



REACH

The Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield
A Welcoming Congregation

Childcare and programs for children and youth available during the service.

Now Holding Services at:
5785 Lonsdale Blvd E
(Hwy 19 just west of Northfield)
Northfield, MN 55057

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 Baily

President

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

Vice-President

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

Treasurer

Tory Borovsky
toryborovsky@gmail.com

Secretary

Karen Ratzlaff
karenratz@frontiernet.net

Board Members-At-Large

Paul Krause, 507-581-3069
paulkrause@callingpaul.com
Sharon Snyder-Thieding, 507-744-5124
sashappy1@hotmail.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

December 2018

Theme: Generosity

Sunday, December 2nd • 10 a.m.

“Our Unitarian Roots” • Rev. Kristin Maier

Join us for the second installment of our series exploring our religious tradition of Unitarian Universalism. This week we will explore the roots of Unitarianism, its major turning points, and how our own individual beliefs resonate with its past and present.

Sunday, December 9th • 10:00 a.m. • “Healing at the Intersections of Identity, Culture, and Mental Health” • Guest Speaker—Omkar Sawardekar

This presentation explores the intersections of social identity, culture, and mental health. What can we learn from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to help us understand these intersections? How are institutional systems, policies, and practices at play? How can we facilitate individual and community healing?

Sunday, December 16th • 10:00 a.m.

“The Gifts of Present Day Unitarian Universalism” • Rev. Kristin Maier

In the final installment of our series exploring the roots of Unitarian Universalism, we will look at the implications of the 1961 merger of the two traditions. What does contemporary Unitarian Universalism offer? How does each of our own beliefs fit within the larger movement today? We will also welcome new members!

Sunday, December 23th • 10:00 a.m.

“Return of the Light—A Winter Solstice Celebration” • Barb and Paul Krause

You are invited to "Return of the Light--A Winter Solstice Celebration." Come and sing carols, light candles, and hear folktales from China, India, Venezuela, and Italy. The centerpiece for this gathering is a ritual designed by Naomi Estes-Tullo. As we come together, we love, laugh, and build community.

Monday, December 24th • 4:00 p.m. • Christmas Eve

“Candlelit Christmas Eve Service” • Rev. Kristin Maier

As the sky darkens, join us for a Christmas Eve service with a blend of traditional and contemporary readings, stories, and carols along with music from David Miller and others. We will celebrate the birth of one special child and the holiness of every child. If you are able, please bring a plate of cookies or snacks to share after the service.

Sunday, December 30th • 10:00 a.m.

“Burning Bowl Ceremony” • Paul Krause

This Sunday service will feature a Burning Bowl Ceremony. An opportunity to dispose of those things that are past and gone from your life and allow you to embrace the moment and all the moments to come without encumbrances. Paul Krause will oversee the ceremony and (hopefully) provide some interesting new ways to meet those pesky New Year's resolutions with confidence and grace. (Please note: Given our recent history with fire, Krause ensures us that select UUFN regulars will be present with high quality fire extinguishers.)

A Blessing

by Rev. Kristin Maier

In these dark days of early winter, may your spirit be full enough to share light with someone else who craves it.

May the gifts you give a loved one be wrapped with more warm thoughts than plastic packaging.

May any presents you receive be properly perceived as love masquerading in the guise of funny sweaters or winter socks.



If the extra doing, planning, running of the holidays and the New Year begin to press upon you, may you remember that what matters most is the human connection made through a handshake, a hug, a smile.

When you cook a daily meal or holiday fare, may your own soul be nourished by the act of preparing sustenance for another.

If you are served pumpkin pie that is too brown or stuffing that is too dry, may you receive it as a feast fit for royalty, as surely many around the world would.

If the cranberry sauce is perfectly tart and the decorations exquisite, savor them like the ephemeral delights they are.

If you carry a deep sadness this December, may you find ways to comfort your own heart and allow the concern of others to blanket your weary soul in love.

May you remember those who are less fortunate, know in your bones that they are no different than you, and give as you are able so they might suffer less.

Whatever holidays you celebrate, may you experience an internal abundance that cannot be defined or limited by wealth or power. May you find bright joy, deep peace, and the generosity of spirit to share it with others.

