



# REACH

The Newsletter of the

## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield

A Welcoming Congregation

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*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 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, 952-210-7167  
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

## September 2018

### Theme: Transformation

**Sunday, September 2nd • 11:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m. •**

**UUFN Potluck picnic at Tory and Brian Borovsky's home**

Tory, Brian and Carter Borovsky, and Tory's parents Jane and Howard Schroeder, have generously offered to host UUFN's Labor Day gathering at **825 Superior Drive, Northfield from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.** No service that day, but we are all invited to Tory and Brian's home for a potluck picnic and games. Please bring a dish to share. Tory and Brian will fire up their grill, so bring something to grill if you'd like. They will also have water and lemonade. Also bring, if you can: A couple of lawn chairs; outdoor games. **Please RSVP directly to Tory: [torymborovsky@gmail.com](mailto:torymborovsky@gmail.com).** Let her know how many will be coming and what food you'll bring. Happy Labor Day to all!

**Sunday, September 9th • 10:00 a.m. • “The Transformative Power of Water”**

**Rev. Kristin Maier**

Join us for a multigenerational service of story, song and message that honors the transformative and life-giving power of water. Everyone is invited to bring a small container of water from a source you experience as sacred (a river, lake, your kitchen tap, or garden hose) for our annual Water Communion. We will use the combined waters to nourish our apple trees.

**Sunday, September 16th • 10:00 a.m. • “Heaven in our Midst”**

**Rev. Kristin Maier**

In what ways can we experience little pieces of heaven right in our midst – in a moment of kindness, in an expression of care? When we open ourselves to such moments, how might we find ourselves transformed?

**Sunday, September 23rd • 10:00 a.m. • “HONORING THE AUTUMNAL EQUINOX” • Naomi Estes-Tullo**

Join us to celebrate the balance of the equinox -- the light is perfectly poised between day and night, each one exactly equal (or theoretically . . .). So what does that mean for us?

**Sunday, September 30th • 10:00 a.m. • Guest Speaker**

Throughout the year, UUFN invites guest speakers to offer a unique perspective about spirituality, social justice concerns, or the life of our larger community. A guest speaker is currently be arranged for this date and will be announced soon through our website and social media.

## Season of Transformation

by Rev. Kristin Maier

The theme for the month of September is transformation, chosen in part because transformation is exactly what we are experiencing right now as a religious community.

As you read this, the Board and New Home Committee are working diligently to execute the purchase of a new building for UUFN. The new space will provide room for the new members who joined us this summer and the newcomers we anticipate seeing this fall. We will also be making changes to the building so that it will be fully accessible to all who want to walk or roll through our doors.



Meanwhile, we are working hard to expand our programs for children and youth so that each young person can explore the big questions of life in developmentally appropriate ways. Many adults will be engaging in our own continued growth through a four-part dialogue series that invites us to openly talk about death and loss with the goal of more fully embracing life. So yes, we are definitely in a season of transformation at UUFN.

Transformation invariably invites the unknown into our lives. Even when the transformation is positive and the result of years of intentional action, significant questions arise. Who we will be on the other side of this transformation? What will change? What will endure?

And yet, any external change we might face holds within it an opportunity to better understand who we are, to more fully appreciate what is most important, and to live with more integrity. The poet, Joanne Kyger once wrote, "...the world always goes on, breaking us with its changes until our form, exhausted, runs true."

While our physical building might change, our practice of genuinely welcoming all who are seeking community can continue and even widen. Though the logistics of being together as a growing congregation might shift, our ethic of care and concern for everyone can grow even stronger. Those who are physically present in our day-to-day

lives might change, but our love for those present and remembered need only deepen with time.

Change is inevitable – it is the very nature of life and the universe as a whole. Change is also a chance to allow ourselves to be transformed into the people and the community we long to be – our truest selves. I am looking forward to our continued transformation together.

## Sunday Adult Services: A Look Ahead

### SUNDAY SERVICES/ACTIVITIES SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2018

(Watch for updates - topics/speakers change)

**Sunday, September 2** - No service—Potluck picnic at Tory and Brian Borovsky's home  
**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

**Sunday, November 4:** Rev. Kristin Maier  
**Sunday, November 11:** Member Led  
**Sunday, November 18:** Rev. Kristin Maier  
**Sunday, November 25:** Member Led

## Memorial Service for Phil Agee

The memorial service for Phil Agee will be at our church (113 Linden Street South, Northfield) at **11:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 15** with a light luncheon to follow. The family will be at the church to greet people at 10:15 a.m.

## Children and Youth Programs

by James Coulter

**Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**

**All Groups:** Multigenerational Service Water Communion

**Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Children's Classes (K-4):** Fall Equinox Craft Day  
**Riddle and Mystery (middle school youth):** TBD  
**Coming of Age (high school youth):** Kick-Off

**Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Children's Classes (K-4):** Fall Equinox Craft Day  
**Riddle and Mystery (middle school youth):** TBD  
**Coming of Age (high school youth):** TBD

**Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Children's Classes (K-4):** TBD  
**Riddle and Mystery (middle school youth):** TBD  
**Coming of Age (high school youth):** TBD

## From the Children & Youth Programs Director

Welcome back!

