



REACH

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

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Wyman Weinbeck

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Susie Weinbeck

Choir Director

Taylor Wesseln

Music Director

Bev Topp

Indoor Facilities Committee

Wyman Weinbeck

Outdoor Facilities Committee

Matt Thieding

Larry Vorwerk

March 2024

Theme: The Gift of Transformation

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, March 3rd • 10:00 am

“Becoming Light: The Transforming Power of Story” • Paul Krause

Paul will be joined by Barbara Krause as Worship Associate, the UUFN Choir, and Laura Upham Gerber.

Sunday, March 10th • 10:00 am (Remember to set your clocks ahead)

“The Overground Railroad to Immigrant Caravans” • Janet Kurtz

Firsthand accounts of the immigrant experience tell the story of the havoc at the border and dysfunction of the immigration system in a way that statistics can't. Janet Kurtz worked and lived at Jubilee Partners, Comer, Georgia when the Overground began to flourish throughout the United States. She continues to be involved with immigrant families today. Janet, author of *Northern Shores and Southern Borders: Revelations of a Bilingual Life*, will be sharing some of the stories of her work with refugees.

Sunday, March 17th • 10:00 am

“Transforming Church” • Rev. Sara Smalley

Unitarian Universalists are considering adding *transformation* as a core value, stating: *We adapt to the changing world. We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.* What does this mean for how we might transform and be transformed by our faith – especially if we let go of the pressure to be perfect?

Sunday, March 24th • 10:00 am

“Another Look at the Bible Story of The Samaritan Woman: COURAGE, CULTURE & MERCY” • Sandra Griffin

As culture influences all of us, can culture be changed? Can we as individuals transform culture?

Thursday, March 28th • 7:00 pm (In person only)

“Gathering at the Table: Holy Thursday Communion Service”

Rev. Sara Smalley

In the Christian tradition, Holy Thursday is the day set aside each year to commemorate Jesus's Last Supper with his beloved friends. We gather to share this ancient ritual of breaking bread together in new ways. Our communion table is radically welcoming: everyone of all ages and theologies is welcome as we honor the life and teachings of Jesus, nourish our bodies and spirits, and experience the power of breaking bread together. Gluten free option available and only non-alcoholic wine will be served.

Sunday, March 31st • 10:00 am

“A Unitarian Universalist Easter” • Rev. Sara Smalley

Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday: these days in the Christian calendar mark the cycle of death and loss, grief and uncertainty, and hope and joy returning. But for some of us, coming to church on Easter is complicated. Today's service asks: what might the Easter story mean for us as Unitarian Universalists? After the service, children will be invited to a “found treasures” Easter egg hunt.

Special Business Meeting

March 10, 2024

All members of the UUFN congregation are invited to attend a special business meeting on March 10, 2024. Those who are not members are welcome to attend, but only members may vote.

The meeting will take place at the church following the regular Service. It will also be available online via Zoom.

The meeting order is as follows:

1. Welcome and lighting of the Chalice by Rev. Sara
2. Establish that a quorum is in effect. A quorum is in effect when at least 1/3 of voting members are either present in person, online or have given their proxy to the Board President prior to the vote.
3. Presentation by Paul Krause of the following motion:

"Shall UUFN engage in a capital campaign to raise funds to build the building addition as proposed by the Building Vision Team and supported by the Board?"

It should be noted that any decision to build and what to build will be made by the congregation after the results of the capital campaign are known.

4. Discussion (including amendments if any)
5. Vote taken (amendments first, then vote)
6. Presentation by Paul Krause of the following motion:

"Shall UUFN change the first line of ARTICLE V – Meetings to read:

An Annual Meeting shall be held at a time and place fixed by the Policy Board, hereafter referred to in this document as simply ‘the Board.’"

