



REACH

The Newsletter of the

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield

A Welcoming Congregation

Services are held at the Fellowship Hall, corner of West 2nd & Linden Streets in Northfield. Childcare and children's religious education are provided.

April 2018 Theme: Renewal

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Sunday, April 1, 2018 • 10:00 a.m. • “Still a Beautiful World” • Rev. Kristin Maier • While we stay in the struggle for a better, more loving world, can we also see the many ways it is still a beautiful world?

Sunday, April 8, 2018 • 10:00 a.m. • “Service to Celebrate the Arts” • Guest Speaker • Join us to celebrate the creativity of our members and friends with a service to showcase their talents with readings and poems.

Sunday, April 15, 2018 • 10:00 a.m. • “Little Pieces of Heaven” • Rev. Kristin Maier • If we let our hearts lead us, where might we find little pieces of heaven in our midst? How might we be sustained and renewed by the gifts already in our presence? All are invited to stay after the service for our annual Stewardship Luncheon!

Sunday, April 22, 2018 • 10:00 a.m. • “Annual Earth Day Celebration” • Lay Lead • Join us for the annual Earth Day service. We will share readings, music, and have a Playful Mystery Play.

Sunday, April 29, 2018 • 11:00 a.m. • (at the Carleton College Chapel) • “Live from Your Dancing Place” • Rev. Kristin Maier • Everyone is welcome to join us for a Sunday service with the Carleton community. Come enjoy the beauty of the Carleton Chapel, a sermon from Rev. Kristin, and a potluck and May Pole dance following the service. If you are able, please bring a dish to pass. Note change of time and location!

Renewal of the Whole

by Rev. Kristin Maier

There is an oft repeated saying, that our bodies completely regenerate every seven years. Like many oft repeated sayings, reality is more complex.

It is true that we are organic beings and as such the whole of our body is undergoing a constant state of change. At every moment, we have cells being generated, growing, dying and being replaced.

For some parts of our bodies, this process cycles through far more rapidly than every seven years. The cells in the lining of our intestines will be completely brand new in a week or less. Our red blood cells will serve us for almost four months before new ones will be created to replace them. But other cells, like most of the neurons in our brain, we will rely upon for our entire lives.

No, our bodies are not completely replaced every seven years. And yes, we are organic beings for whom life requires a constant state of regeneration and renewal.

Just as the cells of our bodies need regeneration, our spirits do too. Amid the difficulties and stresses of life, we all need to renew our sense of our own wholeness and reinforce our connection to a greater whole.

Our cells renew themselves in different ways and times, and so do we as human beings. For some of us, spiritual renewal requires creating oases of quiet and space in a fully engaged (or perhaps overly engaged) life. For others of us, renewal requires a spark of discovery from some new or deeper engagement after too much quiet. Many of us need some combination of engagement and respite in different areas of our lives.

At UUFN, we have co-created a number of ways to renew the spirit. There are rich moments of silence we can sink into during services or in our small group "Sacred Circles." There are opportunities to stretch and grow through service and leadership, inside our congregation and beyond. There are opportunities every week to connect with others, to know we belong to a larger network of love and concern.

And like all organic creatures, our congregation needs regular renewal and regeneration too. This month we will have an opportunity to tend to this beloved community to ensure it continues to survive and thrive. Our Stewardship Luncheon on Sunday April 15th will be a celebration of our individual and collective financial support for our congregation.

And, as some leaders shift to new roles or places in life, new leaders will be called to bring their gifts forward. No one should feel compelled to give what they cannot, financially or energy-wise. But neither should we discount the impact we can have.

I often find myself astounded that a relatively small group of people sustains something as beautiful and life-giving as this community. No one person or family could sustain this congregation. It truly takes all of us giving as we are able. When we do, this beloved community continues to live, grow, and thrive.



Board Bits

This column is an ongoing feature regarding general business and actions taken by the UUFN Policy Board. Official minutes are filed by the secretary and are available upon inquiry.

The timeline of events for the upcoming Stewardship Campaign was decided on. The Pledge luncheon will be on Sunday, April 15th. The congregational annual meeting will be on May 20, 2018.

The UUA General Assembly 2018 takes place in Kansas City, MO, this year - June 22 through 24. **A Black Lives of UU Revival** also takes place in Kansas City, MO, on the weekend of April 27th at All Souls Unitarian Universalist church.

