



REACH

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

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Treasurer

Katy Gillispie

Secretary

Wyman Weinbeck

Board Members-At-Large

Sue Coleman

Bill Jokela

Sabina Peters-Daywater

Don Stager

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

February 2024

Theme: The Gifts of Justice and Equity

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, February 4th • 10:00 am

“Navigating Our Final Chapter - Empowering End-of-Life Choices”

Rev. Harlan Limpert

Most of us take pride in taking charge of every aspect of our lives - who or if we'll marry, where we'll live, what kind of career path we'll follow. Yet, when we arrive at the end of our lives, we'll often hand over control to complete strangers. How does that happen? And what can we do to stop it?

Rev. Harlan Limpert is a UU minister and co-founder of Interfaith Clergy for End-of-Life Options. Its mission is to promote understanding and acceptance of diverse spiritual beliefs related to end-of-life decisions.

Sunday, February 11th • 10:00 am

“Where All Thrive” • Rev. Sara Smalley

New Member Sunday

The value of justice in UUism calls us to “*work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive.*” Join Rev. Sara as we reflect on what it means and what it takes for all to thrive. This is also a New Member Sunday, so come and celebrate our new members!

Sunday, February 18th • 10:00 am

Rev. Schuyler Vogel

Today we welcome Rev. Schuyler back to UUFN! Schuyler is a Unitarian Universalist minister and the Carleton College Chaplain. This is a Third Sunday Sharing Sunday, where children start in the Sanctuary for the first part of the service before going to their religious education class.

Sunday, February 25th • 10:00 am

“The Right to Flourish” • Rev. Sara Smalley

The value of equity in UUism states “*We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness.*” What would it be like if we took our own and others' flourishing seriously?

Religious Education (RE) Update

We (Rev. Sara and Ashely) wanted to give a short update about our RE program:

Because of other commitments in her life, Ashley, our Religious Education Coordinator, will be working two to three Sundays per month instead of four to five. Volunteers will lead our RE class the other Sundays. Ashley will continue to offer support to them and to the program as a whole.

Long term we know we need a paid staff every Sunday, and Rev. Sara, the Board, and Ashley are working towards something that works for everyone.

If you want to volunteer to work with our amazing children or you have questions about the program, please don't hesitate to reach out to Ashley or Sara.

Religious Education Curriculum for February

The Soul Matters curriculum in February explores the gifts of our UU faith in Equality, Equity, and Justice.

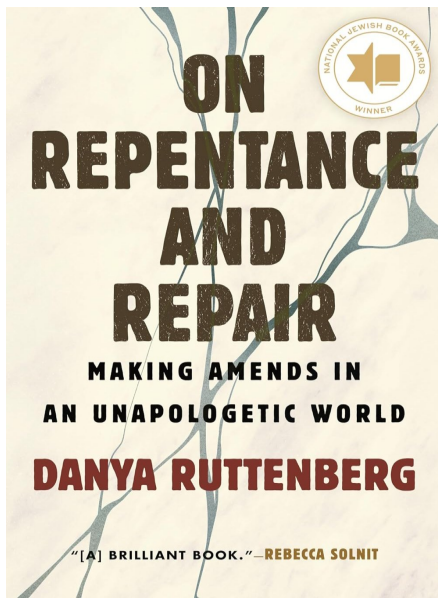
- A Gift of Better Relationships (Valentine's Day),
- A Gift of Better World (Black History Month),
- and A Gift of Joy and Beloved Community.

We will have another Multigen service on February 18th. Children will start upstairs with their families, and then they will be sung down to RE class.

Family Potluck

Laura, Aaron, and Chloe Gerber will be hosting the first UUFN Families potluck at their house in Northfield on Saturday, February 10th from 5:00-7:30pm. This is a social gathering for families, parents, and children. If you self-identify with this group, or you'd just like to attend, please join us! We hope to make this a monthly or every-other-month event. Kid-friendly space, dishes, drinks, and cutlery provided. Bring a dish to share if you are able, or just bring yourselves. Email Laura to RSVP and get our address.

Thank you,
Laura Gerber



Discussion About the 2024 UU Common Read: *On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World*

Each year, the UUA picks one or two books for a “common read,” encouraging UUs to read and discuss them. For the 2023-2024 church year, that book is *On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World* by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg.

On Repentance and Repair explores the writings of the 12th century Jewish physician and scholar, Maimonides. Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg offers a contemporary, lively interpretation of the ancient text, inviting people of any and all faiths toward accountability practices that can transform our relationships and help to make us whole.

Common Read invites participants to apply *On Repentance and Repair* to their own experiences of harm and repentance in (1) interpersonal relationships, (2) communal spaces, such as our congregations, and (3) our wider communities, such as nations.

Rev. Diana McLean, now the minister at the Mankato congregation, formerly our Director of Family ministries, will lead five 90-minute discussions of the book. This program is part of our Small Congregation Collaborative with participants from the Northfield, Mankato, and Michael Servetus UU communities. This is a great way to meet others from UUFN as well as UUs from other congregations!

You can order the book directly from the UUA Bookstore [here](#), or from any online bookseller. If you want to participate in the conversation but cannot afford to purchase the book, reach out to Rev. Sara and we'll get you a copy.

The discussions will be from 6:30-8:00 pm on Zoom, on the following Thursday evenings:

February 29
March 14 and 28
April 11 and 25

The sessions do build on each other, and it is especially important to attend the first two if you plan to attend any of the others.

