



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.

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May 2018 Theme: Flourishing

**Sunday, May 6, 2018 • 10:00 a.m. • “Flourishing Anyway” •
Rev. Kristin Maier**

There are probably a thousand and one reasons to believe we cannot flourish in these days. What would it look like if we did so anyway and invited everyone along for the ride?

All are invited to the Stewardship Luncheon following the service. We will celebrate the many ways our members support UUFN financially and with our talents and energy.

Sunday, May 13, 2018 • 10:00 a.m. • “Mother’s—How Do They Do It All??!” • Naomi Estes-Tullo

Join us to celebrate Moms and their heroic accomplishments—with a nod to all who fill this nurturing and supporting role. There will be some music, some silliness, and a lot of gratitude.

Sunday, May 20, 2018 • 10:00 a.m. • “Changing the World, Starting with Us” • Rev. Kristin Maier

If we are to transform this world into a place where we can all thrive, in what ways are we called to start with our own transformation? All UUFN members are asked to stay after for our annual meeting. Help us reach a quorum, approve next year's budget, and keep UUFN thriving!

**Sunday, May 27, 2018 • 10:00 a.m. • Flower Communion •
Rev. Kristin Maier**

Bring a flower from your garden, the market, or the roadside and join us for story, song and our annual Flower Communion. Together we will pause to appreciate and celebrate the life blossoming around us and recommit ourselves to helping our natural world flourish.

When They Flourish, We All Flourish

by Rev. Kristin Maier

I had the absolute delight of being asked to teach UUFN's K-5 class on a recent Sunday. I immediately agreed – what a treat to be with our congregation's children! On the appointed day though, fluke scheduling conflicts for a couple of our families meant it was just me and one child. What would it be like with just one kid? Would it be awkward?

We sat down, lit our chalice (immediately blowing it out for fire safety!), and shared our joys and concerns. Then, before I could pull out the books on our 7th UU principle, respect for the interdependent web of existence, my one student quickly and passionately told me he loves weevils.

"Weevils?" I asked, quickly scanning my personal knowledge of weevils – which began and ended with bugs found in flour.

"Yes," my young friend told me with complete earnestness. "I love weevils." He asked me if I had my phone and quickly found a picture of the creature – also known as a snout beetle.

"Ah!" I said. "It's a beetle. Many beetles play an important role in pollination, so we can have flowers and fruits." I've learned enough about nature to know if something has developed and survived in nature, it is surely interconnected with things I more easily appreciate.

As we sat side-by-side, I tried to look at the picture of the snout beetle through the eyes of this young person. At the right angle, its curved snout was kind of cute. As we read through the assigned story book "If I Ran the Rainforest," we imagined where beetles might be hiding behind the lush foliage on the page. We talked about how we are connected to places all around the world, how we can be a part of protecting the rainforest and other ecosystems that support creatures we love (for him, the many beetles in the rainforest).

We had a grand time – and it wasn't awkward at all! That fluke of family scheduling turned into a wonderful opportunity to give my full attention to one child. James Coulter and I agreed that every year we would schedule me into the rotation with each group of kids, to help knit our community together.

Actually, we will need every available adult to help our Children and Youth Program thrive. We currently have only a handful of teachers who have completed the volunteer packet and background check process necessary for teaching at our congregation.

Next year, in order to better meet the developmental needs of all our children and youth, we will be expanding into three classrooms – high school, middle school, elementary – plus the nursery. We know this will take more planning, effort, and more adults who are willing to step into the role of teacher, but we also know it is exactly the right thing to do. A mature community understands the importance of supporting its young people and offering them a solid spiritual and ethical foundation. When our children and youth flourish, we all do.

It's easy to be a part of the effort. Becoming a UUFN volunteer teacher does not require a degree in child development or any professional experience. Anyone who can pass a background check and is willing to bring kindness, curiosity, and a little patience is a perfect candidate. And you just might learn something along the way – perhaps about snout beetles.

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.

May is a busy and important month in the UUFN church year calendar. At the re-scheduled Stewardship Luncheon on May 6th, members will be availed of the many volunteer opportunities available - look for the sign up sheets! The budget for next budget year will also be released. On May 20th we hold our annual meeting and welcome new members to our fold.

Our congregation was able to donate \$450.15 to the Community Action Council Food Shelf as a result of March Share-the-Plate donations - we can be proud of our generosity!

Karen Ratzlaff, Secretary

Sunday Adult Services: A Look Ahead

SUNDAY SERVICES/ACTIVITIES FOR JUNE AND JULY 2018

(Watch for updates - topics/speakers change)

Details for the services for July 8—September 2 will be available soon.

Each service begins at 10:00 a.m. at the Fellowship Hall unless noted otherwise.

