



# 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**  
Sara Smalley

**Director of Family Ministries**  
Diana McLean

**Administrative Assistant**  
Jennifer Whitson

**Nursery Teacher**  
Julie Bailey

**President**  
Paul Krause

**Past President**  
John Owens

**Treasurer**  
Katy Gillispie

**Secretary**  
Wyman Weinbeck

**Board Members-At-Large**  
Sue Coleman

Bill Jokela

Susan Sinning

Don Stager

**Sunday Services**  
Naomi Estes-Tullo

**Music**  
Bev Topp

**Membership**  
Don Stager

**Indoor Facilities Committee**  
Wyman Weinbeck

**Outdoor Facilities Committee**  
Matt Thieding  
Larry Vorwerk

---

## May 2023

### Theme: The Path of Creativity

*We gather both in-person at UUFN and online for Sunday services. Please choose the one that works best for you. For those in the sanctuary, vaccinations are expected for all who are eligible. When Rice County is in the green level according to CovidActNow, masks are optional but welcomed. When Rice County is in level yellow, masks are required during the service. Links for the Sunday Zoom meeting will be sent each week through the UUFN-Announce email group. Contact [jwhitson@uunorthfield.org](mailto:jwhitson@uunorthfield.org) if you would like to begin receiving the weekly email.*

**Sunday, May 7th • 10:00 am**

**“Creativity Jam Sunday” • Rev. Sara Smalley**

We'll launch our monthly theme of creativity with a special, not-to-be-missed service. Join Rev. Sara and a team of lay leaders for our “Creativity Jam”, featuring inspiring music and messages highlighting the community of UUFN. We'll also welcome new members, celebrate our stewardship campaign, and end with a dance party.

**Sunday, May 14th • 10:00 am**

**“Pregnancy is Biology, Parenting is Covenant: A Humanist Theology of Reproduction Justice” • Presented by Rev. Kelli Clement**

The Rev. Kelli Clement is Assistant Minister at First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, and the former Executive Director of the Minnesota Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. Join Rev. Clement and Worship Associate Susie Weinbeck on this Mother's Day Sunday for a message on reproductive justice.

**Sunday, May 21st • 10:00 am**

**“Creating Space” • Rev. Sara Smalley**

Stars form when elements floating through the chaos of space begin uniting, organize by forming bonds, and then ignite into being, shining bright. So it is with community. Join Rev. Sara and worship associate Bob Spear as we consider how we create sacred space and what we're called to create next as a congregation. Stewardship for Us consultant Rachel Maxwell will present her preliminary recommendations for UUFN after the service.

**Sunday, May 28th • 10:00 am**

**“Memorial Day” • Rev. Diana McLean**

Please join us for a multigenerational, participatory worship service observing Memorial Day, led by Rev. Diana McLean, our UUFN Director of Family Ministries. Diana grew up in a Unitarian Universalist family that was also a military family, and we'll explore the intersection of those two things and how it is relevant to us as a congregation and as individuals.

## Welcome to the Path of Creativity

*Creativity is our ability to dream things up  
and make them happen.*

— Peggy Taylor

Dreaming things up. We're all familiar with that part of the quote. Who doesn't love conjuring up new ideas and images? Who isn't impressed when someone takes pieces of what is and -almost magically - presents us with what could be?

However, the same can't be said about the second half of the quote, the part about "making those dreams happen." That side of the creativity equation gets short shrift. We celebrate the fun piece about dreaming and leave off the hard piece of making our imaginings real.

And it's not just the hard part; it's the scary part too. Maybe that's why we avoid it. Putting something new into the world takes bravery, whether that's a piece of art or the art that is you. Being creatively unique can cause the crowd to cheer and swoon, but it can also lead to being laughed at and left out. Yes, there is joy, beauty and play in creativity, but there is insecurity, loneliness and self-doubt as well. Which means that this month is not just about imagination, artistry and self-expression, but also courage.

Once that's in view, it's clear that we also need to talk about "co-creativity" this month. Something as daring as creativity is dangerous if we try to do it alone. Indeed, where did we get the silly idea that artists, innovators and originals are isolated, independent geniuses? When it comes to myths about creativity, that one tops the list. We need to remind each other that there is no such thing as "a person of creativity," only "people of creativity." For instance, new ideas come from the clash of debate. New art emerges only after inspiration from those who've gone before. Better forms of community are built on the back of those who have toiled and sacrificed long before we put ourselves on the line. Bottom line: there are no creators without companions!

