



# REACH

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

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## October 2023

### Theme: The Gift of Heritage

*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, October 1st • 10:00 am**

**“The Power of Song” • Presented by Gwen Westerman**

Join Gwen Westerman (Dakota and Cherokee heritage), Professor of English at Mankato State University, and worship associate Nita Wolf. Gwen will speak about her roots that are deep in the landscape of the tall grass prairie, and reveal themselves in her art and writing through the languages and traditions of her family.

**Sunday, October 8th • 10:00 am**

**“Glorious Just as You Are” • Rev. Sara Smalley**  
**National Coming Out Day Service**

“People ask me sometimes, ‘Is this a gay church?’” says Victoria Safford. “It is a privilege to answer: ‘Ours is absolutely, gladly, hopefully and humbly, gaily, a gay church, a gay tradition, where everyone, including heterosexual members and friends, is welcome.’” Join Rev. Sara as we lift up our UU LGBTQ heritage and celebrate rainbows, glitter, and the sacredness of all.

**Sunday, October 15th • 10:00 am**

**“On Ancestors and Homecomings”**

**Rev. Schuyler Vogel, Carleton Chaplain and UU Minister**

What does it mean to come from a place and belong there? What does it mean to be descendants of others, to have ancestors, some you know and some you never will? Join the new Carleton College Chaplain and Unitarian Universalist minister, Rev. Schuyler Vogel, as we explore how our heritage and history can make us more at home in our present lives together.

**Sunday, October 22nd • 10:00 am**

**“Let It Be A Dance We Do” • Presented by Sharon Snyder-Thieding**

In times of chaos and imbalance, it is good to re-member and restore our place in the 'Interdependent Web of All Existence'. Join Sharon Snyder and Barbara Krause as we re-connect with the harmonizing grace of sacred dance.

**Sunday, October 29th • 10:00 am**

**“Remembrance Sunday” • Rev. Sara Smalley**

It is said that at this time of year, in many cultures and traditions such as Samhain and All Souls Day, that the veil between life and death becomes thin. We are invited to look loss and grief in the eye and not shy away. It's sometimes scary, but the veil is soft, and we can trust ourselves to go there. This Sunday, we will gather in remembrance for those who have gone before.

**You are invited to bring a photo or other memento of someone you love who has died – friends, family, pets – as we create an altar together honoring our grief and the enduring power of love.**

## Small Congregation Collaborative

This year, we are excited to join together with two other smaller congregations in Minnesota – Michael Servetus and Mankato – to share program offerings with one another. Online programming gives us the wonderful opportunity to expand our shared offerings and get to know one another. Each congregation is contributing one offering that is open to all three congregations. We will intentionally try to connect congregants from their own congregations as well as across congregations. Join us as we come together as Unitarian Universalists sharing our search for truth, meaning, love, and liberation!

### October's Offering: Introduction to Unitarian History "There was not" -- How these words set the stage for Unitarianism

**Three Sessions** during the month of October when our theme is *The Gift of Heritage*

**Mondays:** October 16, 23, 30th from 7:00-8:00 pm on Zoom

**To attend:** Join us in the Michael Servetus Unitarian Society (MSUS) Zoom Room. Click on the large yellow box "Our Zoom Room" on the MSUS web page [www.msus.org](http://www.msus.org).

We will trace the history of Unitarian thought from the earliest days of Christianity through the Reformation and into contemporary Unitarian Universalism. Along the way, we'll explore why the unity-trinity debate mattered, and how it could still matter to today's UUs.

The facilitator, Chad Snyder, has been a member of Michael Servetus Unitarian Society for nearly 20 years and serves as their Commissioned Lay Minister. He just completed his first year at United Theological Seminary, is a practicing attorney and mediator, and spends his free time -- such as it is -- playing guitar in an undiscovered garage band, creating community theater, and watching TV shows with spaceships or superheroes.

## New to Unitarian Universalism? Interested in becoming a member of UUFN?

See our welcome sheet [here](#) for information about classes and conversations!

## For Visitors: What We're About October 8th 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:*  
October 8th, December 3rd, February 4th, April 7th

## October Share the Plate: OutFront Minnesota



OutFront Minnesota was founded in 1987 to fight for LGBTQ+ justice and equity. Over the past 36 years, Outfront Minnesota has worked to ensure that the values of liberation and intersectional justice guides its work until full equality under the law and full equity in practice is realized.

