocal Ensemble**, Joe Mish, Director  
**Connie Schuelka**, keyboards

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## **Sunday, April 29 - *Building Up A World: What tools do we have, and how are we using them, to create beauty?***

**Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer**, Minister  
**Walden Hill Children's Choir**, Joe Mish, Director  
**Connie Schuelka**, keyboards

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## **Monthly Themes for the Church Year**

Monthly themes provide a framework to guide the life of our church in worship, learning, and service. Through the themes, we draw on wisdom from several traditions, and engage religious language that is both traditional and contemporary. The themes expand spiritual vocabulary, clarify ethical action, and help nurture lives of meaning and purpose.

April	Creativity
May	Humility
June-August	Sabbath

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**You can watch past sermons by clicking [here](#) or going to our [YouTube](#) channel.**

## ***April - Creativity***

*I'll take my beginnings with my endings  
and I'll turn them into each other  
until the only things I can see  
are the moments I am in.*  
- Calla Paule

I never much thought of myself as a "creative" person -  
like all those peers that I was certain were.  
It was other people who created things -  
things made out of materials like clay or metal;

things made with the color of paint or pencil or crayon;  
things made from some special place in their mind, their heart,  
that I was pretty sure I didn't have.

I much preferred paint by number than a blank canvas -  
*what would I do with a blank canvas?*  
*How would I know where to begin?*

There is something about structure that always appealed to me.  
Clear expectations - clear outcomes - a clear world.

And then I remember seeing a picture hanging in the office of a teacher: *chaos into order*:



I was pretty sure it must have been a misprint.

But over time, it has made more and more sense to me. While I have not suddenly gained skills or a desire to create what I considered "art", I have gained a sense that the world is not so clear-cut. The world, and our lives, are complicated. They are messy. They are opaque, at best - not clear.

It turns out that creativity is less about loving free time in art class, and more about finding our way, crafting our lives, creating a way, a place, right in the middle of chaos and order.

Right in the midst of order spiraling within chaos, we create beauty.

The tools of creativity are endless - compassion, care, concern, love, hope, joy - we create beauty with crayon and paper, words and stories, coffee and bread.

Perhaps the question is not *are we creative?*,  
but rather  
*what tools are mine,*  
*and how am I using them*  
*to create a life and a world of beauty?*

**Luke**

**Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, Minister**

***Welcome to our Newest Members!***

**Chaplain Lori Elward**

I first attended this church when my daughter Autumn Mielke moved to Rochester in 2007. Some of you may remember my granddaughter Savannah, and the long battles she has fought with a congenital neurological disorder. At the time when things were most dire for Savannah and for the family, the people of 1st UU Church were very kind and helpful, and also supported us with positive energy and prayers of all types. I was often stuck in Arizona when my granddaughter was here in serious jeopardy - and it was a source of comfort for me to know that others were helping with some of the things I could not do from such a distance.

I am honored and privileged to become an official part of this community - my church "home away from home!" I was ordained as an Interfaith Chaplain about 10 years ago - and hope to be ordained as an Independent Interfaith minister sometime this year! Thank you, my spiritual brothers and

sisters, for making me feel so welcome!



### Beth & Tony Thompson, & Eloria

We went in search of a church we could *stomach* to help reinforce the values we are trying to instill in our daughter, and we wound up finding a church we *love*. Thank you First Unitarian Universalist Church!

## UUA General Assembly

General Assembly (GA) [registration](#) and [housing reservations](#) are now open online! Join us for the 2018 General Assembly to be held **June 20-24 in Kansas City, MO**. GA is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through a democratic process.



## UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## Special Thanks to our Community Food Response Volunteers

Ella VanLaningman



I want to extend my very special thanks to our Community Food Response (CFR) volunteers for their incredible support and assistance over the years since I first committed our church in September 2001. I initiated it with bated breath because we are not a very large church, but you have substantiated my faith every month since then! As a cooperating church among 18+ groups that assist at least one day a month with sorting and distribution of excess food from hospitals, restaurants, businesses and grocery stores for the Community Food Response (CFR) program located in the lower level of Bethel Lutheran Church, you have continued to volunteer every time there is a fifth Monday, Wednesday or Friday.

In 2016, CFR collected 95.7 tons of food from 34 donor sites, and provided nearly 85,000 meals, including items for the next day's breakfast or lunch. An average of 75 families (225 individuals) was served every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Talk about a WIN, WIN, WIN situation - an ecological benefit, a service project which reaches out to the diversity in our community, and an opportunity for our voice to be heard.

