



# 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 programs for children and youth are provided.*

### Minister

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

### Director - Children/Youth Programs

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

### 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,

### Secretary

Karen Ratzlaff,

### 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@frontiernet.net

### Membership

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

### Community Outreach

Suzannah Ciernia  
507-663-7876  
syciernia@gmail.com

### Ministerial Liaison

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

### Reach Editor

Emma Onawa 651-345-3737  
emmaonawa@unet.us

## March 2018

### Theme: Nourishment

**Sunday, March 4th • 10:00 am • “Nourishing Our Souls Within” •**

**Rev. Kristin Maier** • Life demands that we focus on the concrete tasks before us, getting supper on the table, feeding the dog, completing our work. Yet what can happen when we slow down for a moment to reflect on what we really need to feed our souls?



**Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> • 10:00 am • “Feeding Our Dreams” • Rev. Kristin**

**Maier** • On the Sunday we "spring forward", come reflect on the what it means to feed our dreams, to put our time, energy, and intention into what we can imagine for ourselves and our world.



**Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> • 10:00 am • “The Balance of Light and Dark” •**

**Lay Lead** • The Spring Equinox is a time of equal amounts of light and dark. This year we will reflect on the light and dark parts of our minds. What lessons can we learn from writers, such as Elie Wiesel, who found that balance in the face of tragedy. Special music by Paul Krause.



**Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> • 10:00 am • “The Gratitude from Giving” • Rev.**

**Kristin Maier** • When we nourish someone else, how do we unexpectedly nourish ourselves? What hidden benefits come from being grateful for our opportunities feed the lives of others?



**Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> • 7:00 pm • “In Remembrance of Love” • Rev.**

**Kristin Maier** • All are welcome to join in a service remembering the life and teachings of Jesus. In some traditions, communion has been a tool of exclusion or bounded by strict belief requirements. Our sharing of bread and wine/juice is open to everyone as a symbol of beloved community and the power of love.

## MINISTER'S COLUMN

### To Nourish and Be Nourished

by Rev. Kristin Maier

Early one morning while walking my dog, I watched several cars drive by and thought that at least for that one moment while moving under my own power I was not contributing to greenhouse gases. But then, I noticed my breath, visible in the cold air. I watched the water vapor and what I knew was carbon dioxide float before me. I was breathing out a greenhouse gas. It struck me that there is no possible way to be alive, no way to be breathing, and not take something from this planet.

Whatever inkling of smug "I'm not polluting the environment" I might have been feeling was replaced with a deeper awareness of how profoundly interdependent human life is with that of the whole planet. We are utterly dependent upon the natural world and our very being cannot help but affect it.

We receive from this planet, with every breath. The earth sustains us and carries the weight of our very lives. To be in balance then, we must give something back; we must find ways to nourish the planet.

Each of us has gifts to give in return, whether it is physically planting trees, or supporting other who do, or using our voices and votes to press for society-wide solutions to climate change. We might be a march-in-the-streets kind of person or prefer quieter approaches. What matters is that we give as we are able to help heal this planet. What matters is that we open our hearts enough to act in the ways available to us.

Environmentalist and author Joanna Macy once said, "If the world is to be healed through human efforts, I am convinced it will be by ordinary people, people whose love for this life is even greater than their fear. People who can open to the web of life that called us into being."

As ordinary people, each breath we take literally connects us with the web of life. Each breath is an invitation to experience gratitude for how we are nourished by that web of life. Each breath is also a reminder that we share responsibility to help heal it.

We live in a beautiful world, full of astonishing life. I agree with Joanna Macy; it will be our love for this world that will be our most powerful motivator in learning how to save it and nourish it as it has nourished and saved us.



### 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.

The Board has hired a new part-time administrative assistant, Jennifer Whitson, who brings a wealth of experience, together with enthusiasm to UUFN. We welcome her to our fold!

The annual Pledge/Stewardship Drive will take place in April, with pledges due mid-month to facilitate the development of the budget for the next year.

The possibility of changing the board structure by adding 1 or 2 slots for non-officer members in order to increase flexibility was discussed briefly.

*Karen Ratzlaff, Secretary*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## Children and Youth Programming

by James Coulter

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



## From the Children & Youth Programming Director

Greetings! Both children and youth groups will be working hard in the kitchen, Sunday, March 4 mixing and baking muffins for our annual Muffin Sunday fundraiser. In fact, by the time you are reading this, it may already be over and your daydreams are filled with the warm, blueberry goodness you tasted. In any case, thank you so much for all of your support for UUFN's programs!



