



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

Treasurer

Katy Gillispie

Secretary

Wyman Weinbeck

Board Members-At-Large

Sue Coleman

Bill Jokela

Sabina Peters-Daywater

Don Stager

Music

Bev Topp

Indoor Facilities Committee

Wyman Weinbeck

Outdoor Facilities Committee

Matt Thieding

Larry Vorwerk

July 2023

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 if you would like to begin receiving the weekly email.

Sunday, July 2nd • 10:00 am

“Patriotic Acts: Witnessing, Story Sharing, and Linking Civilians and Veterans” • Guest Speaker: J.A. Moad II

Can bearing witness—through story sharing—become a patriotic act? The telling of what we see or know to others assures us that our stories are heard and potentially influence us over time. How do stories help us understand what it means to be patriotic? Guest speaker J.A. Moad II offers ideas from the perspective of an Air Force veteran with over 100 combat missions, the son of a Vietnam veteran, a creative writer, and a performer. A short Q&A will be held after his talk and a congregational song. After the service, stay for an ol’-fashioned Ice Cream Social, with all the toppings. Read more about the Unitarian connections to ice cream sundaes [here!](#)

Sunday, July 9th • 10:00 am

Rev. Sara Smalley

Today we will be welcoming congregants from Michael Servetus Unitarian Society who will be joining us online. Rev. Sara will be preaching with Mary Jane Lipinski as the worship associate.

Sunday, July 16th • 10:00 am

“Organizing for Climate Justice” • Rev. Terri Burnor, Guest Preacher

Following this remarkable legislative session, we are on our way to building a local renewable economy that supports communities living in right relationship with the land. The Rev. Terri Burnor, a UU minister on staff with Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light (MNIPL), will invite us to join the "green road" grounded in our values and our quest for equity and justice in Minnesota.

Sunday, July 23rd • 10:00 am

“The Spiritual gift of Annoying People” • Presented by John Owens

What is it with people who annoy us? Could our annoyance actually be an opportunity for spiritual and personal growth? John Owens explores this perspective with heart and humor.

Sunday, July 30th • 10:00 am

“Great Things Great and Small Things Small” • Presented by Beth Goodell

Putting things in perspective is a form of mindfulness that can help us hold on to equilibrium in our daily lives.

From Rev. Sara

I appreciate the invitation summer offers in the life of a congregation to slow down a little bit, connect and reconnect with each other and the Earth, and begin to dream about and plan for the next church year. In that spirit, I invite you to attend one or more of the following gatherings!

Coffee with the Minister

Wednesdays, July 12th and 19, 10-11:30 am

Thursdays, August 17th and 24th, 12:30 to 2 pm

The HideAway Coffeehouse (outside weather and space permitting)

Last summer I held drop-in lunch gatherings on Zoom and they were a wonderful way to connect. This year I'll be at HideAway Coffeehouse in Northfield to chat about UUFN, life, or whatever is on your heart or mind. Stop by for as short or as long as you're able.

Religious Education Listening and Visioning Session

Wednesday, July 19th, 7pm on Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/94039111859>

At the annual meeting last month, you generously and significantly increased the budget for our religious education program. Using that increased budget to invest in our Sunday morning offerings for children will be the top priority. Supporting parents, creating opportunities for youth to connect, and building multigenerational relationships have also been named as highly important. Join me at this listening and visioning session as we talk about how to meet the spiritual needs of children, youth, and families and become more and more fully a multigenerational community. If you are unable to attend this meeting but would like to share your ideas about religious education, please reach out to make an appointment.

Welcoming Congregation Conversation

Sunday, August 13th after the service at UUFN

In response to an online conversation about LGBTQ+ identities, terminology, and welcoming, let's gather in person to talk about these concepts. (Note: I had originally planned for this to be on Zoom, but I think it's worth gathering in person so there is a chance for greater understanding and connection as we talk through these complicated topics.) I'll do an overview of terminology and concepts, and we'll have plenty of time for questions and reflection. Together, let's deepen our conversation about how we can be more welcoming to people in the LGBTQ+ community who are already members of UUFN and those who have yet to come through our doors, and share our questions, struggles, and insights.



Creating Community Together: New Ways to Get Involved

Our volunteer sign up form for the 2023-24 church year is now live! You'll recognize many of the committees, but there's a number of new ways to get involved as well. [Click here](#) to see how we're building a welcoming, multigenerational, vibrant community at UUFN and to get involved!

July Calendar of Upcoming Events

Please consider any of these events in July that are open and welcoming for all ages.

Saturday, July 8th. at 10:30 am -Prarie Island Indian Community Pow Wow (Wacipi): Meet at the UUFN parking lot to hook up with others to carpool or caravan to the site. Contact Nita Wolf if you plan to do this so we'll know for sure who plans to attend.

The Grand Entry is at 1:00 pm. With an early arrival, spots can be reserved with a blanket laid down on the bleachers, or you may take a folding chair. Admission is free. If you want to travel on your own, the address is 5636 Sturgeon Lake Rd., Welsh, MN 55089. (Web site: [HTTP://prarieisland.org/](http://prarieisland.org/)) This is near Treasure Island Casino. Remember to be respectful of tribal, Wacipi etiquette while attending the Wacipi.