Sunday Adult Services: A Look Ahead

SUNDAY SERVICES/ACTIVITIES DECEMBER 2018, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2019

(Watch for updates - topics/speakers change)

- December 2:** Rev. Kristin Maier
December 9: Member Led—Guest Speaker
December 16: Rev. Kristin Maier
December 23: Member Led Solstice Service—
Barb and Paul Krause
December 24: Rev. Kristin Maier—Christmas
Eve @ 4:00 p.m.
December 30: Member Led—Paul Krause
- January 6:** Rev. Kristin Maier
January 13: Rev. Kristin Maier
January 20: Member Led—Nita Wolf
January 27: Rev. Kristin Maier
- February 3:** Member Led—Kevin Chapman
February 10: Rev. Kristin Maier
February 17: Member Led—Sharon Snyder
February 24: Rev. Kristin Maier

Invitation to Join UUFN

This nurturing, hopeful community exists because each member has made the commitment to belong. We would love to welcome you into our community also. Joining is simple, it requires signing the book and making a “contribution of record” of any size or form. The benefits of belonging are endless. We will welcome new members during the December 16th service. Contact Rev. Kristin Maier at 651-285-0807 or minister@uunorthfield.org to become one of those we welcome or to learn more.

From the Children & Youth Programs Director

*Wahrlich, keiner ist weise,
Der nicht das Dunkle kennt,
Das unentrinnbar und leise
Von allen ihn trennt.*



Truly, no one is wise
Who has not known the darkness
That quietly and inescapably
Separates him from everything else.

—Hermann Hesse, Im Nebel from Unterwegs
(1911) in: Gesammelte Schriften, vol. 5, p. 517 (J.C.
transl.)

This time of year, my classroom discussions turn towards the Winter Solstice. We talk about all the fun things we like to do in the winter: ice skating, snow ball fights, drinking hot cocoa, etc. I help our UUFN students recognize the joy that is to be had in this season.

But I also remind them that life was hard for our ancestors. Being so closely tied to the land, that a good or bad harvest could mean the difference between life and death for many. When summer turned to fall, and fall to winter, there was a certain level of heightened anxiety. Winter was no joke, I tell the kids. People starved to death, died in transit, froze and lost digits, were isolated when they needed medical attention. Winter, to many, was something to be feared. And in the depths of the longest nights and shortest days, people looked for signs of hope...anything to tell them that the darkness was passing.

They recognized that starting around December 21, the days would grow longer, the sun would arc higher and higher in the sky. It was a sign of hope. *Sol Invictus...* the Unconquered Sun. *Mundi Luminare...* the Light of the World is reborn. Joy to the world, they knew they would make it through.

Wearing my other hat (as a social worker with Rice County Social Services) I see a lot of darkness. A lot of darkness. But I'm constantly reminded of the perseverance of the human spirit in the children I

serve. That "Little Light" of theirs, they let it shine out in the darkness. And with the help of incredibly compassionate people, and trained professionals, many push forward with grit and an innate determination, refusing to let their light be conquered.

No matter how dark our world gets...that light, that fire, that *Sol Invictus* or "soul invictus", that bright spark of the human spirit I see in *all* children...that is my Winter Solstice, that is my sign of hope.

Thank you for the wonderful gift and privilege of being able to work with the children of this congregation!

All the best...

James Coulter

Children and Youth Programs

Sunday, December 2

K-4/5: Dr. Seuss and the 7 UU Principles

Youth Group: Unitarian History service with discussion after

Sunday, December 9

K-4/5: Dr. Seuss and the 7 UU Principles

Youth Group: Spiritual Practice Yoga

Sunday, December 16

K-4/5: Winter Solstice Craft Day

Youth Group: UU History service with discussion after

Sunday, December 23

All Groups: Winter Solstice

Monday, December 24

All Groups: Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 30

No Children and Youth Group Programs

UUFN Social Group

We had six diners at the Brick Oven for breakfast and also at Kahlo. The food was great and the salads at Kahlo too generous!

Tuesday, December 18: Time to be determined. St. Olaf Kings' Dining Room Holiday buffet lunch. Please RSVP to Marcia if you plan to attend. We usually reserve a round table for eight. It is an exquisite buffet of Bon Appetite foods and Scandinavian deliciousness!

Anyone is welcome to show up at any event; breakfast 8:00 - 9:30, lunch 11:30 - 1:00, dinner 5:30 - 7:00. Email Marcia if you plan to come, have any questions, or just stop on by if it works for you. See you for good food and conversation!

Marcia (mjacobs1939@gmail.com)

Wanted: Coffee Hosts!

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! There will be a sign-up sheet on a clipboard near the treat table on Sunday. Please check your calendars and sign up or let Marcia know when you can be hosts.



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS FOR DECEMBER:

December 2: Katrina DeYoung-Harper and Anna Hamilton

December 9: Ratzlaff Family

December 16: Nita Wolf and Larry Vorwerk and Bill and Janet McGrath

December 23: Open

December 24: Christmas Eve—cookies and drinks by everyone

December 30: Open



Volunteer Opportunity

Dear Friends,

As we look forward to the season of giving and receiving with grateful hearts and full tummys from Stone Soup Sunday, I have a volunteer opportunity for you. I am heading up the first phase of our remodel which is basic preparation for things to come. It involves removing some of the built-ins that will not serve our future needs. I hope to get a crew together to work the week of December 3. At this point the days and times are open and will be figured out once I know volunteer's schedule. It will probably take a few days depending on our crew size. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact me at connietocreate@hotmail.com or phone number 952-758-7650. I, personally, can't think of a more rewarding way to give than at my spiritual center.

