

## October Worship Calendar

**October 7**  
 Rev. Lisa Friedman  
 Unity Church-Unitarian, St. Paul, MN

**October 14**  
 Rev. Carlos R. Martinez

**October 21**  
 UN Sunday, John L. Washburn with the  
 UN & Global Affairs Action Committee  
*The Individual and the United Nations*

**October 28**  
*Beyond Categorical Thinking*  
 Barb Greve and Jacquil Williams  
 Worship Service and Workshop following  
 Fellowship Hour, 12:45pm-3:45pm  
 What is your idea of the best minister for our congregation? Let us not potentially overlook or even let biases keep us from knowing that a particular person would be the best match for us. Please join us for the morning service and afternoon to learn and discuss inclusive thinking in order to prevent unfair discrimination during our congregation's search for a settled minister. The worship service and workshop are presented by Barb Greve and Jacqui Williams, UUA-trained facilitators, sponsored by the Community Church of New York, Ministerial Search Committee. Be part of this important conversation. Lunch will be provided.

Rev. Carlos R. Martinez, Interim Minister  
 Esther Rosado, Director of Lifespan Religious Education  
 Gerald A. Brown, Director of Music  
 Valerie Lynch, Membership Coordinator  
 Jeff Loveland, Church Administrator  
 Rev. Bruce Southworth, Minister Emeritus

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## Minister's Corner

October 21 and 28, 2018 Issue



Most Unitarian Universalist's are surprised to learn that Unitarianism is descended from the Calvinist Congregationalism of the early Puritan settlers. We are descended from the Radical wing of English Reformation which believed in a direct relationship with God without the intermediation

of church, state or intervening authority. The Transcendentalist movement which had its most significant expression in the 19th century also believed in the importance of a direct relationship with God with nature figuring significantly as the most obvious manifestation of Divine work.

Famously, Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) and Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862) are the figures we associate with this movement but others such as Theodore Parker (1810-1860), Orestes Brownson (1803-1876), George Ripley (1802-1880), Octavius Frothingham (1822-1895), Margaret Fuller (1810-1850), and Elizabeth Peabody (1804-1894), among others, played significant roles. These men and women courageously advanced the tenets of the Transcendentalist movement combining in their vision of religion a reverence for the Divine, the mysticism of personal experience and a keen observation of natural world as proof enough of the existence of God.

In his famous first work, *Nature*, Emerson wrote:

"The foregoing generations beheld God and Nature face to face; we — through their eyes. Why should not we also enjoy an original relation to the universe?"

Thoreau, in his book *Walden* which chronicles his 1845 stay at Walden Pond speaks of an intimate and deeply personal relationship with nature: "The indescribable innocence and beneficence of Nature, — of sun and wind and rain, of summer and winter, — such health, such cheer, they afford forever! . . . Shall I not have intelligence with the earth? Am I not partly leaves and vegetable mold myself?"

For me, Autumn has always connected me in the most rapturous way to the transience of our place here on this earth. The brilliance of the leaves, their final burst of color expended before each falls earthward in one final death throes to give nourishment to the earth and the spring mulch gives meaning to nature and cycle of our lives.

As modern day descendants of the Puritans, the Congregationalists, early Unitarians, and the Transcendentalists we carry forward in our denominational DNA this spirit and we, knowingly or not, are the children of its expression. How does nature and the Autumnal season figure into your life, into your spiritual life, and into your sense of your relationship to ultimate truths, the sense of the sacred, dare I say God?

Rev. Carlos

# Church Events

- UNGA Forum  
"Human Rights in Yemen"  
Sun., Oct. 21, 1:00 pm
- Breathing Exercises with Nafisa  
Mon., Oct. 22, 2:00 pm
- Worship Meeting  
Tue., Oct. 23, 10:00 am
- Social Tea  
"Inside Palestine & Israel –  
A Glimpse"  
Tue., Oct. 23, 2:00 pm
- Yoga with Nafisa  
Tue., Oct. 23, 6:00 pm
- Yoga with Nafisa  
Sat., Oct. 27, 10:30 pm
- Gallery35 Reception  
Sat., Oct. 27, 5:00 pm
- Beyond Categorical Thinking  
Sun., Oct. 28, 12:45 pm
- Breathing Exercises with Nafisa  
Mon., Oct. 29, 2:00 pm
- Worship Meeting  
Tue., Oct. 30, 10:00 am

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



My grandchildren were visiting last week and it never ceases to amaze me how much children are bursting with questions, ideas and creativity. It delights me the way they embrace their world with curiosity and joy. After reading a story to them my grandson immediately thought of a poem he wanted to write, and his sister took to her crayons and started drawing. It's important for all of us to take time to capture our thoughts and creativity and to listen to the child that is within all of us. Consider keeping a journal to jot down the thoughts that bubble for a child or the child within you.