For more information or to register and get the Zoom link, please email Rev. Diana.

Jon Frasz Memorial Service

We'll gather Saturday, February 17th at 3:00 pm at UUFN to share stories about and honor the life of Jon Frasz. Dessert reception to follow.



Reimagining Article II Reflection Circle Facilitated by Rev. Sara

Join Rev. Sara for a four-session deep dive into the proposed Article II revision. Article II is the section of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Bylaws that contains the Seven Principles and Six Sources of Unitarian Universalism, as well as statements of inclusion, freedom of belief, and the UUA's purposes. It is the foundation for the work of our UUA and its member congregations. This summer, delegates to the Unitarian Universalist annual convention, General Assembly, will vote on significant changes to its language.

Gather with others at UUFN to reflect on the proposed updates to Article II. No prior knowledge of or familiarity with Article II is required. Developed by UU Wellspring, these sessions will have a spiritual emphasis. Attendance at all four sessions is highly encouraged, though if you know you need to miss one of them you are still welcome to attend.

Saturday mornings in February: 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, and 2/24
10:00 to 11:30 am In person at UUFN

Note: we'll shift to Zoom if winter weather necessitates it for any of the sessions.

February Share the Plate: SIDE WITH LOVE



SIDE WITH LOVE

Our Share the Plate recipient for February is Side With Love. Side with Love is a public advocacy campaign sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression. Read more about its four advocacy campaigns here:

Side With Love + climate justice = **Create Climate Justice**

Side With Love + democracy = **UU the Vote**

Side With Love + bodily autonomy = **UPLIFT Action**

Side With Love + decriminalization = **Love Resists**

Thank you for giving as you are willing and able.

December Share the Plate: Doctors Without Borders

UUFN members contributed \$1,001.19 to Doctors Without Borders.

Soup Supper in March!

Put March 1st on your calendar for our next Soup Supper at UUFN. Please join your fellow members and friends for a meal of soup, bread and dessert at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall. Please email Gail Hendershot to RSVP so I can save you a spot at the table. I am also looking for folks who would like to bring food to share. Let me know if you would like to contribute to our meal that evening.

The meal will conclude with an informal trivia game and I am encouraging you all to submit a trivia question and answer about yourself or the greater world. You pick the category! You can either send your questions ahead of time to me or bring them to the supper on March 1st.

I am looking forward to another fun evening and delicious fare.

Gail Hendershot

Care Team Welcomes New Member

The Care Team welcomes a new member, Lyn Thwing, who as a nurse, parent, and grandparent brings years of professional and personal experience to our mission of providing support and encouragement for those in our UUFN community going through a stress-filled time. She relocated to Northfield from Minneapolis this summer, and we are delighted to welcome her as part of our Team.

Care Team Wheels Team Volunteer Drivers

In an attempt to reduce stress and isolation for members in our community, the Care Team has begun setting up a team of volunteer drivers, whom people can call upon when in need of transportation to the UUFN or to local medical appointments. Volunteer drivers reserve the right to say no to requests for rides if the timing or distance isn't convenient for them, or, if the driver has concerns about passenger safety and competence, such as being a fall risk. Volunteer drivers interested in helping provide transportation and easing short-term stress for others in our community can contact the Care Team Wheels Team coordinators, Lyn Thwing or Mary Jane Lipinski.

Tip from the Green Team for February

In the article *5 Easy Ways to Live Greener in 2024*, Angela Fritz, CNN Senior Climate and Weather Editor, gives these 5 tips:

1. Cut meat from just one meal a week (or more if you can..the point is to start)
2. Practice eco-driving (no high speeds, heavy acceleration or braking)
3. Call your utility to ask for a clean energy option (I do the local solar option)
4. Take one less flight a year
5. Start a conversation (with anyone about climate issues)

Social Justice



Social Justice Committee



Last summer Liz Brekke selected an organization called Makoce Ikikcupi (Land Recovery) to be our Share the Plate recipient for the month of July.

I knew very little about the organization at that time. We on the Land Acknowledgement and Beyond group looked into it a little more deeply recently. We were thoroughly impressed and excited with what we found.

As we know, Dakota land was taken, but never paid for, despite the treaties of Mendota and Traverse de Sioux. In 1863 the Dakota people were exiled from the state.

Makoce Ikikcupi is dealing with both those historical facts:

Our dream is to acquire lands within our ancestral territory where Dakota people may establish new communities based on sustainability and adherence to our ancient ways of being.

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.

In the past few years, two pieces of land have been reclaimed. One is in Granite Falls - 21 acres that was bought with donations. Earth lodges are being built there. The other is 20 acres near Mountain Lake, Minnesota, that was donated to the organization. They plan to make this a major food production site.

Another aspect of this non-profit organization that we found intriguing is that it gives people a chance to volunteer to help with various projects in person. From the start, the most important goal of the UUFN Land Acknowledgement and Beyond Group has been to find a way to establish a relationship with Dakota people and to become involved in ways that they suggest.

Here is their website.

<https://makoceikikcupi.com/>

Explore it when you have a chance, to see the history of the organization, the work that has been done and future plans.

Janet McGrath

Oh, what a beautiful morning!



New Comer Gathering / Winter Birthday Celebration

About 40 people enjoyed a get-acquainted game on Jan. 28, immediately following the Sunday service. Most to them are relatively new to UUFN. Each person was asked to present three statements describing themselves. But one of the statements was a bold-faced lie, and the audience was asked to guess which one.