Not only that ... a number of you have helped out as food pickup drivers and/or signed up to serve on the Board over the years. You are AMAZING! Many thanks to the **over 40 church families and friends** who have helped with this project over the years, in particular:

- **Maggie & Roger Nolte** - who have generally overseen the opening process
- **Anne Black-Sinak, Kay Eberman, Ella VanLaningham** - who have certified to check-in clients and help oversee the distribution process

- **Jamie & Hannah Crawford, Ronice Donovan, Glenn VanLaningham, Joyce Wood** - who have often helped oversee the opening or serve as closers
- **Linda & Bill Thompson** - who regularly do food pick-up
- Those who have served on the Board - **Phyllis Beery, Anne Black-Sinak, Diane Clossen, Jeremy Coylewright, Kay Eberman, Ash Gupta, Misty Hathaway, Jeanne Hoecker, Dave Kallmes** (President, 2012-13), **Sandy Ramage** (President, 2009-10), **Cathy Stroebel, Glenn VanLaningham** (President, 2003-05, 2007-08)

In addition, **Cynthia Daube** contributed food from Daube's Bakery for many years.

Thank you, wonderful UUs. Finally, additional kudos to **Sarah Rothwell**, who volunteered to take over my responsibilities beginning in March. THANK YOU, Sarah!

## *Social Justice*

### **HAPPY THIRD BIRTHDAY TO HAWTHORNE HELPS!**

- **11,740** - Student Shoppers Served
- **23,480** - Items Distributed
- **108** - UU & RE Volunteers
- **19** - Faith & Community Partners



#### **Hawthorne Helps' Spring 2018 Blue Barrel Collection**

- Baby Wash/Shampoo
- Dish Soap
- Hand Pump Soap or
- \$5 Dollar Tree Gift Cards to buy Spring Cleaning items

Thanks UUs for your continued generosity to Hawthorne Education Center students, 85% living at or below the poverty level. Interested in volunteering? Contact Sandy MacLaughlin or Sandy Ramage

## *Happening at First UU*

### **Next Meetings:**

#### **Board of Directors**

Wednesday, April 18/ 7:00 pm / Conference Room

#### **Program Council**

Wednesday, May 23 / 7:15 pm / Commons

Information about activities, events, classes and more is in our **Weekly eNews**, on the [HAPPENING AT FIRST UU](#) page on our website, and is available on Sunday morning.

Click either on the [link](#) or on the [image](#) for information about what's going on at church.



## Upcoming Newsletters

Issue	Due Date
May	Monday, April 23
June	Monday, May 21
July	Monday, June 23



### Care Coordinators

April 1-14	John & Sandy MacLaughlin
April 15-28	Joyce Wood & Diane Clossen
April 29-May 12	Ella VanLaningham

### Our Staff

Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer

### Role

Minister

### Office Hours

Tuesday-Thursday 9 am-3 pm  
Friday 9 am-noon

### Contact

[revluke@uurochmn.org](mailto:revluke@uurochmn.org)

Jody Tharp

Congregational Co-Administrator

Monday thru Friday  
9 am-3 pm

[office@uurochmn.org](mailto:office@uurochmn.org)

Connie Schuelka

Congregational Co-Administrator

Monday, Wednesday-Friday  
9 am - 3 pm

[administration@uurochmn.org](mailto:administration@uurochmn.org)

Joyce Rood

Director of Religious Education

Sunday mornings, by  
appointment

[dre@uurochmn.org](mailto:dre@uurochmn.org)

Melissa Egglar

Congregational Life Coordinator

Wednesday, by appointment

[congregationlife@uurochmn.org](mailto:congregationlife@uurochmn.org)

Joe Mish & Connie Schuelka

Co-Directors of Music

by appointment

[music@uurochmn.org](mailto:music@uurochmn.org)

Derik Robertson

Youth Program Coordinator

by appointment

[youthprogram@uurochmn.org](mailto:youthprogram@uurochmn.org)

Jadyn Shumaker

Childcare Coordinator

Sunday mornings

[childcare@uurochmn.org](mailto:childcare@uurochmn.org)

Tom Rud

Custodian

[custodian@uurochmn.org](mailto:custodian@uurochmn.org)

Rev. Dillman Baker Sorrells

Minister Emerita

### Our Board Officers

Jerry Katzmann, President

Charyssa Cobb

Gail Bishop, Vice-President

Randy Crawford

Ann Hutton, Secretary

Kate Thompson-Jewell

Garth Nelson, Treasurer

Greg Turosak

Chris Wendt

### Members at Large

**First Unitarian Universalist Church** / (507) 282-5209 / [office@uurochmn.org](mailto:office@uurochmn.org)  
Office Hours / 9 am - 3 pm Monday through Friday

### Prefer Not to Receive the Venture?

If you do not want to receive our monthly newsletter, the Venture, by DO want to remain on the church mailing list, please send an email to [administration@uurochmn.org](mailto:administration@uurochmn.org).

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