Outfront Minnesota worked closely with legislators to:

- pass a statewide nondiscrimination law that included sexual orientation AND gender identity as protected statuses in 1993 – the first last that included protections for trans community members;
- defeat an anti-marriage amendment and pass a marriage equality through the legislature in 2013;
- ensure kids have safe and supportive environments to learn in by passing the Safe and Supportive Schools Act in 2014;
- pass the Conversion Therapy Ban and the Trans Refuge Bill in 2023.

The fight is not over and supporters are needed more than ever.

Thank you for giving as you are willing and able.

## August Share the Plate: Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light

UUFN members contributed \$432.00 for Interfaith Power and Light.

## Care Team Invitation

The UUFN Care Team invites you to join Larry Vorwerk for **“Dealing With Our Evolving Spiritual Beliefs From Our Family Heritage”** at UUFN (in person) at 1:00 pm, Saturday, October 28, for our ongoing conversations and topics of interest. We will discuss different aspects of how our changing beliefs over our lifetime has effected us, our family, and those close to us. All are welcome.

## Tips from the Green Team



The Green Team is encouraging everyone to calculate their personal carbon footprint with the Interfaith Power and Light household calculator. We plan to have a meeting after church soon to discuss how we can use the information to motivate us to be more **Green!!!**

<https://interfaithpowerandlight.org/coolcongregations/calculators/household-calculator/>

## Social Justice



## Social Justice Committee



**Join us on Sunday, October 1,** for a presentation by Gwen Westerman, who is a Professor of English Literature and English Studies and Technical Communication at Mankato State University. She is of both Dakota and Cherokee heritages.

Gwen is co-author of the book, *Mni Sota Makoce: The Land of the Dakota*, which won two Minnesota Book Awards and an award in Leadership in History from the American Association for State and Local History. Her poetry collection *Follow the Blackbirds* is written in English and Dakota. Her poems and essays can be found in these publications: *POETRY*, *Yellow Medicine Review*, *Water-Stone Review*, *Natural Bridge*, and at [poetryfoundation.org](http://poetryfoundation.org). Her newest book, *Songs, Blood Deep* was just published. She is also a visual artist.

One of Gwen's quilts:



## Honoring Dakota Mural Wopida is October 9



All are invited to participate in the Honoring Dakota Mural Wopida on Monday, October 9 (Indigenous Peoples' Day and Chief Red Wing Day).

"Wopida" is connecting all beings including the Great Spirit through the giving of thanks. The Honoring Dakota Mural is a gift from the Red Wing community to our Dakota relatives as part of the Honoring Dakota Project.

Gather from 4-6 p.m. for the unveiling of the Honoring Dakota Mural, Honoring Dakota Team Presentation, and Wopida give away. Walk together as a community to the Red Wing Public Library to share a meal from 6-8 p.m.

For more details, contact Lois Burnes.

## “Newcomer” Gathering on September 16

Thirty-two people attended the “Newcomer” gathering on September 16 in Odd Fellows Park. Fourteen of the attendees came to our Sunday services for their first time during this past year. (So we call them “newcomers.”)



## Earth Apprenticeship Training

*“Let the land tell you what to do,” said the advisor, and so I did. For at least two hours every Friday morning, I would go to a certain space and play, following instructions that I thought I received, digging and planting, pulling up, moving stones and earth, learning the ways of grasses, forbs, shrubs, trees.”*

That story continues, but I'll skip to this: **I invite you to join me in learning from the land.** We'll start with three Saturday afternoons, 1-5 pm, here at the farm, and bring meditative awareness to the beings who live here. We'll alternate guidance with explorations in nature with group discussions and eventually finding a way to offer something, to do some small project requested by the land spirits. with council, and return two more Saturdays to continue and go deeper. At the end of the third Saturday we'll consider next steps for those who will continue. Saturdays: October 7-21, 1-5 pm.

The plan is for a group that comes all three weeks. Donation is requested but not required. Details here: <https://mountainsandwatersalliance.org/event/earth-apprentice-training-fall-2023/>. Registration by emailing Shodo (from the link). I'll send directions and other information a few days before the first week.

