



REACH

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

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Sunday Services
Naomi Estes-Tullo

Music
Bev Topp

Membership
Don Stager

Facilities
Lee Topp

October 2021 Theme: Cultivating Relationships

Sunday Services Options

For those who want to gather in person for Sunday services in October, you are welcome to join the in-person watch party at Odd Fellows park. We will be live-streaming our Zoom services there. Please wear a mask when moving around the space; masks may be removed when seated. If you wish to stay for a picnic lunch after the service, bring your own food and drink. There are some tables and benches, or bring your own chair if you prefer.

For those who don't feel comfortable gathering in person or who prefer Zoom for any reason, we'll continue to create sacred space on Zoom together, separately.

When COVID case numbers are low enough to gather indoors, we'll begin live streaming from the sanctuary with limited seating. Until then, we'll continue with Zoom and outdoor gatherings in order to prioritize both safety and community. 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 3rd • 10:00 am

"A Blessing of the Animals" • Hosted by Naomi Estes-Tullo

Join us for our Annual Blessing of the Animals as we celebrate our animal brothers and sisters who share our lives and our planet. As we begin a new month, we embrace a new theme: cultivating relationship. In this service we will share our stories as we look at our relationships with the many creatures who teach us, enrich us, make us laugh and cry, and may truly be at the heart of how we give and receive love. We are indeed blessed by the sacredness of their presence.

Sunday, October 10th • 11:00 am (Note location and time change)

"Tret Fure—Her Music and Her Life" • Rev. Sara Smalley

Featuring guest performer Tret Fure, award winning American singer-songwriter. Join Carleton students, guest musician Tret Fure, and Rev. Sara for our annual National Coming Out Day service at Carleton Chapel. One reviewer wrote: "To engage with Tret Fure is to feel her warmth, her humanity and her fierce determination." All are welcome as we celebrate authenticity, creativity, and love! **Note time and location change!**

Sunday, October 17th • 10:00 am

"Cultivating Relationships" • Rev. Sara Smalley

As Unitarian Universalists, we believe "we need not think alike to love alike", but what does that mean in practice? In the often-beautiful and sometimes-messy work of being human, how do we stay in right relationship with each other? This Sunday we explore the UU concept of covenant, and what that means for cultivating healthy, authentic relationships with ourselves, with one another, and with the divine.

Sunday, October 24th • 10:00 am

"Elliott: You Gave Me the Greatest Gift" • Presented by Dr. Laurie Sieve

Join us on zoom to hear Dr. Laurie Sieve talk about her personal experience as a mother raising a transgender child. As a parent and a mental health nurse, she is acutely aware of the importance of family acceptance and its direct impact on mental health. She will also share her professional experience and passion for raising awareness and working for equity, inclusivity, and acceptance of all sexual and gender minorities.

Sunday, October 31st • 10:00 am

"Beyond the Veil" • Rev. Sara Smalley

During this season of Samhain, Halloween, and All Souls Day, we gather to peel back the veil that covers much of everyday life in order to look more closely at grief, gratitude, and mystery.

by Rev. Sara Smalley

In my last sermon, I told our very own Universalist miracle story, -- the story of John Murray and Thomas Potter from the 1700s when Universalism came to the United States. Theirs is a story of heartbreak and hope. (If you missed the sermon, you can read it [here](#).)

In that sermon, I said:

This is why I think religious community is so vitally important right now: We all carry pain -- isolation, loss, addiction, childhood trauma, recent trauma, doubts, fears, failings, grief. Add to that a global pandemic that has become politicized, and it's easy to teeter on the edge of despair.

But here you all are. You show up. ... Whether it's the lifelong friendship formed between Thomas Potter and John Murray or the community we are building at UUFN in response to the pandemic, *it's true that the miracle that saves us is our relationships.*

I believe that is true to the core of my being. I also know, however, that real life relationships are indeed miraculous, but they're also messy.

This messiness -- this realness and this aliveness -- can give life dimension and depth. In that spirit, our theme for October is *Cultivating Relationships*. We'll explore: How can our justice work be rooted in relationships? How do we navigate conflict as a religious community? How do we not only welcome newcomers, but be open to being changed by them? What might we create together?

I believe that at its best, church is where we get to practice being our fullest, most authentic selves so we can bring that fullness into the world. Sacred Circles small groups are a primary way we practice this at UUFN. See the announcement in this newsletter for more information and the registration link. Registration is open until October 7th so sign up soon!

What we tend to, grows. What we nurture, thrives. In October, we will tend to relationships and nurture connections. It is good to be on this journey together.

~ Rev. Sara Smalley

Sacred Circles Registration Now Open Until October 7th!

Sacred Circles are small groups of 8-10 people that meet once a month from October to May for reflection and connection. They are a great way both for newcomers and long time members to cultivate relationships and engage in the spiritual practice of listening deeply to self and others.

For more information and to sign up, [click here](#).

If you have questions, please contact Rev. Sara.



by John Owens, President

It has been a year and a half since we last met in our church sanctuary for a Sunday service. That's a tough milestone to have to acknowledge on our journey through this pandemic. We had a taste of 'freedom' in June, only to have Delta to snatch it away. This too, shall pass, and we are readying things for a new beginning in our beloved community. We are very close to have all the technology in place to stream live services. Our Re-open Team is putting together a plan or plans for limited and distanced seating in the sanctuary, as well as protocols governing food, restrooms, etc. We are also creating a plan for equitable and fair use of the sanctuary's limited seating plan, so that we don't have a situation where we have to turn anyone away at our door. So, when we get the green light to admit some (or all) of us back inside our building, we can accomplish that in an orderly and fair manner.



A few other things have happened lately: we have received three security cameras, and will use these in our foyer and outside to monitor and record goings-on. This will help to deter (or identify) flag thieves or other mischief makers. The Facilities Team has also installed a new emergency light for the stairs and put light sensors on our outdoor lights so they turn on only when light is low. Additional windows will be installed in classroom doors for better visibility.

The Board has approved the purchase of a subscription for integrated Church Management Software (ChMS), called Breeze, that will help with tracking members, donations, events and resources, and facilitate teams and committees in planning and communication. We need to put together a small team of people to help configure this software, and establish some rules for privacy. Bill Jokela will be heading up this team. If you are interested, please contact him or me. You do not need technical expertise for this: organizational skill, ethical and privacy awareness, or an eagerness to help launch something new that will benefit us all. We will in future have links on our website to access and log into this program where you'll be able to find all our events, members (with photos you can upload), committee members, and also be able to make any sort of monetary donation to our community. And, of course, we will find ways for those of us who are not 'plugged in' to access needed features.

I am working with Rev. Sara and Susan Sinning on planning a Board retreat, hopefully this fall. This half-day session will train us in better supporting our community Mission and getting clear on our leadership responsibilities. We are also looking into possibly having an all-congregation full day retreat in the spring to re-examine our values, Mission, and our strategic and short-term goals. It is likely that the pandemic will change how we do things and how we get together for the long-term. Now is a good time to explore what are the possibilities that arise from our changed environment. Yes, we have lost much that many, if not all, of us are grieving. But when a door shuts, another opens. Let's start looking at what we can find and use on the other side of that threshold.

Namaste,
John Owens
Board Chair

**Save the Date—Next UUFN Board Meeting
Sunday, October 24, 2021
Starting at 11:45 a.m.
Please contact Wyman Weinbeck for the meeting link.**

Tret Fure—Her Music and Her Life

We are very excited to announce our featured performer for our October 10th service sponsored jointly with Carleton College: **Tret Fure** is an award winning American singer-songwriter whose career spans fifty years of music across a number of genres.

Tret began her career at the age of 16, singing in coffeehouses and campuses in the Midwest. At 19, she moved to LA in hopes of obtaining a record deal where she quickly started working as a guitarist and vocalist for established musicians and bands. She went on to record her own album in 1973, and with its success established herself as a solo artist and went on to open for some of the top bands of that time.

A prolific artist in the contemporary singer-songwriter arena, Tret Fure has released 17 albums and CDs over the course of her 50 year career. In addition to being a gifted songwriter, Fure has engineered and produced countless recordings by a variety of artists, in addition to her own work.

In the early 80s, Tret moved to the independent side of the industry establishing herself in the emerging genre of Women's Music. She has recorded with and produced some of the best of women's music. In the last 15 years she has re-established herself in the folk world and has won in numerous competitions around the country.

Tret's latest release is "Stone by Stone" (2020). This album has proved to be her most mature and deeply moving CD to date. The title song is an autobiographical look at love through the lens of time.

Fure's life interests and pursuits are far broader than her considerable musical accomplishments. She has her own line of clothing, teaches guitar and songwriting individually and in workshop settings, paints pet portraits on commission, and is an accomplished cook, having published a cookbook, "Tret's Kitchen", featuring her own recipes. She is also active in and had been a leader of a union geared toward helping traveling musicians find security and longevity. Tret is truly a Renaissance Woman!

For more detailed information on her music and life see her website "tretfure.com".



Membership and Hospitality Committee's Forthcoming Outdoor Events for October

Note: The UUFN Board has recommended that all events require those attending to wear a mask, unless eating or drinking, until further notice.

Nature Walk: Please join us for a special nature walk at **River Bend Nature Center** in Faribault on **Friday, October 1st. at 10:00 a.m.** The address is: 1000 Rustad Rd., Faribault, MN 55021. (<http://www.rbnc.org/>) Meet at the end of the road at the main building's parking lot.

Larry Vorwerk has been a volunteer naturalist and educator there for school children for the past four years. He will lead us through the RBBC trails and point out landscape and wildlife features. It's a favorite place for many of us to walk! **Please let Larry know if you plan to attend or have any questions about this outing.**

Story Circles: Our next "Story Circles" will meet on **Saturday, October 9th. at 1:00** if the weather cooperates. (Alternate inclement weather date is Sunday the 10th. at 1:00.) This is a great way to get to know each other better as we share stories with topics from Paul Krause. This will probably be our last gathering for a while until we can meet inside or the weather permits it outside again. Please bring your own chair, drink, and mask to wear. **RSVP to Nita Wolf if you plan to attend.**

Fireside Chats: With the Fall weather and a nice fire pit in the woods of our UUFN property, it is a good time to enjoy some time around our fire pit. You, your family, and friends are invited to join Don Stager on **Tuesday evening, the 29th. at 7:00**, for conversation and treats, a "Fireside Chat" Don is bringing hot cocoa, apple cider, S'Mores, and hot dogs to entice you. RVSP with Don or just drop in. Future "Fireside Chats" will be on **Thursday nights on Oct. 14th. and 28th. at 6:30 p.m.**

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

October Share the Plate: MN Peace Project

CommonBond Communities, an affordable housing nonprofit organization in St. Paul, believes that a safe, stable, and affordable home is the foundation for everything in life. They reach out to help people of all ages and walks of life meet their goals and build their best life throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Greenvale Place and Wellstone Commons are two thriving CommonBond Communities in Northfield.

The organization's expertise ranges from interacting with officials on complex legislation and developing properties, to making sure a child has a safe place to do homework and caring for homeless populations and veterans.

With a stable home, children do better in school, teens graduate, adults find jobs with wages to support their families, and older adults maintain their independence.

Thank you for supporting CommonBond Communities as they continue to offer stable homes, strong futures, and vibrant well-being for all.

For more information, visit: [CommonBond Communities: Affordable Housing Organization MN WI and IA](#)

August Share the Plate: MN Peace Project

UUFN raised \$165.00 for the Minnesota Peace Project.

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 UUFN Policy Board met via ZOOM on 09/26/2021 at 11:45 am. These Policy Board meetings are open to all members of the UUFN Community. Please contact Wyman Weinbeck for information if you would like to attend/observe.

The initial draft of a new Member Handbook has been received and distributed to board members for review. Further information on the new handbook will be forthcoming as it approaches completion.

Two motion activated floodlight/security cameras have been installed on the exterior of our building. The first camera monitors the north (main) driveway/flag pole area and the second monitors a portion of the lower parking lot and the fire ring areas. A third camera will be installed in the entry area interior and will allow monitoring of our entry door during activities in the building and allow Rev. Sara to monitor when she is at her desk.

Our new equipment that will allow livestreaming our services is currently being installed and tested throughout the building. We are awaiting final Metronet fiber optic connection, hopefully by the end of September, before more integration of the equipment and software can be finalized and ready for use.

The Board approved a subscription to Breeze ChMS (Church Management Software) Systems. This software system encompasses four major categories and also has a payment processing system available.

An AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) has been purchased, received and will be mounted in the sanctuary area of the church for emergency use. CPR/AED/First Aid Training will be available for interested persons. This training will be provided by American Heart Savers Organization and will provide Red Cross certification. More details will be available when dates are firmed up.

*Respectfully submitted—
Wyman Weinbeck
UUFN Secretary*



Lifelong Learning Committee



Here are some suggestions from our Life Long Learning Committee

1. A series of upcoming virtual events hosted by St. Olaf's Institute for Freedom and Community. All events are free, open to the public, and allow for the online submission of questions from virtual audience members. Registration is encouraged, but not required.

Eugene McCarraher (Vanderbilt)

Capitalism as Religion, Tuesday, October 5, 7:00pm

Elizabeth Shermer (Loyola U Chicago)

Indentured Students - Higher Ed and the Student Loan Crisis,
Wednesday, October 20, 7:00pm

Michael Kazin (Georgetown)

Moral Capitalism in the Democratic Party, Wednesday, November 3, 7:00pm

2. On Being with Krista Tippett: A Peabody Award-winning public radio show and podcast. What does it mean to be human? How do we want to live? And who will we be to each other? Each week a new discovery about the immensity of our lives.

<https://onbeing.org/series/podcast/>

Past podcasts have included:

Suzanne Simard, Professor of Forest Ecology at the University of British Columbia and the author of *Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest*

Robin DiAngelo, author of *White Fragility* and Resmaa Menakem, author of *My Grandmother's Hands*, addressing the topic: Towards a Framework of Repair

3. Message from Sharon Snyder-Thieding: Hey everyone - Did you happen to notice all the extra goodies (resources) listed in the monthly Soul Matters packet? My husband Matt and I enjoyed the YouTube song playlist we found on the last page of the September 'Embracing Possibility' packet. We sat on our front porch and listened to several songs from their featured collection - everything from soft and soulful to rhythmic and bluesy. Here is the link for September's playlist https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-UK7iNJgNo&list=PLvXOKgOQVYP7_IQLSs1c_CgK1bPobu4k

Look for the songs playlist links at the back of your next Soul Matters packet - fire up the computer, turn up the volume and enjoy!

October Book Study

Our book study of *Neither Wolf nor Dog* by Kent Nerburn starts this Tuesday, Oct 5th from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m and carries on for the remaining Tuesdays in October at the previously mentioned time. We hope you can join us as we discuss chapters 1-6. The book details Kent's learnings as he travels through the Dakotas with an Indigenous Elder and takes us beyond what most people know of the Native American experience. We are doing this study on zoom. Questions? Contact Liz Brekke or Jeff Wersal-LaVelle.

GARDEN TEAM

It's fall and the gardens are winding down.....oh, but you can see from these happy faces, not quite yet! In September we moved some plants around to make for a more pleasing balance in the front of our building and added a few more perennials. Our team has been incredible! The hot weather this summer made for daily watering. Truly our gardens were a team effort!

Our 2021 garden team consisted of Larry, Bill Jokela, Carol, Wyman, Anna, Peter and Maria. Our gratitude goes out to each and every one of them! Sincerely!

A PLUG FOR NEXT YEAR: We make gardening at UUFN very easy to fit into your schedule. You can volunteer any day of the week and for as much time as you would like to. Once or twice a month?, no problem! We welcome beginners and seasoned (pun intended) garden volunteers! As you give, you receive friendship, laughs, dirty hands, and as every gardener knows, the joy of watching something you have planted thrive! Look for the call to volunteer next spring.

In Loving Gratitude,
Mairi and Connie



Peace Pole Ceremony—September 21, 2021