I hope you had a wonderful summer! The Children and Youth Program will look a little different this year. We've restructured the program into three groups: K – 4, middle school, and high school.

This helps us provide a program that more effectively meets the needs of our students. Each program will have program leaders who will schedule lessons, manage volunteer teachers and lead lessons themselves.

Interested in volunteering your time with our students? Or just simply want to learn more about what we're offering this year? Take a look at the program overviews below:

### Coming of Age (high school youth)

The Coming of Age program at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield is an opportunity for youth in grades 9 – 12 to explore and articulate their own genuine spiritual and ethical beliefs. Working from examples of Unitarian Universalist and other religious and ethical thinkers, each youth will be encouraged to develop and deepen their own authentic understanding of life's big questions. Beginning in September of 2018,



the youth will meet most Sunday mornings at 10 am to explore themes of spiritual practices, understanding life and death, social justice, principles and ethics, finding purpose, and making meaning in one's life. The year will include opportunities to engage with various spiritual practices, service learning experiences, group reflections and fun activities to build cohesion and friendships.

### Riddle and Mystery (middle school youth)

By middle school (5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade), young people are already beginning to grapple with some of life's big questions. The Riddle and Mystery curriculum engages youth through creative and age-appropriate activities, stories, and discussions to help them explore their own curiosities and understandings. Unitarian Universalism offers the youth and their adult leaders a wealth of resources to engage questions such as: "Where did life come from?" "Does God exist/what is God?" "Is life fair?" "Why do bad things happen?" "How Can I Know Right from Wrong?" "What is Truth?" "How am I connected with everything else?" Special emphasis is placed on helping the youth create a mutually supportive and fun classroom experience for everyone.

### Children's Classes (kindergarten to 4<sup>th</sup> grade)

Sunday lessons for children in kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> Grade focus on building character and a positive connection to our world and community. Our curriculum explores the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism as well as stories from the bible, the world's religions, and contemporary society. We strive to foster each child's personal spiritual development through community ritual, storytelling, music, creative play, and simple meditation with the goal of teaching positive values and building an experience of belonging.

### Childcare

As a service to parents attending our Sunday Service, we provide nursery care for children ages 6 months to 4 years. Our childcare provider has many years of experience both professionally and as a parent.

### Registration

Children and Youth Programs are open to all children of UUFN members with additional slots available to those families not affiliated with the congregation. To register your child(ren) or learn more about the upcoming programs at UUFN, please contact the Director of Children and Youth Programs, James Coulter ([jcoulter@uunorthfield.org](mailto:jcoulter@uunorthfield.org)) or Rev. Kristin Maier ([minister@uunorthfield.org](mailto:minister@uunorthfield.org)).

Thank you!

*James Coulter, Director – CY Programs*

## 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, September 8th:** Breakfast at Brick Oven Bakery

**Tuesday, September 18th:** Lunch at Noon at Kahlo (Maria's Taco Hut) 306 Division Street South

**Saturday, October 13th:** Breakfast at The Tavern Restaurant

**Tuesday, October 23rd:** Dinner at Tanzenwald Brewery

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) or Brynda (mccoymbrynda@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.

### 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.*

An August board meeting was not held due to members' busy summer schedules but it can be reported that the building inspection of the Jehovah's Witness church was completed. The non-compliance of the septic system was the major issue - the sellers will be bringing the system into compliance within the agreed-upon time frame. The Board and New Home Committee are working to address other findings of the inspection before the scheduled closing date in September.

*Karen Ratzlaff, Secretary*



## Wanted: Coffee Hosts!

**Duties:** Make a gigantic pot of UU-strength coffee (instructions, coffee, and coffee-maker provided). Provide simple snacks (something savory, something sweet). Clean-up afterward (environmentally-trendy reusable dishes and composting now available).

**Glamour Level:** Low. (Note: Glamour level can be improved by wearing a *fabulous* apron!)

**Impact:** High! (Coffee and treats provide an atmosphere conducive to human connection. Members, friends, and newcomers can know one another and be known through listening and sharing.)

**Sign-up today in the downstairs coffee area!**

**Advancement Available:** We are currently looking for an additional *Coffee Host Coordinator* to share responsibilities for sign-ups and reminders. Speak with Kristin Maier or Marcia Jacobs to learn more.