Thanks,
Connie Wersal-LaVelle
New Home team member



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 Katrina at: kdh5of9@gmail.com or 507-581-2530 or look for the sign-up sheet.

GREETERS FOR DECEMBER:

December 2: Larry Vorwerk and Nita Wolf

December 9: Paul and Barbara Krause

December 16: Jeff and Connie Wersal-LaVelle

December 23: Jeanne Agee and Mairi Doerr

December 30: Jeff and Connie Wersal-LaVelle

December Share the Plate

A Unitarian Universalist colleague and dear friend of mine from seminary recently traveled to Tornillo, Texas to witness the plight of immigrant children being held in detention by the US government. She and other clergy and lay leaders from many traditions drew attention to the thousand or so children still being held in tents. She was encouraged to witness in part by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

The Unitarian Universalist Committee (UUSC) has been working tirelessly to provide a truly humanitarian response amid ugly and dehumanizing rhetoric aimed at families and individuals fleeing violence in Central America. They are working with partners in Mexico and Honduras to provide support for those seeking asylum, to witness their treatment, and to educate the US public about the realities of those fleeing violence.

Though not all of us may be free to travel to the border, we can all support the UUSC's effort through giving as we are able, educating ourselves, and speaking out. More can be learned about the migrant caravan here: <https://www.uusc.org/four-things-you-should-know-about-the-central-american-caravans/>.

To support the UUSC's effort, half of everything placed in the offering baskets during the month of December (unless marked UUFN Pledge on the memo line) will be given to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee to continue their work for immigrants and the vulnerable in the US and abroad. Thank you for giving as you are able.

November Share the Plate Results

UUFN raised \$248.12 for
Everytown for gun safety.

Big financial things happened during the month of October at UUFN.

1. We purchased a new building. We now have a home of our own. The transaction date was 10/19/18 and must mark one of the bigger events in our Northfield UU history. Thank you all for being a part of this wonderful transition.
2. We received a \$25,000 grant from UUA for our new home.

Incoming: \$32,238 (higher than average due to \$25,000 grant)

Outgoing: \$55,898 (higher than average due to \$50,000 transfer from checking to saving for new building purchase)



Guest at Your Table Boxes

UUFN will again be participating in the UUSC's Guest at Your Table program. Starting December 2nd, you can pick up your box to place on your dining room table as a symbol of the families in need of our support. Place your spare change or dollars in the box at the end of each day (or a check made out to UUSC). All funds donated via the Guest at Your Table Box will be sent to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee to support their work defending human rights and providing humanitarian relief in the US, at our borders, and abroad. Bring your filled boxes to the Christmas Eve Service, the December 30th service, or by January 6th. Thank you for giving as you are able!



“It Takes a Village to Build a New Home”

The process of moving in to our new church home has reminded me of having children in that it's exciting, exhausting and humbling all at the same time. It is also similar in that our church family has more responsibilities now and it takes a village full of volunteers to do everything. Thank you to all of you who got us to this point!

The process of growing into our new home will continue for a while, and I wanted to take a moment to let folks know what's yet to come.

The New Home group and Kristin will continue to experiment with things like how we arrange the chairs, how we configure ourselves during Spirit of Life, and how much plastic we have on the floor in our social space. The New Home and Facilities groups will be contracting for a cleaning service and a snow plowing service and mounting a board for storing our nametags, etc.

There are also a few bigger changes on the horizon. As we discussed during the process for deciding to buy the building, we know that we need to install an elevator and that we need to make a few changes in the office and on the lower level to accommodate our social needs and those of our children and youth. The elevator has been ordered and will be installed in the corner of the sanctuary near the stairs. You are welcome to ask Lee Topp for more detail.

Before the fire, Connie Wersal-LaVelle had designed a renovation for the basement with the hope it could happen during the elevator installation. Since we had to move in quickly, we put the coffee hour upstairs and have realized that our current attendance won't fit comfortably downstairs, at least not for long.

As a result, we are planning to hire an architect to help us be sure that our near-term changes (to the basement and new septic tanks, due in the spring) don't preclude future possibilities for hosting the social and educational programming that our community values so highly.

The first step in that process is a set of listening sessions to identify the hopes and dreams of members of the congregation. Kristin will be facilitating these sessions, which we expect will happen after the service on December 9th and 16th and perhaps one evening between those Sundays. Stay tuned for more details.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact Lee, Connie or me with any questions or concerns. It really does take a village, and I'm very grateful to be in community with all of you.





Stone Soup Preparation

November 24, 2018