The amendment simply removes the phrase "April or May"

7. Discussion
8. Vote
9. Extinguishing Chalice

Paul Krause
President
UUFN Board

Small Group Discussions of the Proposed Building Project and then a March 10 Vote

We have had a series of congregational meetings to learn about the building addition project being proposed by the Building Vision Team and supported by the Board. There is now an opportunity for folks to meet in smaller groups to seek answers to questions they may still have. If you are interested in attending a session, please reply to Beverly Topp at with one of the following choices. Bev is hoping to keep numbers to around 8 people per meeting.

Thursday Feb. 29 Zoom meeting at 6:00 pm
Sunday March 3, 11:30 am, after church
Wednesday March 6, 10:00 am at church
Saturday March 9, 10:00 am at church

Another way to learn more about the project is to visit our website where information is regularly posted about the project and the proposed campaign.

[Moving Towards a Larger UUFN Building
Updates on the planning process, timeline, and potential capital campaign](#)

On March 10 we will have a congregational meeting to talk about the capital campaign to raise funds for the project, including information on the range of gifts needed and various ways to give. Members of the congregation will be taking a vote on March 10 on whether to hold a capital campaign to raise funds for this project.

Information on Breeze Church Management Software

Breeze church management software: **For anyone who has not yet uploaded a photo** into their Breeze account, Paul Krause has a camera to take your picture, and on your approval, will send it to you and John Owens. If you need assistance, John can upload your photo to your profile in Breeze so we have pictures of everyone in our on-line directory. Photos can be taken on the next few Sundays, so take advantage of this easy opportunity. Having our faces in our Member Directory makes it so much easier for us to connect who we meet at church with their names.

We will have an in-person **introductory training for Breeze after the Service on March 17 at 11:30 AM**. If you are new to this congregation or to Breeze, this is an application for you to connect from our UUFNorthfield.org website, to access our on-line directory of members (with portraits). There will also be a **training session on Zoom the following Thursday March 21 at 7:00 PM**, which we will record.

Further training for Breeze for Committee Leaders, Board, and Staff will be forthcoming. TBD.

Introductory Gathering of Enneagram

On April 21 at 11:30 am after the service, Mary Jane Lipinski and John Owens will be holding an introductory gathering of those interested in possibly forming an Enneagram Study Group downstairs in the church. [Enneagram](#) is an ancient source of wisdom about the 9 (Ennea) different types of personalities, or orientations to the world. Understanding our type and its interconnectedness with the other types builds self-awareness, and also points us in our spiritual direction of growth, as well as to the warning signs when we are descending to lower levels of awareness. Come learn more about Enneagram, and see if you would like to continue exploring and sharing in a small group.

Care Team Circle: in Celebration of Transgender Day of Visibility

Monday, March 25th

5:00 pm at UUFN

Calling all those who love someone who is transgender -- a family member, a friend, yourself -- or those who simply want to learn more! We'll gather at UUFN for a circle facilitated by Mairi Doerr and Rev. Sara to reflect on how we might amplify love for the transgender community.

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.

Care Team Conversation on Grief

We all experience grief at various points in our lives. It can come with the loss of loved ones, in the aftermath of tragedies, as we lose our physical abilities through illness, accident or aging and through other causes. We all experience grief differently. It can be a healthy process and it can sometimes completely overwhelm us. Sit with Martha Easter-Wells in a Care Team sponsored listening circle to share your experiences. What has helped you through grief or what have you learned from it? Saturday March 23 at 10 am at UUFN. All are welcome, whether or not you attended one of the earlier sessions.

Guided Tour of the Minnesota Zoo with Larry Vorwerk

Some people have asked me about going with them to the Minnesota Zoo. As a former Zoo Keeper and Zoologist for thirty nine years, you are invited to explore the zoo together with me on Saturday, April 20th. leaving UUFN at 9:00 a.m. If you are interested, hold this date open and contact Larry for more information: If a lot of people are interested, a possible week day trip could also happen.

Tip from the Green Team for March

Most suggestions for combating climate change **encourage us to have more meatless meals.** If you are willing, but uncertain how to get started, the Northfield Public Library has some excellent resources. Two of the books I have found the most helpful are...