As October comes to an end REFM will be discussing our hope for a better world to grow healthy children and families around the world. During the last Sunday of the month we will have orange UNICEF boxes, and you might find a superhero or two asking you to contribute to their box. The Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF is one of the many ways we can share our hopes for all children.

Paz, Esther

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### SUNDAY—October 21

- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 am Worship Service  
*(in the Assembly Hall)*
- 11:00 am Religious Education
- 12:15 pm Fellowship Hour

### WEDNESDAY—October 24

- 6:30 pm Board of Trustees

### SATURDAY—October 27

- 12:00 pm Search Committee Meeting

### SUNDAY—October 28

- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 am Worship Service
- 11:00 am Religious Education
- 12:15 pm Fellowship Hour
- 1:00 pm UN & Global Affairs Meeting

**Sunday School** ~ Join us in the RE Room downstairs at 11 am.  
**Fellowship Hour** ~ **Assembly Hall, 12:15 p.m.** Please join us after worship.

### THOSE WHO ALSO MINISTER—OCTOBER 21

**Pulpit Art**—Chalice Art by Onna Johnson, West Valley UU in Arizona  
**Usher/Greeter**—Anna-Lisa Hafgren, Kevin Willis

**Welcome Table**—Nancy Jennings  
**Hospitality**—Leslie McKenzie  
**Bookstall**—Closed

### THOSE WHO ALSO MINISTER—OCTOBER 28

**Pulpit Art**—Chalice Art by Onna Johnson, West Valley UU in Arizona  
**Welcome Table**—Nafisa Degani

**Hospitality**—Melinda Schroeder, Neil Blonstein  
**Bookstall**—Ken Wachtell

**October Coordinator Helene & BJ's Homeless Shelter**—Christie Jeffers—646-271-9345  
Shelter volunteers always welcome.

### SUNDAY—November 4

Rev. Carlos R. Martinez will preach.

### SUNDAY—November 11

Rev. Scott Michaels will preach.

## FROM OUR COMMISSIONED LAY MINISTER



Community Church calls each of us to come into its center. I choose to believe that each of us truly wants to honor the hymn that we so enjoy singing:

From you, I receive,  
To you, I give,  
Together we share,  
And from this, we live.

*It is in this spirit that I share some good news.* We are moving forward with concrete plans to create a strong and healthy Community Pastoral Care Team. And I am excited to note that we have identified our team members. I look forward to sharing their names with each of you in the next issue.

As I reflect on what is of worth to our community, I recall words that I wrote a while back. They relate to this bold step that we are taking to embody our responsibility to care for our beloved community:

Each of us is accountable to all of us. We need to see our reflections in each other's

lives, in each other's eyes. Articulations of the heart call us to build bridges of community with empathy and compassion. They call us to love boldly knowing that such living leaves its indelible footprint in the lives of others for grace-filled generations to come.

Each of us brings a collection of life-affirming memories. Together, we are creating, learning, and telling our respective stories that will certainly inform the generations. We are called to learn each other's stories, to hear them with loving care, and to honor the well-spring from which they come.

Caring calls us to recognize that each story strikes an indelible chord that adds to our collective story. At our beloved Community, let us create and share caring stories that affirm our interdependent web of all existence.

Masakhane, Janice

*"Masakhane" is a rich and resonant word from the Nguni family of languages of South Africa, of which Zulu and Xhosa are two. Loosely translated into English it means, "Let us build together."*

*The greatest gift you can give another is the purity of your attention.*

~ Richard Moss



**The Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist**

Web: Visit our website at [www.ccnyc.org](http://www.ccnyc.org) – Visit in person at 40 East 35th Street

Our Mission: TO GROW AS A CARING, JUSTICE-MAKING, ANTI-RACIST, DIVERSE, SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY