



REACH

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

5785 Lonsdale Blvd E
Mailing Address: PO Box 363
Northfield, MN 55057

Minister

Rev. Sara Smalley

Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Whitson

Nursery Teacher

Julie Bailey

Board Members

Sue Coleman (Secretary)

Rollie Davidson

Mairi Doerr

Katy Gillispie (Treasurer)

Paul Krause (Past President)

Sabina Peters-Daywater

Don Stager

John Thwing

Sunday Services Coordinators

Sue Coleman

Susie Weinbeck

Choir Director

Taylor Wesseln

Music Director

Bev Topp

Indoor Facilities Committee

Wyman Weinbeck

Outdoor Facilities Committee

Matt Thieding

Larry Vorwerk

October 2024

Theme: The Practice of Deep Listening

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, October 6th • 10:00 am

“Repair Communities, Reparative Justice” • John Stoesz

John Stoesz spent 35 years working in leadership roles for faith-based justice and peace organizations. He now devotes his time to two passions: riding his recumbent tricycle and Indigenous justice. He will tell us about Repair Communities and how the group supports Makoce Ikikcupi (land recovery) and other indigenous causes.

Sunday, October 13th • 10:00 am

“Daring to Listen” • Rev. Sara Smalley

Sunday, October 20th • 10:00 am

“Music Sunday” • Taylor Wesseln

Music Sunday is a tradition at UUFN. This year, we will resume during the calendar year! Please join Taylor Wesseln, UUFN Choir, and fellowship musicians for a special service exploring the importance of **Deep Listening through Music**. Together, we’ll dive further into what it means to listen deeply, how we listen to one another, and how we ultimately listen to our own inner voice. This Music Sunday will celebrate just a glimpse of the wonderful talent within our UUFN community. If you are interested or would like to chat about joining this Music Sunday, it’s not too late to email Taylor.

Sunday, October 27th • 10:00 am

“Hidden Sorrow” • Rev. Sara Smalley

Most of us think of grief as what happens following the death of a loved one. Grief includes that kind of acutely painful loss, but it encompasses so much more. For this service, we will expand our traditional Service of Remembrance. We will honor the veil between life and death as so many cultures do this time of year, and we will also allow space for other types of grief such as complicated, cumulative, delayed, and disenfranchised grief.

You are invited to bring a memento of someone or something you are grieving as we create an altar together honoring our grief and the enduring power of love. This memento might be of a loved one who has died, but it does not have to be. We will honor all types of grief, including those we don’t always get to express.

Sacred Circles Registration Now Open!

[Sacred Circles](#) are small groups of around eight members that meet monthly to reflect on the month's theme. In between sessions, participants are invited to use the prompts in the provided [Soul Matter's packets](#) to notice how the month's theme is showing up in their lives. These groups invite you to experience each month's theme more deeply, and then connect with others who are doing the same.

Rev. Sara will lead an informal information session on Zoom about Sacred Circles groups on Monday, October 7th at 5pm. Anyone interested in simply finding out more about Sacred Circles is welcome to attend. (Note: this informal information session is different from the full orientation sessions for registered participants.)

This year we have four Sacred Circles groups: a group for people who are actively parenting, a young adult (ages 18-30ish) group, a Tuesday evening group, and a Friday late afternoon group. If you are interested in starting another identity-based group or one open to all, please contact Rev. Sara!

Groups will meet at UUFN. Some groups may choose to have some of their meetings on Zoom depending on winter weather and participant preferences.

[Register here.](#) Registration closes October 14th, and groups start the week of October 21st. Please note that registration is limited.

Summary of important information:

- **Informal information session** on Zoom: Monday, October 7th at 5 pm.
- **Orientation session for participants** either Wednesday, October 17th at 7 pm or Thursday, October 18th at noon.