Karen Ratzlaff, Secretary

Annual Meeting and Stewardship Luncheon

We on the board have decided to change things up a bit this year. We've scheduled our Stewardship Luncheon as a culmination rather than the beginning of our stewardship campaign. So we'll be sharing our ideas for the next year through emails, phone calls and any other ways we can, instead of beginning the conversation at the annual luncheon.

We should all be delighted with the steps we've taken as a community this year to strengthen our programs and our capacity to serve: Expanded Sacred Circle groups; the wonderful Allies program; hiring an administrative assistant, to name a few.

We of course want to build on this growth next year. During April, as we discuss ideas for the 2018-19 year, we'll be encouraging all of us to reflect on the gifts of time, talent, and money that we can give to the UUFN community. Emails and letters with more information will be coming out soon.

Here are the key dates:

- Now through April 15th: Stewardship/Pledge Campaign
- April 15th: Annual Stewardship Luncheon ("bring your pledge to church day")
- April 22nd: Last date to turn in pledge forms
- May 6th: Proposed budget and annual meeting agenda circulated
- May 20th: Annual Membership Meeting

If you have any questions, any of the board members will be happy to answer them.



Tory the treasurer says ...

Thank you for being such a generous congregation!

The UUFN budget is healthy because of you. We are 2/3rds of the way through our fiscal year (just finished month 8 of 12) and we have received 70% of the total amount we pledged as a congregation. This is right on target and a sign of a fiscally healthy congregation. In addition to staying on track in our pledge contributions, we are rocketing through our plate collections. Half of what is collected each Sunday in the plate (that isn't a pledge) goes to the congregation and the other half goes to social justice organizations that share similar principles. We have already collected over 127% of what we estimated we'd collect for the entire fiscal year. We still have 4 months left to contribute!

Know that we are doing well financially. Know that you are making that happen. Thank you for your generosity and please continue as you are able.

Also, thanks for the additional help counting the plate.

Questions or comments? Please feel free to find me on a Sunday, or call (952-220-4885) or email me (torymborovsky@gmail.com).

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Children and Youth Programming

by James Coulter

The April Children and Youth Programming is still taking shape. Below are a few opportunities for the youth group. Please read James' email below and watch for email updates.

Sunday, April 15th or Sunday, April 22nd
Possible visit to Abubakar As-Saddique Islamic Center mosque in Faribault—watch for more information

Sunday, April 29th
Volunteer opportunity with the Three Links residents

From the Children & Youth Programming Director

Spring sprang, UU gang! Welcome to April! Over the past few months we have been working on two exciting opportunities for our youth group: a visit to the Abubakar As-Saddique Islamic Center mosque in Faribault, and a volunteer opportunity with Three Links.

On either April 15 or 22, the youth group will continue learning about religious tolerance as they visit the mosque in Faribault. Our friend, Najma Ahmed, will accompany us as a translator and guide.



On April 29, the youth group will have the opportunity to volunteer with the residents of Three Links. They will either be playing games with residents or engaging in semi-structured reminiscing.

We also want to thank Ben Ratzlaff for guiding discussions with the youth group around the denominations of Christianity.

The fun continues for our K-5 group as we wrap up our exploration of the seven UU Principles. April will be dedicated to learning about the 7th Principle – We Respect the Web of Life.

Thank you!

James Coulter, Director – CY Programs



Sunday Adult Services: A Look Ahead

**SUNDAY SERVICES/ACTIVITIES
FOR APRIL AND MAY 2018**
(Watch for updates - topics/speakers change)

- Sunday, April 1st** - Rev. Kristin Maier
- Sunday, April 8th** - Guest Speaker
- Sunday, April 15th** - Rev. Kristin Maier
- Sunday, April 22nd** - Earth Day Service
- Sunday, April 29th** - Rev. Kristin Maier



- Sunday, May 6th** - Rev. Kristin Maier
- Sunday, May 13th** - Lay Led
Mother's Day Service
- Sunday, May 20th** - Rev. Kristin Maier
UUFN Annual Meeting
- Sunday, May 27th** - Rev. Kristin Maier
Flower Communion
- Sunday, June 3rd**—Summer Services Start

UUFN Social Group

Our Dining Out group usually meets for breakfast on the second Saturday of the month and for lunch or dinner on the third Tuesday. We have had at least five participants for most meals.

In April there will be a slight change because we participate in the Prairie's Edge Humane Society dinner and auction.

This month's dates are:

Saturday, April 21st: Northfield Ballroom for the benefit dinner and auction. Check the Prairie's Edge Human Society website for details.