On March 20, the Spring Equinox arrives, and both children and youth groups will be continuing the tradition of a craft day to celebrate.

As the month closes, the Youth group will be preparing for an April 1 visit to Three Links. Three Links has opened their doors and given us an opportunity to volunteer our time with their residents. More details to come.

Thank you!

*James Coulter, Director – CY Programs*

## Sunday Adult Services: A Look Ahead

### SUNDAY SERVICES/ACTIVITIES FOR APRIL AND MAY 2018

(Watch for updates - topics/speakers change)

- **Sunday, April 1st** - Rev. Kristin Maier
- **Sunday, April 8th** - Guest Speaker
- **Sunday, April 15th** - Rev. Kristin Maier
- **Sunday, April 22nd** - Earth Day Service
- **Sunday, April 29th** - TBD



- **Sunday, May 6th** - Rev. Kristin Maier
- **Sunday, May 13th** - Lay Led
- **Sunday, May 20th** - Rev. Kristin Maier
- **Sunday, May 27th** - 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, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 am**  
McDonald's

**Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm**  
George's Vineyard

Questions? Call Marcia 507-301-3160.



**WANTED!! Chalice Lighting Heroes**

Okay, so heroes is a strong word, but I would be very grateful if everyone willing to light the chalice would sign up for a service or two. Signing up for this week, next week or for anytime during the rest of the year especially would be appreciated.

You can go to this google doc:  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Qh96xtF2iQsG9EHmF28WxdLHJmLS5UNfZdv2R-D\\_Wtg/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Qh96xtF2iQsG9EHmF28WxdLHJmLS5UNfZdv2R-D_Wtg/edit?usp=sharing). (Note: to edit on a phone, you may have to open the Google Sheets app.) Or, just email me your availability and I can put you in a slot.

Thank you!

Kristin

**CHALICE LIGHTERS FOR MARCH:**

- 3/4 Brynda McCoy
- 3/11 Karina DeYoung Harper
- 3/18 Carol Spear
- 3/25 **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 MARCH:**

- 3/4 Heather and Ben Ratzlaff
- 3/11 Janet and Bill McGrath
- 3/18 Mary Dared and Tory Borovsky
- 3/25 Julie Bailey and Marcia Jacobs



**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 MARCH:**

- 3/4 Bill Joleka & Mary Jane Lipinski
- 3/11 Jeanne Agee and Tory Borovsky
- 3/18 Deb Figge and Kevin Chapman
- 3/25 Anna Hamilton and Marcia Jacobs

## Thursday's Table

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 six people to help with the dinner on March 22nd.

Please consider helping with that 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);



## Share the Plate

The Share the Plate recipient this month will be the Food Shelf program of the Community Action Center of Northfield. Half of all funds put in the offering basket in March (unless marked "pledge") will help provide community members in need with free, healthy food. If you prefer to give directly to the organization, you can do so here: <https://communityactioncenter.org/donate/>.

**Thank you for giving as you are able!**

## Support Needed: Northfield Works and Allies Program

We will be hosting classes for the Community Action Center's "Northfield Works and Allies" program for eight sessions sometime from March to June.

For eight, consecutive Monday afternoons UUFN will host a lunch and then classes at our fellowship for four participants and four mentors. These sessions will provide training to assist the CAC clients with employment and financial opportunities, social skills, empowerment, and other life skills to help support their growth. We will be helping them to see their worth individually and within our community. The participants will all be from the Northfield community and they will be screened ahead of time.

**We need two more mentors (preferably at least one male) who are able to complete a two-session, free training in March.**

**We also need volunteers to sign up to bring food for lunches** for eight people (the food could be brought to the building that Monday morning or the Sunday before). As time approaches and definite dates are decided, a signup sheet for food will be set up downstairs or check in with Nita Wolf. There is also an opportunity to support the program by donating \$15 gift certificates, as participation rewards, for food or gas for the participants who attend.

Nita Wolf is the lead facilitator and organizer for the Northfield "Allies" program at our facility. She is working closely with the director, Adele Porter, so please direct any comments questions to her: [nitawolf1@gmail.com](mailto:nitawolf1@gmail.com); 507-663-6109.