



# 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.*

### **Minister**

Kristin Maier 651-285-0807  
minister@uunorthfield.org

### **Director - Children/Youth Programs**

James Coulter, 651-262-7939  
jcoulter@uunorthfield.org

### **Administrative Assistant**

Jennifer Whitson, (507)649-2756  
jwhitson@uunorthfield.org

### **Nursery Teacher**

Julie Bailly

### **President**

Beth Goodell, 507-301-3687  
goodellb@gmail.com

### **Vice-President**

John Owens, 507-645-8208  
507-581-1118 (cell)  
john.owens552@gmail.com

### **Treasurer**

Tory Borovsky  
toryborovsky@gmail.com

### **Secretary**

Karen Ratzlaff  
karenratz@frontiernet.net

### **Board Member-At-Large**

Kevin Chapman, 952-652-1515  
arkazae@gmail.com

### **Sunday Services**

Naomi Estes-Tullo, 651-258-4735  
NaomiET@Sleepyeyetel.net

### **Music**

Bev Topp 952-469-4859  
bevorleetopp@icloud.com

### **Membership**

Brynda McCoy, 618-520-4529  
bryndamccoy@yahoo.com

### **Facilities**

Open

### **Ministerial Liaison**

Lee Topp 952-469-4859  
bevorleetopp@frontiernet.net

## August 2018

**Services begin at 10:00 am at the Fellowship Hall unless noted otherwise.**

### **Sunday, August 5th • 10:00 a.m. • "What Don't I Know?" • Naomi Estes-Tullo**

We all know all the obvious signs of racism -- what about the subtle aspects, the things we absorb unconsciously and innocently as we grow up? What is it we don't know about ourselves and racism? These are some of the topics explored in the novel "Small Great Things" by Jodi Picoult. Explore racism through questions and quotes from this powerful novel.

### **Sunday, August 12th • 10:00 a.m. • "Grace, No Strings Attached" • Rev. Kristin Maier**

What's a religious liberal to do with grace? Do we allow other's problematic definitions prevent us from embracing a powerful human experience? Or, might we come to a new understanding of the gifts we receive but could never have earned ourselves?

### **Sunday, August 19th • 10:00 a.m. • "If You Can Walk, You Can Sidewalk" • Paul Krause**

Can we capture more moments of awe in our daily lives? Paul Krause has developed a walking meditation practice with that goal in mind. He'll share several principles that increase the possibility of having awe-filled experiences in a presentation that includes still images, sound, video clips and songs.

### **Sunday, August 26th • 10:00 a.m. • "Crusade for Forgotten Souls" • Susan Bartlett Foote**

An amazing, ordinary woman and a web of UU connections fuels the story told by Susan Foote of postwar efforts to reform Minnesota's mental health system. Foote makes the case that the seeds of change were laid by the daughter of poor Norwegian immigrants who worked as a low-paid aide in a mental hospital and persuaded a group of Unitarians to take on the reform mission. Professor Foote, emerita, University of Minnesota's School of Public Health, will share her personal connection to the story as well.

## Accept, Resist, Grieve, Find Joy

by Rev. Kristin Maier

*The following column appeared in July 28th Northfield News as the Faith Matters feature.*

It's not your imagination. Things are bad. The U.S. just experienced the highest May temperatures on record, as did places all over the globe. We've watched tender-aged children forcibly separated from their parents, many of whom were fleeing violence. We've seen almost daily acts of emboldened racism or the more subtle but persistent messages that people of color do not belong or are somehow inherently suspicious. And, the very tools of democracy that we rely on to address such problems are under attack.

You are in good company if your psyche is screaming "How can this be happening?" Sometimes it is so overwhelming that we are tempted to just block it all out. But when our conscience kicks in (any conscience still functioning) and tells us we have to pay attention, many of us find ourselves facing another danger – despair.

How can compassionate people move beyond despair when things seem so grim? For me, moving beyond despair begins with acceptance. Acceptance is not about condoning something; it's about fully taking in what has happened or is happening. Doing so invariably brings grief.

Many of us need to grieve the loss of the fairer and more loving world we thought we were moving toward. We need to grieve the environmental degradation that has already happened or has been set in motion. We need to grieve the (hopefully temporary) victory of self-interested and hardened hearts.