It's all a way of reminding us that the secret to creative self-expression is staying connected to each other. Those sacred sources of inspiration inside us – our imagination, unique voice and inner muses – are like wild animals: They are hungry to run free but are also shy and easily scared away. They want to come out and play, but will only do so when coaxed and cared for by the inspiration and support of others.

So, in the end, maybe the most important question this month is not just "What do you want or need to create?" but also "Who are your partners?"

## Congregational Stewardship Visit May 19 - 21, 2023

Stewardship Consultant, Rachel Maxwell, will be with us the weekend of May 19th. She will meet with our board and staff on Friday, and our members and friends on Saturday to hear about our culture, concerns, and our hopes and priorities for moving forward. A core focus of the visit will be on identifying recommended next steps and practical information about our options. This will help us determine if we are ready to take further steps towards having a capital campaign for a building addition in the near future.

There will be various meetings on Saturday to include as many people as possible. More information will follow.

On Sunday after the service Rachel will present her observations and recommendations to our entire congregation. A written report will be delivered within two weeks of the visit. Snacks and childcare will be provided during Rachel's presentation after the Sunday service.

Please hold these dates so that we can get the most out of this visit. Thank you!

DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRIES

*by Rev. Diana McLean*

## Family Ministry Musings

As we get close to the end of the regular church year and the change to summer, I don't want our ministry to families with children to fall by the wayside!

Although my contract is not year-round so I will be absent much of the summer, I would love to help UUFN members plan summer activities for all ages! I am in conversation with a few of you already, and if you have an idea for a fun multigenerational activity for sometime in the summer, please reach out to me and I will support the planning as best as I can!

One event I do hope to both coordinate and lead is connected to the Pride in the Park event on June 3. On the two weekends before, I plan to have an opportunity for painting rocks with the flag colors for various identities within the LGBTQIA+ "rainbow." This has been a popular give-away at other Pride events I am familiar with. On May 28, after I lead worship, I will stay and help with the second round of rock painting; the first round will happen the weekend prior, after the time with the consultant about building renovation/expansion. Stay tuned to the email list and announcements on Sundays for more details as the events get closer. (And if you have small rocks to contribute, we welcome them!) I do also plan to be at Pride in the Park—I hope to see you there!

As always, if you have questions for me, please reach out. I'm always happy to chat!

In gratitude,  
Rev. Diana



## May Share the Plate: Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood is one of the nation's leading providers of high-quality, affordable health care for women, men, and young people, and the nation's largest provider of sex education. It offers quality health care, backed by medical experts. Planned Parenthood protects access to health care like pregnancy testing, birth control, abortion, cancer screening, and STD testing and treatment.

Thank you for giving as you are willing and able.

## March Share the Plate: Community Action Center

UUFN members contributed \$577.00 to Community Action Committee.

## May 7th New Member Ceremony

Interested in becoming a member of UUFN? Join us for our new member Sunday on May 7th! During the service that day new members will be invited to sign the membership book in a celebration of community. Please let Rev. Sara know if you plan on becoming a member.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

*Please see descriptions of each event elsewhere in this newsletter.*

**Tuesday, May 2nd, 11:00 am**

Memorial service for Mark Needham

**Sunday, May 7th**

"Joy Jam" Sunday, including new member book signing, lots of music, and a celebration of the community of UUFN

**May 19th to 21st**

Next Steps visioning weekend led by Rachel Maxwell of Stewardship for Us. Rachel will meet with the Board Friday and a number of small groups Saturday. On Sunday after the service Rachel will present her initial recommendations, followed by a more extensive written report.

**May 22nd, 1-2:30 pm at UUFN**

Remembering Mother: Gifts and Challenges Conversation Circle

## 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 on Sunday, April 23, 2023. The meeting convened at 11:45 am in the church and was opened by Pres. Paul Krause, followed by an inspirational reading from Rev. Sara. Board members present were Pres. Paul Krause, Past pres. John Owens, Katy Gillispie, Bill Jokela, Sue Coleman, Rev. Sara Smalley, Wyman Weinbeck and Don Stager.

Check-in was conducted by asking: *what have you heard in the past few weeks? What needs are not being met?* 1. Several responses included: *Concerns regarding religious education program/training and preparation for teachers.* 2. *Trepidation, concerns, anxiety and excitement regarding potential future plans for our Fellowship and church property.*

The UUFN Financial Report was presented. Current finances reflect stable/satisfactory condition and all indications show we will end the fiscal year financially sound. Additional discussion took place regarding the monitoring and management of UUFN funds. The preliminary FY2023-24 budget was presented and explained to board members. Specific line-item budgets were discussed further.

Rev. Sara will be attending three educational/work-related conferences in the coming months. She's especially looking forward to the "Transitional Minister" conference. A New Member welcoming service will be conducted in May. Four or possibly more new members will be welcomed into our fellowship.

A conversation was held discussing evolving needs for RE instruction and delivery of same. Is there a need for additional teachers and/or teacher training and preparation. Is the RE program meeting our needs and if not, what specifically can be done to improve our program?

Meeting was adjourned at 1:19 pm with Rev Sara sharing a reading of "10 Ways to be a UU Leader".

*Respectfully submitted—  
Wyman Weinbeck  
UUFN Secretary*

# UUFN Pride Day Celebration

June 3, 2023 - 12:00 - 4:00  
Central Park, Northfield

We need help to set up  
and host the  
booth

Contact Liz Brekke to  
volunteer

Join us & let's celebrate together!

## Green Team Clothing Drive

Thanks to all for your generosity in donating clothing and textiles these past three weeks in April as part of the UUFN clothing drive, which is part of our Green Team initiative to reduce our carbon footprint as we work toward being a Green Sanctuary congregation. We donated 180 pounds of clothing and shoes to **Wearever Recycling** <https://www.weareverrecycling.com>. In the future you are encouraged to donate wearable clothing to the Clothes Closet. What they cannot use, they donate to **Wearever Recycling**. A big thank you to all who contributed to this effort!

## Welcome Team

- The Welcome Team would welcome new members. What does membership on our team mean? It means that once in a while you would serve as greeter. When it's your turn, you would arrive fifteen minutes early and greet those coming to our service and hand out the order of service. You would make sure that Newcomers (i.e. first time visitors) are offered a visitor card and a stick on name tag. You would pass the offering basket and count the offering after the service. You would get a reminder before your Sunday along with an attachment with a list of duties. That's it. There are no meetings to attend—Zoom or otherwise. If you are not already one of the friendly people who greets people who attend our services—especially Newcomers—and would like to serve in this important way, contact Brynda McCoy.

## Care Team Volunteer Opportunity

The mission of the Care Team is to provide care and support for people in need of help and encouragement during a stress-filled time. We plan to initiate a food ministry component for those times when food support would be helpful, such as after a surgery, accident, or other unforeseen circumstance which limits mobility and/or capacity to manage meals. We are looking for congregants who would be interested in joining with other volunteers in a communal effort to provide an occasional meal should such a need arise. There are no meetings to attend. If interested in helping with food ministry at the UUFN, contact Martha Easter-Wells.

## From the Care Team—Remembering Mother Conversation

*Remembering Mother: Gifts and Challenges—Monday, May 22*

- You are invited to a conversation, **Remembering Mother: Gifts and Challenges**, to be held on **Monday, May 22**, in person at the UUFN, from 1:00—2:30 pm. How does Mother continue to live on in your life? What's been hard? What are you grateful for? Come prepared to share a Mother story or two that reveal and celebrate the gifts and challenges woven into this important relationship. Please contact Mary Jane Lipinski if you are interested in joining this conversation.

## UUFN Snow Shoveling this Past Winter

Let us thank Bill MaGrath, Wyman Weinbeck, Matt Thieding, Bob Peterson, Lee Tops, Mairi Doerr, Bill Jokela, Larry Vorwerk, and anyone else who may have helped out, unnoticed, for their help in shoveling snow at UUFN this past winter, and keeping the walkway ice free, the best we could. Let hope we are done for another year now. It wouldn't have come off so well, if it wasn't for all of your help. It has been appreciated by all, I'm sure.

Thanks again.

Larry Vorwerk  
Co-Chair of the Outdoor Facility Team, with Matt Thieding

## UU Summer Camp!

**For Singles, Families, Couples, and Groups of Friends**

Registration for Camp UniStar in northern Minnesota is now open. UniStar runs weekly programs with themes like singing, photography, yoga, climate justice, friendship, and humor. You can find out more and register [here](#).

## GARDEN TEAM

Greetings community, the garden team had its first adventure this past week. We freshened up the mulch, put out some garden art and did some spring cleaning of the gardens. We would LOVE to have you join us. You can donate as little as one hour a month or several hours a week. We have great flexibility in our volunteer timing and we could really use your help. Please let Mairi or Connie know you are interested.



## Monthly Birthday Party—A Great Idea!!

A good time was had by all at the April birthday party that Sue Coleman and Sandra Griffin made happen on April 21. Clark Webster made the suggestion during the festivities that we have a monthly birthday party. What a great idea! The only problem is that we do not have an events coordinator, so it would be up to the birthday folks and their friends to make it happen. The building can be reserved through Jennifer Whitson and it is free for members. People doing this could of course invite family and friends as well as UUFNers. After all, our middle name is fellowship, so let's do this!

# Lifelong Learning and Engagement Committee

## May Theme: The Path of Creativity

### Creative Storytelling:

The St. Olaf Theatre department brings you an evening with **Kevin Kling**, **May 9, 7:30pm in the Kelsey Theatre.**



Humorist, playwright and author, Kevin Kling is hailed as a Minnesota state treasure. His writing weaves his sense of humor and unique perspective together with the life challenges he has surmounted. He has performed his inspiring stories and plays in libraries, school gymnasiums, The Kennedy Center, Off-Broadway, regional theaters and storytelling festivals around the US.

It's free but you need tickets: [Theater Tickets](#)  
– [Theater \(stolaf.edu\)](#)

### Creativity in Film:



The **Downstream Environmental Film Festival** is a community celebration of water, short films, and the natural world.

Join us on **Tuesday, May 23rd, 5:30-8:00 pm** to see short films that engage, educate, entertain, and inspire you at [Imminent Brewing](#) in Northfield. These local, national, and international films highlight clean water, outdoor adventure, and environmental equity themes.

### Creativity in Everyday Life:

**Everyday Art Pieces**—Option A in Soul Matters invited me to create a portfolio of creativity during my daily life – not fancy art works, but the unnoticed ways that creativity is showing up. I realized that almost anything I do, even the things I don't especially like to do, has a facet of creativity in it. If I open my mind to what that might look like or sound like or smell like or taste like, I get to walk through my whole day energized with creativity. I might recognize that we worked out a new resolution to an old relationship glitch or enjoy the taste of a new herb to add to a favorite soup. Even cleaning the bathroom, the chore that I like least, creates new energy in this sparkling room. *Ellen Saul*

### Invitation:

The **Lifelong Learning and Engagement Committee** invites others from UUFN to join our team in our mission to offer enrichment opportunities for adults. We review and select resources from the Soul Matters packet, explore various local activities, and draw upon our own ideas and experiences, all with goal of providing opportunities for learning and engagement for the UUFN community. So, please consider joining us. Contact Bill Jokela.



## Social Justice



## Social Justice Committee



The **Land Acknowledgement and Beyond Committee** shared an excursion to the Dakota Museum in Shakopee on April 13. Our tour began with a video retelling the Dakota creation story. (One scene below)



We had an excellent guide who took us through the museum. His stories and insights along the way enriched our understanding of Mdewakanton Dakota culture, history, and people.

It's a beautiful museum. A display of the 7 Dakota Values presented as pillars in the museum visually displayed those values and made them memorable: **Prayer, Respect, Caring and Compassion, Humility, Honesty and Truth, Wisdom, Generosity and Helping**. For each value, there was an

art work displayed in the pillar. Here are just a couple of examples:



**Caring and Compassion**



**Generosity and Helping**

The June REACH will include a list of upcoming intergenerational Indigenous people recognition/celebration events that are open to the public.



**The Green Team** is working toward making UUFN a UUA Green Sanctuary congregation. First steps are educating our team and the congregation about the program, assessing the current UUFN environmental status and carbon footprint, and initiating projects to address carbon mitigation and climate justice at UUFN and in the larger community.

Recent **Green Team** activities:

- Slides with **Green Team** tips before/after Sunday services in April for ways to reduce our carbon footprint
- Presence at Interfaith Table at Earth Day celebration
- Successful clothing drive with donations to Wearever Recycling
- Provide carbon footprint calculator options for UUFN households
- Initiate a process for calculating a UUFN building and congregation carbon footprint

## April 2023 Birthdays Party

Photos of our gathering today, April 21, 2023, at UUFN to help celebrate *a few of* our April Birthdays in the congregation. Not all "April Birthday folks" could attend. After all, it was the middle of a work day! 😊

Nevertheless, we celebrated **in-person**: Terry S, Brynda M, Eve W, and Bill J. And we celebrated the rest of you: **in spirit!**

Happy another trip around the Sun! ☀️