Saturday, July 15th.-Bike Ride on the Cannon Valley Trail starting at 9:30 a.m. Please RSVP to Larry Vorwerk if you plan on going.

Meet-up directions: From Northfield on Highway 19 cross over Highway 52 and go about a half mile down the road on 19. We will meet in the parking lot across the street from the Family Fresh grocery store. This is about one block before you get to the first stop light. We will wait only 15 minutes before we take off along the river following the Cannon River bike trail. If you are late, just peddle fast and catch up with us! We will go to Welch Village and then return the way we came. It will take around two hours for the whole trip. Please bring your own water and any snacks you might want. In case of bad weather, please call me to see if the bike ride is still on.

Saturday, July 22nd. at noon-"Story Circles" inside at UUFN. We will start with a bring-your-own-bag lunch. Paul Krause will lead a sing-a-long session after that and then we will begin our main "story circle" around 12:45 pm. You are welcome to join us for that only. Paul will have a story theme to promote connection through personal stories. It's a great way to get to know each other better. If you have any questions, please contact Paul.

A Tip from the Green Team!



Have you been sending your packing materials to the landfill?

No need. Graphic Mailbox in Northfield will gladly reuse/recycle...

- Clean plastic wrap
- Styrofoam peanuts
- Soft foam
- Plastic bubbles
- Packing paper

PBS Documentary Showing and Panel

There will be a free educational event at 50 North on July 19 from 10:00 to 11:30. The PBS documentary When My Time Comes with Diane Rehm will be shown followed by a discussion of Medical Aid in Dying. Brynda McCoy will be one of the panel members leading the discussion following the film. It will be held in room 103. All are welcome.

Important News from Our Denomination

New President of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)

Delegates at this year's Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in Pittsburg overwhelmingly and enthusiastically elected the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt as the next president of the UUA. You can read about her in this Religion News Service article, [Unitarian Universalists elect first woman of color, openly queer president](#), and on her website [here](#).

Article 2 Preliminarily Approved

Delegates also approved sending the new Article 2 proposal to General Assembly 2024 for a final vote. The new Article 2 no longer includes the Seven Principles, but rather seven values, centered on love.

Our Soul Matters themes for the 2023-24 church year will be exploring these themes and the new Article 2 language. The final language, including amendments approved by delegates to General Assembly, will be released soon.

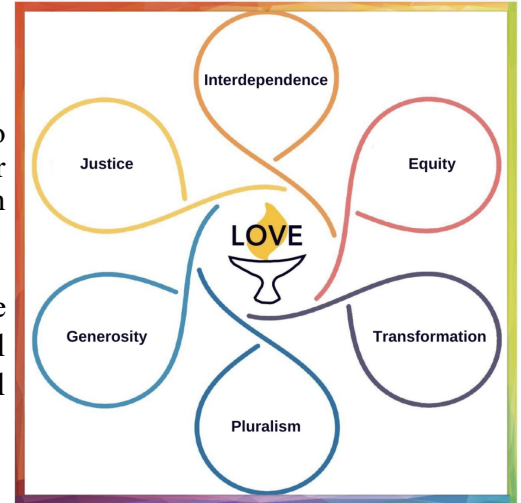


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July Share the Plate:



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.

May Share the Plate: Planned Parenthood

UUFN members contributed \$634.88 for Planned Parenthood—North Central States.



Social Justice Committee



Typical Dakota Village

Six UUFN members, including the Land Acknowledgment and Beyond Committee, traveled to the Treaty Site Museum on June 8th. The museum is in St Peter Minnesota near the site where, in 1851, the Dakota signed a treaty to sell all of their land to the US government.

We learned that the treaty was a complicated and pivotal situation. European traders had been buying large numbers of buffalo, beaver and deer from the Dakota, which over the years, depleted Dakota food sources. Traders had been encouraged to get the Dakota into debt, so they would be more inclined to sell their land. After the treaty, the Dakota received very little of the expected payment because traders got paid first. They subtracted the claimed amount of Dakota debt, which was often exaggerated. The Dakota were cheated out of payment for their land.

Here is one quote from the history statements that are exhibited at the museum:

The Treaty of Traverse des Sioux

Signed here on July 3, 1851, was a turning point in state and national history.

It included 24 million acres and encompassed an area from Winona, to Moorhead, to Luverne -- nearly 40% of what we know today as Minnesota.

The Dakota approached the treaty process with cautious optimism. Realizing the tide of white settlement could not be reversed, they agreed to sell their Nation for \$1,665,000, and a chance at a new sustainable life on a small strip of land retained along the Minnesota river. A few dishonest traders, an apathetic US government, shortage of game, and crop failure soon made even those modest goals unattainable.

Immigrants flooded Minnesota to buy the same land the Dakota sold to the government at 15 times the price. Within a century the state's non-native population had soared from seven thousand to 3 million.

None of this could have happened without the treaty. Immigrants could not have come, cities would not have been built. No matter where you live, what happened here continues to affect your life.

Janet McGrath