Though painful, grieving allows us to express the feelings already within us that are waiting to be acknowledged. Through that process, we make space in our hearts for other feelings – like resilience, like determination to keep stubbornly investing in a better future, like passion that fuels our resistance to dehumanization and greed.

I have found that when I find ways to resist cruelty and indifference, however modest those acts might be, I make room for more joy in my heart. We all

need that. Even the most committed servant of the good needs to play, to rejuvenate, to laugh, to remember what is beautiful and astonishing about this planet and life.

So yes, may we all accept, resist, grieve, find joy. If that feels easier said than done (of course it is), remember that it helps when we aren't doing it alone. Being in the presence of other compassionate and caring people working to change the world is a powerful antidote to despair.

Opportunities abound to engage in communities of people making a positive difference. I see that in my own faith community every day and in other faith communities too. I see that in citizen groups working to stop climate change, in local commissions working for human rights, in innumerable small groups of people who care.

If you are experiencing pain at the state of our world, you are not alone. If you are ready to do something about it (however small), you need not be alone either. Together we can accept, resist, grieve, and always make room to find more joy.

### 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.*

A vote overwhelmingly in favor of going forward with submitting a purchase agreement for the Jehovah's Witness church property on Lonsdale Boulevard, Bridgewater Township, happened at the congregational meeting after the service on July 22, 2018, at which there was a large turnout. Much thanks to all those who worked hard to gather, compile and present information so compellingly and thoroughly.

Tasks such as getting a building inspection, a water quality test, insurance coverage, mortgage loan, etc., remain to be done. Members of the board, the New Home Committee and others are working on gathering this information and/or arranging for these to be done.

*Karen Ratzlaff, Secretary*

## Share the Plate

This month, our Share the Plate recipient will be the **DARE Women's Foundation**. The Dare Women's Foundation works to empower Tanzanian women and girls, with a focus on rural areas, through poverty alleviation, social justice, economic empowerment, and gender equality. Funds donated to DARE Women's Foundation are used to transport women and children to critical medical care, to supply ecofriendly hygiene supplies to young girls so that they can attend school, to help women bring domestic violence or sexual assault cases to court, to enable women to establish their own small businesses, and to teach conservation.

Half of all funds put in the collection baskets in the month of August (unless marked UUFN Pledge) will be donated to DARE Women's Foundation. If you prefer to donate directly, you may do so here: <http://www.darewomensfoundation.org/donate.html>. Thank you for giving as you are able!

## 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](mailto:bryndamccoy@yahoo.com) or 507-301-3021 or look for the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

### **GREETERS FOR AUGUST:**

August 5: Sharon Snyder-Thielding & Matt Thielding  
 August 12: Connie Wesal-LaValle & Brynda McCoy  
 August 19: Janet & Bill McGrath  
 August 26: Jan Frasz and Robert Olson

## 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. Breakfasts are from 8:00—9:30 and dinners are usually at 5:30 p.m.

**Saturday, August 11th:** Breakfast at Ole Store

**Tuesday, August 21st:** Dinner at Applebees

**Saturday, September 13th:** Breakfast at Brick Oven Bakery

**Tuesday, September 23rd:** Dinner at Gran Plaza

If anyone has any ideas for November and December, please let us know.

Any and all are welcome to join the "regulars". You can let Marcia ([mjacob1939@gmail.com](mailto:mjacobs1939@gmail.com)) or Brynda ([mccoybrynda@gmail.com](mailto: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!

## Sunday Adult Services: A Look Ahead

### SUNDAY SERVICES/ACTIVITIES SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2018

(Watch for updates - topics/speakers change)

**Sunday, September 2** - TBD

**Sunday, September 9** - Rev. Kristin Maier

**Sunday, September 16** - Rev. Kristin Maier

**Sunday, September 23** - Member Led Equinox Service

**Sunday, September 30** - Guest Speaker

**Sunday, October 7** - Rev. Kristin Maier

**Sunday, October 14** - Guest Speaker at Carleton Chapel

**Sunday, October 21** - Rev. Kristin Maier

**Sunday, October 28** - Member Led