We will use the same Zoom link as Sunday mornings for the information session and the orientation sessions:

<https://zoom.us/j/98719667113?pwd=aTRFMek5YnlYckg4emlxNWJaTkVHZz09>

Meeting ID: 987 1966 7113

Passcode: 099847

- **Groups:**
 - ◇ Young Adult group (ages 18-30ish): meets the 4th Sunday of each month after the service starting October 27th. Facilitated by Holly Kelchner and Nita Wolf.
 - ◇ Monday evening group: first meeting October 29th, then the 4th Monday of each month after that, 7-8:30 pm. Facilitated by Don Stager and Wendell Refior.
 - ◇ Friday late afternoon group: first meeting October 25th, and then the 3rd Friday of each month after that, 4:30-6 pm. Facilitated by Carol Spear and Taylor Wesseln.
 - ◇ Group for people who are actively parenting / caring for children living at home: meets the 4th Saturday of each month from 10-11:30 am (children's choir will meet at the same time). Facilitated by Rev. Sara.
- **[Register here](#)** by October 14th!

Programming for Children and Families *an update from Rev. Sara*

This fall we are focusing on building relationships as the core of our programming for children and families. Some things will stay the same as previous years, but there are also some important changes:

- We will continue to have staffed nursery care for children up through preschool age almost every Sunday. (On October 6th our amazing nursery care worker, Julie, is out of town so we won't have nursery care that day.)
- We will have religious education classes for children up through 5th grade on the **second and fourth Sundays of each month**. We're talking about how to add programming for children and youth in grades six and up as well. We will likely add more Sundays when we offer RE programming, but the benefit of not having RE every Sunday is that it encourages us to make the sanctuary an ever more welcoming multigenerational space.
- On Sundays when RE isn't offered, the whole service will become more welcoming to all ages. This means things like:
 - ◇ Children will be invited to become Chalice Lighters to help lead the service.
 - ◇ We will have a table in the back of the sanctuary where children and their adult(s) can sit in order to color, do simple crafts, etc. Children and adults can move back and forth from there to their seats.
 - ◇ Once we finalize the tech setup, the RE room in the basement will have the service live streaming from Zoom, so parents can go and hang out there with their child(ren) if desired. This is a way both for kids to be able to move around more, and parents to connect with each other.

I realize that some parents will look forward to worshipping with their children more often, and some will be disappointed that some weeks they won't get one. single. hour. for their own spiritual growth without having to be a caregiver. I hope this schedule – RE classes twice a month, and multigenerational worship twice a month – meets the needs of both groups in some way.

In addition to those Sunday morning offerings, I will be facilitating a **Sacred Circle small group for parents**. This will be the 4th Saturday morning of the month from 10-11:30 am starting in October. [Register here](#).

During that time while parents are meeting for our small group, our choir director, Taylor Wesseln, will be starting a **Children's Choir**. Fun!

Let me know what questions or thoughts you have.

~ Rev. Sara

UUFN Children's Choir

Starting on October 26th from 10-11:30AM, the UUFN Children's Choir will have their first meeting! Directed by Taylor Wesseln, this little ensemble will explore the voice, sing silly songs, make some friends, and build confidence in making music!

This ensemble will meet on the 4th Saturday of every month from 10:00—11:30 AM. Open to ages 5-14. Please email Taylor Wesseln with any questions!

IMPORTANT (and fun!) All-Congregation Workshop

Facilitated by MidAmerica Regional Staff

Friday, Oct 11, 2024

Social time 6:30- 7:00 (light refreshments served)

Program 7:00-8:30 pm

At UUFN

The Board of Trustees invites you to a light refreshment social followed by an interactive workshop facilitated by MidAmerica regional staff that will draw on our collective wisdom, creativity, and problem-solving skills. Come ready to have fun, laugh, and share the best of UUFN.

After this all-congregation workshop on Friday evening, the Board will have an all-day workshop on Saturday, also facilitated by MidAmerica staff. The Board hopes you can be there on Friday in order to inform our conversation on Saturday!

All members and friends of UUFN are invited and encouraged to attend this gathering on Friday, October 11th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Sara.