Saturday, April 28th: 8:00 am @ Perkins

Any and all are welcome to join us. You can let Marcia (mjacobs1939@gmail.com) or Brynda (mccoybrynda@gmail.com) know if you plan to come, or you can just stop in! For some places it is good to know how many to plan for to make sure we have enough seating. You can contact Marcia or Brynda if you have any questions.

See you for good food and conversation!

Chalice Lighters

Thank you to those who have signed up to light the chalice this spring!



CHALICE LIGHTERS FOR APRIL AND MAY:

April 1: Anna Hamilton
April 8: Larry Vorwerk
April 15: **Open**
April 22: Mija Van Der Wege
April 29: Carleton UUs

May 6: John Owens
May 13: Jeanne Agee
May 20: **Open**
May 27: **Open**

Many voices together make our Sunday services more vibrant. If you are willing to add your voice by lighting the chalice, email Kristin with your availability or sign up by clicking [here](#).

Thank you!

Kristin

Coffee Hour

Java and treats are an essential part of after service coffee hour. A heartfelt thank you to all who provide delicious refreshments to the congregation every Sunday!

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS FOR APRIL:

April 1: Mairi Doerr and Jon Fraz
April 8: Terry Stead and Brynda and Willis McCoy
April 15: Mija Van Der Wege and Kevin Chapman
April 22: Open
April 29: No coffee host needed. Service at Carleton



Help UUFN Grow by Welcoming Newcomers

UUFN is growing!! Greeters are a critical part of that growth We're grateful to those who greet every Sunday.



Ideally, two people greet each Sunday so one can take visitors with children to the nursery or RE. To help visitors feel more welcome, be sure they get an adhesive name tag and complete a visitor card. If you're not sure if someone's new or hasn't attended lately, just say, "I don't think I know you. Are you new?" If they say, "I'm a member", just say you are glad to meet them, direct them to the name tag board or offer an adhesive name tag. If you want to serve this critical function, please contact Brynda at: bryndamccoy@yahoo.com or 507-301-3021 or look for the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

GREETERS FOR APRIL:

April 1: Matt Thieding and Sharon Snyder-Thieding
April 8: Heather & Ben Ratzlaff
April 15: Bev & Lee Topp
April 22: Sara Coulter & Katrina DeYoung-Harper
April 29: SAM Hayman & Pat Clayton-Brown

Thank you to Thursday's Table Volunteers—March 2018

Thank you to our UUFN volunteers: Karen Ratzlaff, Matt and Sharon Snyder-Thieding, Marcia Jacobs, Carol and Bob Spear, Anna Hamilton, Connie Wersal-LaVelle, Gail Hendershot, Mairi Doerr, Larry Vorwerk, and Nita Wolf. (Some pictured here along with Thursday's Table supervisor, Brian Kopack.) There were 120 served that night!



Northfield Works and Allies Program

We are sponsoring and hosting the Northfield Community Action Center's "Allies" class that will run from April 2nd through May 21st for eight consecutive Mondays at our fellowship. Eight UUFN people have signed up to be mentors for this program and took the six-hour training. We will gather starting at 11:30 a.m., serve a lunch at 12:00 p.m., and then go through an already prepared curriculum to enhance life skills and work placement with "Northfield Works." Part of our commitment is to offer a free meal that the participants and mentors will share each week. You can show your support for the effort by signing up to provide part or all of a meal. **Please check the signup sheet in the social hall to see if part of a meal is needed or if you are willing to provide a lunch during this time.**

The participants will also receive \$15.00 gas and food certificates as an incentive to attend. Donations are appreciated if you feel so inclined. Watch for the Allies program to be our Share the Plate recipient in May, so that others can benefit from this life changing program in the future. Nita Wolf is the lead for this community service. She and her husband, Larry, are on-going volunteers for the "Northfield Works" program. If you have questions, contact Nita at 507-663-6109 or email her: nitawolf1@gmail.com.

Share the Plate

At a time when our natural environment is in desperate need of support and protection, we are watching safeguards being dismantled. This month, UUFN will be doing its part to join the effort to protect our natural environment by sharing the plate with *Save the Boundary Waters*. Selected by the Social Justice Gathering last summer, *Save the Boundary Waters* is working to protect the pristine and beautiful ecosystem that holds 20% of all of the fresh water in the National Forest System. Half of all funds put in the offering basket in April (unless marked "UUFN Pledge") will be donated to *Save the Boundary Waters* as they work to protect this fragile and precious corner of our planet. If you would like to donate direct, you can do so here: <https://www.savetheboundarywaters.org/donate>.

Thank you for giving as you are able!