- *Vegan Cooking for Two* by America's Test Kitchen
- *The Oh She Glows Cookbook: Over 100 Vegan Recipes to Glow from the Inside Out* by Angela Liddon

Both books have common ingredients which can be purchased in Northfield, info on ingredients, and cooking tips.

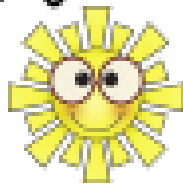
Have you tried the Household Carbon Footprint Calculator yet?

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

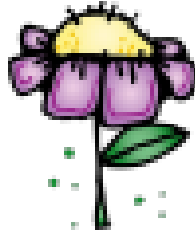


Three members have earned their footprints!
Let Sue know when you've tried it.

Bill J, Sue C., Susan S.

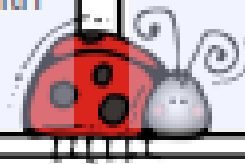


March News



Themes and Activities

The theme of the month is The Gift of Transformation. We explore what transformation means for us as Unitarian Universalists. We describe ourselves as a “living tradition” which means we expect changes as we learn and grow. Just like our bodies grow and change, so do our likes and our ideas. But we also acknowledge that change can be hard. We can celebrate change and also be gentle with each other during the difficulties that come about with change.



Some Quick Notes

Women's History Month

Irish American Heritage Month

* Lent (Christian) - Feb. 14 -
March 28, 2024

*Purim begins (Jewish) -
March 23-24, 2024

*Holi (Hindu) - March 25, 2024

*Ostara/ Spring or the Vernal
Equinox (Wicca/Pagan) -
March 20

*Ramadan (Islam) - Mar 10 -
Apr 9, 2024

* Palm Sunday (Christian) -
March 24, 2024

*Good Friday - (Christian)
March 29, 2024

*Easter (Christian) - March 31,
2024

Announcements

Easter Egg Hunt

3/31/24

Important Dates

3/3,3/24,3/31 Ms. Ashley Teaching RE Class

3/10 Mrs. Nita Wolf Teaching RE Class

3/17 Mrs. Gail Hendershot Teaching Re Class



Easter Egg Hunt

(Non- Traditional Hunt)

All kids from little to big are welcome to search outside for “treasures” after our Easter service. If you want to contribute items from home feel free to bring them along for us to hide. Some ideas: clean out that junk drawer or kitchen cabinet and bring things kids would enjoy. Maybe look through scarves or beads for dress up fun. Silly gadgets could be just what a kid dreams of. Be creative! Some volunteers will hide the items in the tree area of our property so kids and parents can head out after the service for the hunt. Fun!

3/31/24

We hope you can join us for fun!



UUFN New Member Sunday

Joining the UUFN congregation on February 11, 2024, were Rollie and Mary Davidson, Lyn and John Thwing, Wendell Refior, Linda Rosen, Gene and Lisa Hood, Charlie Knieff, Jo Renich, Cot LaFond and Laura and Aaron Gerber. Also joining on that day, but not present for this photo, were Nan Cedar, Marla Welsford, Kimesha Winn and Charles Miles.



March Share the Plate: Minnesota Honor Tax

Our Share the Plate recipient for March is Minnesota Honor For thousands of years, the Dakota Oyate lived in and cared for much of the land we now know as Minnesota. Even as external pressures pushed Dakota bands out of northern Minnesota, the Dakota continued to maintain traditional villages, hunting and gathering grounds, and travel routes throughout the area that stretches south across Minnesota from Moorhead to Cambridge. Through treaties, wars, and broken promises, the United States took that Dakota land as its own.

Today ... we who live on the land can recognize and support the enduring sovereignty of the Lower Sioux Indian Community by contributing to this Honor Tax. The tax is a voluntary payment made directly to the tribe.

Thank you for giving as you are willing and able.

January Share the Plate: United Negro College Fund

UUFN members contributed \$876 to the United Negro College Fund.