From the Care Team

The Care Team is gearing up for a November retreat with Rev. Sara, which will help the team develop pastoral skills to better carry out our mission at the UUFN. Thanks to all in our community who have stepped up in the past to help provide hospitality, food, and rides for people in our community. We plan to continue offering opportunities for meaning-filled small group conversations and welcome ideas on other topics you would enjoy exploring. Our next conversation on the subject of grief will take place on October 27 after the service.

October Greeters

October 6: Bev and Lee Topp

October 20: Brynda McCoy and Cot La Fond

October 13: Lois Burnes, Bob and Carol Spear

October 27: Wendell Refior and Marla Welsford



October 2024 Tip from the Green Team

Looking for a strategy to help you decide which candidate you should vote for? Perhaps JET PIG can help! Ask yourself... how would the candidate help our community/state/country/world to be focused on the values we hold? Would they make it easier for us to find solutions to the problems we face or would they put up roadblocks? Remember...

Justice
Equity
Transformation

Pluralism
Interdependence
Generosity

Soup Supper!! Save the date! Friday, November 1st at 6:00 pm at UUFN!

The first Friday of November is Soup Supper night! Come one, come all as we once again share our culinary talent in the form of soup, bread and dessert. Supper starts at 6:00 and expect great food, conversation and laughter. If you would like to help set up the tables and chairs the day before please let me know. And, as always, send me an email if you plan to attend and if you are bringing a dish to share. Remember, you don't have to bring something every time but your generous food contributions are always appreciated.

Email questions, RSVP to Gail Hendershot.

“Get Acquainted” and Birthday Gathering

Enjoy an Autumn day, celebrate Birthdays, and get to know each other! Everyone is invited Sunday morning, Oct. 13, immediately after the church service. Odd Fellow Park. No microphone this time. Instead, we will count off by fives. All 1's will go to one table. And so on. People at each table can just engage in normal human conversation. But each table also will be provided with Trivia clue cards from the 1980's. Not a potluck, but there will be cake and coffee for anyone having an autumn birthday. For info, contact Carol Spear, Bill McGrath, or Brynda McCoy.

Autumn Campfire Chats at UUFN Fire Circle

Fall is arriving when the evenings get cooler and the sun goes down earlier. We would like to invite you, your family, and your friends to come to our outdoor fire circle to enjoy each other and the season. Larry Vorwerk, or someone else from the Outdoor Facility team, will be in charge of starting the fire in our woods and extinguishing the flames at the end of the evening together. **We will start at 7:00 pm on these dates: October 9th and 30th.** If interest is there, and weather cooperates, we will continue into November. We hope you can make any or all of these gatherings as we come to know each other better and share stories of interest. Bring your own chair and drink. If you have questions, or acknowledge you will be present, please contact **Larry Vorwerk.**

October Share the Plate:



Makoce Ikikcupi (Land Recovery)

A Project of Reparative Justice

Who Are We?

Makoce Ikikcupi, meaning Land Recovery, is a project of Reparative Justice on Dakota land in Minisota Makoce (Minnesota). The Makoce Ikikcupi project seeks to bring some of our relatives home, re-establish our spiritual and physical relationship with our homeland, and ensure the ongoing existence of our People. Our cultural survival depends on it.

Why Do We Matter?

Dakota people were systematically dispossessed of our homeland and we currently reside on about .01 % (about one-hundredth of one percent) of our original land base within the borders of what is now the State of Minnesota. Our work is a positive action to help repair the most fundamental harm of settler-colonialism—Indigenous disconnection from the land.

Thank you for giving as you are willing and able.

August Share the Plate: UU the Vote

UUFN members contributed \$664 for UU the Vote.

September 8, 2024: Water Ceremony

The Alter looked beautiful for the Water Service!...including a dark blue silk to symbolize flowing water and fresh flowers from the prairie.



September 15, 2024: Rev. Sara and Rev. Kristin



September 22, 2024: J.E.T. P.I.G.

Rev Sara introducing us all to J.E.T. P.I.G. on the first day of Autumnal Equinox Service.

