



REACH

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

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November 2023

Theme: The Gift of Generosity

We gather both in-person at UUFN and online for Sunday services. Links for the Sunday Zoom meeting will be sent each week through the UUFN-Announce email group. Contact jwhitson@uunorthfield.org if you would like to begin receiving the weekly email.

Sunday, November 5th • 10:00 am (Remember to set your clocks back)
“Abundant Community” • Rev. Sara Smalley

Join us for “Abundant Community” as we launch November's theme of The Gift of Generosity. Rev. Sara and worship associate Ellen Saul offer reflections as we gather to reflect on the spiritual practice of generosity and what religious community and Unitarian Universalism is -- and is not -- all about.

Sunday, November 12th • 10:00 am
“Exploring the Good Samaritan Parable through the Lens of Love, Truth, and Beauty” • Presented by Paul Krause

Barbara Krause will be worship associate and contributor. The service will also include poetry and dance provided by members of the congregation.

Sunday, November 19th • 10:00 am
“Bless This Mess” • Rev. Sara Smalley

Our table is wide, and our table is welcoming, but sometimes when we sit down at it, the plates are chipped and the hotdish is burnt. Join Rev. Sara as we gather to celebrate gratitude, generosity, and the gifts of imperfection. This is a Sharing Sunday where children will start in the sanctuary for the first part of the service before going to their religious education class.

Sunday, November 26th • 10:00 am
“Lessons Learned From my Grandchildren” • Presented by Sue Coleman
According to Rev. Sofia Betancourt, UUA President, “Our interpretations of UU values shape the stories we tell one another about who and how we are in the world.” Sue will reflect on what she has learned from her grandchildren, how that helps her to grow in her faith, and understand how we live in covenant with each other.

Learn more about Unitarian Universalism

If you are new (or new-ish) to Unitarian Universalism, or just want a refresher, join Rev. Sara for this three-session class. At each session, we'll talk about aspects of Unitarian Universalist history and theology, leaving plenty of time for questions, reflections, and sharing our stories.

We recommend anyone who is new to Unitarian Universalism participate in this class before considering becoming a member. You'll learn more about UU beliefs while connecting with other newcomers. These classes are informative, meaningful, and fun!

This fall Rev. Sara will be teaching this class on Zoom as a part of the Small Congregation Collaborative. Part of each session will be in a large group with participants from different congregations, and part will be in a breakout room with other UUFN attendees.

Mondays, November 13, 27 (note there is no class 11/20) and December 4th

Time: 7-8:30 pm

On Zoom only: <https://zoom.us/j/98949183248>

Monthly Theme Inspiration

Check out [this page](#) on our website for inspiration about this month's theme! Scroll down for a link to the November Soul Matters packet, which is filled with quotes, questions, links, and ideas for spiritual practices.

Becoming a (even more) welcoming congregation

Join Rev. Sara to talk through best practices for greeting and welcoming newcomers. This conversation is especially for people who volunteer as Sunday morning greeters but is open to anyone who wants to learn more and talk more about specific things we can do to welcome people who come through our doors. Attend whichever session works best for you. Sessions will be no more than one hour.

In person: Sunday, November 12th after the service

or

On Zoom: Wednesday, November 15th, 7:00 pm

For Visitors: What We're About December 3rd after the service

What We're About is a short overview of Unitarian Universalism and UUFN. Sessions run approximately half an hour and no sign up is necessary – just show up and learn more about our community. Sessions are in person at UUFN after Sunday morning services. Children are welcome to attend with their grownup(s).

Offered every other month after Sunday services:

December 3rd, February 4th, April 7th

Remembering Liz Brekke

We will gather to celebrate the life and mourn the death of Liz Brekke on Saturday, November 11th at 10 am. Liz was a beloved member of this congregation, a steadfast advocate for justice, and a vibrant presence in this world. She will be greatly missed.

Calling All Holy Troublemakers

An Invitation from White Bear UU Church & the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Join us for an informational meeting!

