



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.

January 2018

Theme: Awakening

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Sunday, January 7th • 10:00 am • "The Perpetual Process of Staying Woke" • Rev. Kristin Maier

Are any of us ever fully "woke" - that is, fully aware of the privileges and oppressions that swirl around us? Or, is "staying woke" less about what we know and more about what we are willing to learn and unlearn around every corner?

Sunday, January 14th • 10:00 am • "When Dr. King Stood Up Against US Foreign Policy" • Presented by UUFN member Bill McGrath, with music from Paul Kraus

This service will honor the birthday and memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by looking at what may have been his most controversial speech.

Sunday, January 21st • 10:00 am • "Awakening from the Heart" • Rev. Kristin Maier

What happens when we move beyond the struggle to awaken our minds? What transformation awaits us when we turn our focus to awakening from the heart?

Sunday, January 28th • 10:00 am • "This I Believe" • Lay Lead

"This I Believe" is an opportunity for UUFN members to share the beliefs, values, and experiences that have shaped the people they have become. This year Eve and Clark Webster generously have agreed to share their credo statements.

Awakening

by Rev. Kristin Maier

In his poem, "A Ritual to Read to Each Other", the poet William Stafford writes:

If you don't know the kind of person I am
and I don't know the kind of person you are
a pattern that others made
may prevail in the world
and following the wrong god home
we may miss our star.

We are living in times of deep, deep division in our nation and in our local communities, too. Patterns made long ago are going strong and working to keep us from knowing one another.

Any pattern that tells us one group of human beings is fundamentally different than another group of humans is false. Such a belief – however it was learned, however widely it is assumed – will surely lead us astray. And so, as William Stafford tells us, "it is important that awake people be awake."

I firmly believe that we cultivate awakening best through relationships. When I know the kind of person you are and you know the kind of person I am, we invariably learn that we are each fully and wholly human, even in the face of significant differences.

We are very fortunate to be a part of a religious community that believes that every human being has dignity and worth. Our starting assumption is that our essence is the same even when our experiences and beliefs are radically different. That assumption of fundamental human kinship calls us to try to understand one another even when that requires us to stretch.

In that stretching to understand each other, a profound awakening can occur. By better understanding others, we better understand ourselves, our core beliefs, and the values that we can never abandon and still be true to ourselves.

We live in complex, tangled times. Even so, our commitment to love and respect all others and ourselves will always offer us reliable, solid guidance.

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.

As new members were added in the Spring and recently, work is underway to ensure our congregation's member totals are accurate. Our total membership, on which our dues are based, must be certified by February 1st with the UUA.

Further refinements to the job description for the proposed Administrative Assistant position are being discussed in final steps to posting the opening formally.

Karen Ratzlaff, Secretary

Social Justice News

The Share the Plate recipient for January of 2018 will be the Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance. The mission of MUUSJA (pronounced "moose jaw") is "Unleashing courageous leadership and collective power to build a just and loving world". MUUSJA helps build capacity for individual UUs and UU congregations to engage in social justice work through focused programs of education, witness, and systemic change.

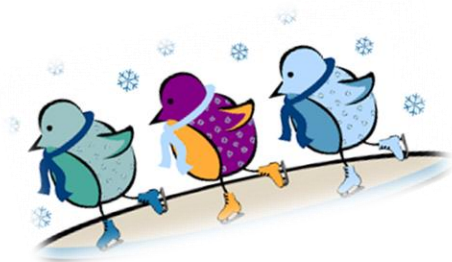
Just this month, MUUSJA successfully raised \$6000 to expand their organizing in rural Minnesota. This is a very exciting and vital time to be supporting their work. Half of what's put in the offering baskets (unless marked "UUFN Pledge") will support MUUSJA's efforts. If you prefer to make a direct donation, you can do so here: <http://www.muusja.org/donate>.

Thank you for giving as you are able!

Children and Youth Programs

by James Coulter

The January Children and Youth Programming is still taking shape. Please see James' message below and watch for email updates!



From the Children & Youth Programming Director



Cabin Fever Haiku

Two minutes it took
To get me to write a book
About a squirrel

Thanks to all who made the past year of Children and Youth programs possible! Our Fall and early Winter were full of memorable activities:

Fireside Apple Orchard field trip, Fall Equinox Craft Day, Mask Making Sunday, Buddhist and Muslim guest speakers, Winter Solstice Craft Day, and our Winter Solstice play.



We all truly appreciate the support we feel from the congregation as a whole and to the individuals who volunteer with our children and youth. Our program schedule for January is still taking shape, so please stay tuned!

All the best to you, James

James Coulter, Director – CY Programs

Sunday Adult Services: A Look Ahead

SUNDAY SERVICES/ACTIVITIES

FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2018

(Watch for updates - topics/speakers change)

- **Sunday, February 4th** – Rev. Kristin Maier
- **Sunday, February 11th** – Love Service with the Coulter Family
- **Sunday, February 18th** – Rev. Kristin Maier
- **Sunday, February 25th** – Standing On the Side of Love



- **Sunday, March 4th** - Rev. Kristin Maier
- **Sunday, March 11th** - Rev. Kristin Maier
- **Sunday, March 18th** - Spring Equinox Service
- **Sunday, March 25th** - Rev. Kristin Maier
- **Thursday, March 29th** - Annual Communion Service, 7 pm, Rev. Kristin Maier

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

UUFN Social Group

Please contact Marcia if you're interested in participating in the social group or have suggestions for places to go. Watch for email updates!

This month's dates are:

Saturday, January 13th, 8:00 am
Brick Oven Bakery

Tuesday, January 23rd, Noon
Gran Plaza

Questions? Call Marcia 507-301-3160.



Chalice Lighters Light the Way!

Are you willing to strike a match and lead us all in the words for lighting the chalice? If so, please sign up on this link:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1QH96xtF2iQsG9EHmF28WxdIHJmLS5UNfZdv2R-D_Wtg/edit?usp=sharing. Or call or email Kristin at 651-285-0807; minister@uunorthfield.org.

In case you are wondering, no training is necessary! But if it would help you to be brave, I would be happy to show you how it works before it's your turn. I can send you the script, show you where the matches are, and even share my secrets to microphone success. :)

Thank you!

Kristin

CHALICE LIGHTERS FOR JANUARY:

- 1/7 Mija Van der Wege
- 1/14 Katrina DeYoung Harper
- 1/21 **CHALICE LIGHTER NEEDED!**
- 1/28 **CHALICE LIGHTER NEEDED!**

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 JANUARY:

- 1/7 Janet and Bill McGrath
- 1/14 Bob and Carol Spear
- 1/21 Katrina De-Young Harper and Burt Fleming
- 1/28 The Coulters and Sam Hayman



Help UUFN Grow by Welcoming Newcomers

UUFN is growing!! Greeters are a critical part of that growth and to keep the "fire of commitment" going. We are all grateful to those who greet every Sunday. There is no such thing as "too many" greeters.



Ideally, there are two people each Sunday so one can take visitors with children to the nursery or RE. If you want to serve this critical function and need a partner, find a friend to help or let me help. To choose the best Sunday for you, please contact me ASAP or look for the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Please let me know if you would like to join the team contact Brynda at: bryndamccoy@yahoo.com or 507-301-3021.

GREETERS FOR JANUARY:

- 1/7 Sara Coulter and Margie Grande
- 1/14 Anna Hamilton and Tory Borovsky
- 1/21 Jon Frasz and Sam Hayman
- 1/28 Eve and Clark Webster

Solstice and Christmas Eve 2017 at UUFN