## 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: bryndamcco@yahoo.com or 507-301-3021 or look for the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

### GREETERS FOR SEPTEMBER:

- Sept. 2: None needed
- Sept. 9: Bev and Lee Topp
- Sept. 16: Matt and Sharon Snyder Thieling
- Sept. 23: Nita Wolf and Larry Vorwerk
- Sept. 30: Tory Borovsky and Karen Ratzlaff

## Share the Plate

Each week, we seem to receive some news of people or animals or a natural landscape being forever altered by climate change. Our hearts go out to those we see battling wildfires, recovering from floods, or needing to leave their homes because of rising sea levels. One of the most loving things we can do in response to these events is to dedicate ourselves wholeheartedly to the effort to stop climate change.

In a modest way, our congregation will be doing that this month as we give half of whatever is put in our offering baskets (unless marked UUFN pledge) to MN 350, an organization working to mobilize all of us to reverse global warming. (If you want donate directly, you may do so here: <https://www.mn350.org/make-a-donation/>.)

The goal of MN 350 is to return our climate to the safe level of 350 ppm of CO2 or lower. The organization believes that this goal will be achieved through a “fundamental shift in our society, such that climate justice and sustainability for all living species is the lens by which all behavioral, political, economic, and social decisions are made.” Thank you for giving what you are able to help MN 350 help all of us in this effort.

## Thursday's Table September 27th

Thursday's Table has free dinners for the community every Thursday evening. UUFN has signed up again to supply volunteers twice this year. We will need about six people to help with the dinner on **September 27<sup>th</sup>**. Please consider helping with the meal, mainly for set up and clean up.

To volunteer, please contact Nita Wolf at 507-663-6109 or [nitawolf1@gmail.com](mailto:nitawolf1@gmail.com).

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

September is the beginning of a new program year and as we begin I'd like to thank all those who sent us feedback about last year's services. It may not surprise you to hear that there was a wide variety of responses to what was offered. For some services, activities, and weekly elements we heard both that some people loved it and others really did NOT. Please know that we did hear you and will do our best to honor your feedback and balance the needs and wants of our members.

There was some consensus in the responses. Many people said they appreciate the heart-centered feel of our services and that they like services to be thought provoking and uplifting rather than too intellectual or edgy. There was support for the monthly themes and how they are tied to the Sacred Circle groups. People said they like that we show everyone we are a welcoming community with what is said in our services and our actions toward new comers and each other. We also heard that many people appreciate when the service begins promptly at 10 am and ends close to 11 am.

Again, we appreciate your comments. Many of you let us know on a regular basis that you like (and in some cases like less) our services as they are offered – thank you. Our Sunday Services Planning group includes Bev Topp, Bill McGrath, Azna Amira, Bob Spear, Mairi Doerr and Anna Hamilton. Others who attended our brainstorming session this year are Sharon Snyder, Lois Burnes, Barbara and Paul Krause, and Shodo Spring. Thank you to each of you for your time and commitment.

Written by Naomi Estes-Tullo  
Sunday Services Planning Chair

*🎵 Love to sing? Can  
carry a tune? Willing  
to maybe learn parts?  
Choir practice starts this  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29  
at the church at 7:00! 🎵*

YIKES!...You want me to do what? Attend *me! die?*<sup>TM</sup> and TALK about dying and death?

Thoughts from *ordinary people* about loss, dying, and death:

\*It's gonna happen, so I'll deal with it when it comes and not a minute sooner. Who needs preparation?

\*I am not afraid of death; I'm afraid of how I will die.

\*Where do you think they get the expression, "Scared to death"?

\*Death is a private matter, so I won't discuss it in public.

\*My faith/minister, pastor, priest/friends/bible verses/religious symbols will get me through this awful time.

Contrast them with thoughts about loss, dying, and death from *extraordinary people* (ordinary people whose names happen to be well-known):



\*The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A person who lives fully is prepared to die at any time.

~Mark Twain

\*Death is very likely the single best invention of life. It is life's change agent. It clears out the old to make way for the new.

~Steve Jobs

\*It isn't the things that happen to us in our lives that cause us to suffer. It is how we *relate* to the things that happen to us that cause us to suffer.

~Pema Chödrön

Death is one appointment that each of us will keep, perhaps first as a survivor, and then as a participant in the process of active dying. It is one of the universe's greatest and most sacred mysteries. "Little deaths" and losses have walked with us all of our lives, although we pay little attention. Think planting, nurturing, and harvesting; sunrises and sunsets; or simple inhales and exhales.

Learn to live more fully because of death. Let the words, loss, dying, and death soften your senses. A loose structure connecting participant dialogues, media, and the seven energy centers of the body builds on the foundational theme, "Everything is energy." Growing together, we explore the unknown in terms of the known. Join Barbara and Paul Krause for a four-part *me! die?*<sup>TM</sup> dialogues program that is certain to evoke depth and transformation. Sign up or Questions: [barbara@inthethickofthings.com](mailto:barbara@inthethickofthings.com).

**When:** Sundays – September 16, 1-4PM

September 23, 1-3PM

September 30, 1-3PM

October 7, 1-3PM

**Where:** Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield

113 Linden Street South; Northfield, MN 55057

**Fee:** Program, FREE

Keepsake Workbook, \$20