Nov 11th at 12:30 pm, White Bear UU Church

As many of you know, our trans and gender-expansive beloveds are under attack and being criminalized in many US states right now. This is so serious that they fit the criteria to be designated as internally displaced people (IDPs) by the United Nations. The UUA and UUSC are partnering directly with frontline trans-led organizing to create networks of safety and direct support for Beloveds who need to relocate, access healthcare across state lines, or stay as safe as possible where they are.

Learn more about this work and make connections with organizers and others interested in supporting our trans and gender-expansive beloveds on Saturday, Nov 11 at 12:30pm at White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church. Please RSVP [here](#) and share widely.

November Share the Plate: Community Action Center



Community Action Center

Our share the plate recipient for November is Community Action Center. CAC is a local community organization serving individuals and families throughout Rice County. Their mission is to *promote a healthy, caring, and just community for all*. They have requested our support in November so they can help families in the area throughout the upcoming holidays. You can read more about all of the work they do [here](#).

Thank you for giving as you are willing and able.

September Share the Plate: Side With Love

UUFN members contributed \$428.29 for Side With Love.

When My Time Comes Discussion

There will be another opportunity to view and discuss *When My Time Comes* at 50 North on November 13th at 10:00 am. Admission is free. Barbara Krause and Brynda McCoy will be there to help answer any questions people might have about Medical Aid in Dying.

Update from the Building Vision Group

The Building Vision group has retained Langer Construction and LHB Architects to review our prior design ideas and create concept designs for building expansion. The Board and the Building Vision Group had a great kickoff meeting with them on October 23rd. They will provide options that allow us to create low, medium, and high cost scenarios for our financial feasibility study which is scheduled for January 2024. We are planning to hold a congregational meeting in December to review the design status with the congregation.

We also put together a website to hold resources and answers to Frequently Asked Questions, to see presentations, and potential designs (as we get them). For example, you can see the [presentation we did in April](#) which gives context on prior thinking around the imbalances between our congregational needs and limitations of our current space. You can also see the [presentation](#) and the [report](#) provided by church consultant Rachel Maxwell from her visit in May.

Here is the link to the homepage of the Building Vision website:

[Moving Towards a Larger UUFN Building | Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield \(uunorthfield.org\)](http://Moving Towards a Larger UUFN Building | Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield (uunorthfield.org))

Let us know if you have any questions,
-Janet, Wyman, Martha, Bev, Lee, and Reid

UUFN Care Team

Our mission is to provide care and support for people needing help and encouragement during a stress-filled life transition. We don't want anyone in our beloved community to travel life's difficult times alone. We check in on people, send cards and e-mails of support, and, recently, initiated a food ministry. We try to listen to the heartbeat of the congregation and have sponsored meaning-filled conversations. (See below for our current offering.) We have been fortunate in being able to receive training in spiritual care from Rev. Sara as part of a Care Team retreat. We are here for you. Please reach out to a member of the Care Team if you or someone you know is going through a difficult time and could use support: Brynda McCoy, Larry Vorwerk, Sue Needham, Sandra Griffin, Bev Topp, Mairi Doerr, co-facilitators Martha Easter-Wells and Mary Jane Lipinski.

Care Team Conversation on Grief

We all experience grief at various points in our lives. It can come with the loss of loved ones, in the aftermath of tragedies, as we lose our physical abilities through illness, accident or aging and through other causes. We all experience grief differently. It can be a healthy process and it can sometimes completely overwhelm us. Sit with Martha Easter-Wells in a Care Team sponsored listening circle to share your experiences. What has helped you through grief or what have you learned from it? Saturday November 18 at 10 am at UUFN.

Tips from the Green Team

Tired of dealing with all those pesky bugs this summer and fall? Try this tip from Reid...

Reid and Gail apply beneficial nematodes to the soil around their home and have found it a successful practice. Beneficial nematodes are for general pest control in chemical-free growing environments. They are inexpensive and can be purchased easily online. Talk to Reid and Gail for further information.

Social Justice



Social Justice Committee



Several members of the UUFN Land Acknowledgment Committee spent Indigenous People's Day in Red Wing. They visited the extensive history collection of the Prairie Island Dakota people at the Goodhue County History Center, and attended the dedication of a community mural. The mural is part of a year long Honoring Dakota project with tribal and Red Wing city people uniting in projects to further understanding and respect about the history of the land and its people.