Sunday, June 3rd: Summer Services Start “Blessing of the Animals” Janet Scannel with Alison Goodell and Brian Goodell. We’ll celebrate the animals in our lived. We’ll be asking you to email photos of your special critters so we can share them during the service.

Sunday, June 10th: A musical service with Larry McDonough. Theme to be announced.

Sunday, June 17: “Knowing and Naming the Holy” Rev. Kristin Maier. What experiences bring us in touch with what we understand as sacred and holy? Once experienced, how do we name that holiness—God, Love, Being, Mother, Father, Life? What does it mean if you and I name it differently?

Sunday, June 24th: “Shaped by Light” Barbara Krause. Over eons of time, light has mystified and delighted us. In honor of the summer solstice, we will explore how this universal constant defines, influences and guides us. With music by Paul Krause.

Sunday, July 1st: Pot luck picnic by the lake at the home of Mairi Doerr, 29555 23rd Avenue Way, Cannon Falls. Starting at 11:00 a.m. Bring food to share.

Sunday Earth Day Service, April 22 Picture taken during the Playful Mystery Play

Pictured are: Paul Krause, Katrina DeYoung-Harper, Hawken Rives and Barbara Krause



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

Saturday, May 12th: Breakfast at the Quarterback Club. We have had dinner there before, but not breakfast.

Tuesday, May 22nd: Dinner at the Mandarin Garden Restaurant

Saturday, June 9th: Breakfast at Just Food Co-op. This is something new for them and us.

Tuesday, June 19th: Dinner at Imminent Brewing. We are exploring another new venue.

Any and all are welcome to join the “regulars”. 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 MAY:

- 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 MAY:

- May 6: Board Luncheon/Sharon and Matt Thieding
- May 13: Anna Hamilton
- May 20: Azna Amira
- May 27: Brynda and Willis McCoy and Terry Stead



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 MAY:

- May 6: Kevin and Catriona Chapman
- May 13: Allison and Brian Goodell
- May 20: Katrina De-Young-Harper
- May 27: Kaija Maier & Sara Coulter

Children and Youth Programming

by James Coulter

Sunday, May 6th

K-5: What Do You Believe,
with the Youth Group as
Guest



Sunday, May 13th:

K-5: TBA

Youth Group: Catholicism
with guest Mija VanDerWege

Sunday, May 20th:

K-5: Picture Book UU

Youth Group: Catholicism guest speaker

Sunday, May 27:

Multigenerational Service—End of the CYP Year!

Share the Plate

This month, our Share the Plate recipient will be the Allies Program, part of the Northfield Works effort of the Community Action Center of Northfield. Northfield Works is a community job partnership program. Its mission is to end poverty one job at a time by providing job training and placement for those experiencing low-income, underemployment, or unemployment in the Northfield area. For the past several weeks, a small group of UUFN members have been meeting weekly with Community Action Center clients to provide support and mentoring. By sharing the plate with the Allies program, we will help to make sure that others have this opportunity in the future.

Thank you for giving as you are able!

Social Justice Planning Ahead!

Watch for an upcoming date in late May or early June so that we can choose Share the Plate recipients and identify social justice efforts for the coming year. Nominations for any 501(c)3 organization doing the work of our principles can be nominated and the group as a whole will discuss and decide on the designees. As always, if it turns out you are unable to attend the planning meeting you can send your nominations for Share the Plate recipients ahead of time to Rev. Kristin. Everyone welcome!



The UUFN Choir always has fun when they are together – and is always ready to welcome new voices!

Music Notes

Music— how sweet it is! Our choir, pianists and special music guests hope you have enjoyed our music so far this year. I often wonder as I ponder this special gift from the universe, who enjoys music more, the people listening or the performer(s). To me, it is the universal language of expressing one’s soul or deepest mysteries while making special connections with others.

Our choir has, again, worked hard while having a good time and making deeper connections this year. Even when folks are gone or vacationing, etc. we have always managed to find the voices to carry our music message to church on Sundays.

Our sadness is that Suzannah will be leaving to fulfill her and Bob’s desire to be closer to family and some of their roots. She has always been so faithful to our group and has brought just the right energy to whatever our music has demanded of us. While we have so many wonderful talents to continue our music, her contributions to all the UUFN music and our appreciation for that gift will not easily be set aside. But we happily send her off with warm wishes for a successful transition to a new life!

If you have been holding a singing talent or an instrumental skill “close to your chest”, but have a bit of a yearning to share it with UUFN, please let me know. We are a specially accommodating group and believe that joy is the first requirement as the choir works to master the music we share. We will help to make the time commitment work for you!

Thank you for the opportunity to coordinate the special music of so many talented people and to lead the beautiful people who are the choir.