



# REACH

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

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**Music Director**  
Bev Topp

**Indoor Facilities Committee**  
Wyman Weinbeck

**Outdoor Facilities Committee**  
Matt Thieding  
Larry Vorwerk

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## April 2024

### Theme: The Gift of Interdependence

*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](mailto:jwhitson@uunorthfield.org) if you would like to begin receiving the weekly email.*

**Sunday, April 7th • 10:00 am**

**“Widening the Circle” • Rev. Sara Smalley**

Whether you're a long-time member or first-time attendee, join us for our Widening the Circle capital campaign launch! This will be a joyful celebration of the past, present, and future of UUFN. Rev. Sara will preach about our April theme of The Gift of Interdependence, the choir will sing, and we'll dream together of an expansive, welcoming, thriving future for all.

**Sunday, April 14th • 10:00 am**

**“Sensing the Web of Life: Rethinking Our Relationship with Animals”  
Janet Scannell**

Becoming more attuned to the "web of life" requires appreciating the remarkable sensory abilities of animals and adapting our behavior to be better neighbors - for our own well-being and the planet's health.

**Sunday, April 21st • 10:00 am**

**“Unconditional Love With A Few Conditions” • Ellen Saul and Nita Wolf**

Ellen Saul and Nita Wolf will share the service presentation on Sunday, April 21st. to present "Unconditional Love With A Few Conditions." Ellen has just published her book called "From Pain To Power: Seven Steps To Healthy Boundaries." Nita will offer ideas on the many forms of love and acceptance which are subjectively simple and complex. They will offer some special, musical moments to enhance the experience.

**Sunday, April 28th • 10:00 am**

**“On Loneliness and the Longing to Belong” • Rev. Sara Smalley**

More people report feeling lonely than ever before. In 2023, the US Surgeon General labeled loneliness an epidemic, and called for us to focus on its antidote: “the healing effects of social connection and community.” Rev. Sara will reflect on the many forms loneliness takes, and how our fundamental human need to belong is a deeply spiritual longing.

**Trans Inclusion in Congregations**  
**Hosted by the MN UU Social Justice Alliance**  
**Thursdays, 6:30 – 8pm; April 4 – May 9**  
**Online only**

This course is for individuals, groups, and congregational teams who want to take their knowledge and skills to the next level in terms of trans identity and how to create congregations that are fully inclusive and affirming of the full breadth of gender diversity. Over six sessions you will deeply explore the intersection of trans identity, spirituality, and faith community, and gain the grounding, context, and skills to transform yourself and your congregation. Find out more information and register [here](#).

**Widening the Circle Campaign**  
**Launches April 7**



UUFN members voted on March 10 to have a capital campaign to raise funds for a building addition to meet the needs of our growing congregation. The campaign will be a joint campaign for the annual budget and for special capital gifts payable over three years for the building addition. Thirteen members of our congregation have stepped forward to serve as Visiting Stewards. The campaign will kick off in a special celebration after the service on April 7 and then the visiting stewards will begin to contact members of the congregation to set time for conversations and ask for pledges of support. Please say yes to the conversations! This section of the UUFN website <https://www.uunorthfield.org/pages/building-vision-updates> is full of information on the planning process and information about the proposed building addition. For specific information about the Widening the Circle campaign, visit this page of the website:

<https://www.uunorthfield.org/pages/widening-the-circle>

After results of the campaign are known and after we have a bid from a contractor based on architectural drawings, the congregation will meet in June to decide whether and how much to build and whether any short or long term borrowing is needed.

**MidAmerica Regional Assembly:**  
**Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20**  
**Online and in Madison, WI**

Regional Assembly is a time for Unitarian Universalists to come together from across the MidAmerica Region. There will be workshops, the Annual Business Meeting of the MidAmerica Region, and opportunities to meet many UU Leaders from across our faith tradition.

Find out more information and register [here](#). If you would like to be a delegate (not required for attendance), contact Paul Krause and Sara Smalley.

## Calling all parents! Child Dedications May 19th, 2024

During a Child Dedication, members and friends of the congregation celebrate each child and honor each family by welcoming them into the gathered community of faith and hope. It marks a moment of great joy but is also a serious affirmation of life and love. Infants as well as older children are dedicated in our services.

Learn more about the meaning of child dedications in Unitarian Universalism [here](#).

If you are interested in having your family participate, please fill out [this form](#) by May 12th.

## UUFN Get-Acquainted Event—Sunday, May 19

On Sunday, May 19, there will be a get-acquainted event for newcomers as well as old-timers. It will begin at 11:30 a.m. in Odd Fellows Park. More details will be in the next Reach.

## Care Team Conversation

The Care Team will sponsor another Conversation on Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. This conversation circle is for all those who love someone who is transgender - a family member, a friend, yourself – or those who simply want to learn more. Please join Rev. Sara and Mairi Doerr to reflect on how we might amplify love for the transgender community.

## Guided Tour of the Minnesota Zoo with Larry Vorwerk

Join Larry Vorwerk on Saturday, April 20th. for a special tour of the Minnesota Zoo. Before retiring, Larry was a zoologist and zookeeper on the Tropics and Minnesota Trails there for thirty-nine years.

For more detailed information, he requests that you contact him.

## Tip from the Green Team for April

Many of us are avid readers. We also believe in Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and don't want to see landfills full of old books. What can you do if you want to purchase a specific used book easily without supporting big business? Consider using [betterworldbooks.com](https://www.betterworldbooks.com) . They are an easy to use resource and promise...

***Every time you purchase a book from BetterWorldBooks.com, you help us donate books to people that need it. The books we donate go through hundreds of non-profit organizations. Our customers have helped make it possible for Better World Books to have donated over 35 million books.***

Social Justice



## Social Justice Committee



The UUFN Board has endorsed this final version of the Land Acknowledgment Statement. There will be a chance for the congregation to endorse it at the annual meeting.

We the members of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield (UUFN) acknowledge the genocide, stolen land and forced removal of the Wahpekute and other bands of the Dakota people who for centuries were stewards of the land on which UUFN is located.

We commit to building the mindfulness necessary to disengage from participation in the ongoing and unjust legacy of colonialism.

We recognize contemporary Dakota people live in our midst and are actively involved in honoring and preserving their ancient wisdom, knowledge and culture.

With this acknowledgement, we as a community commit:

- to help heal this injustice by hearing stories of this place and those who have lived here for generations,
- to learn about Indigenous history and
- to advocate for just public policy that impacts Indigenous people.

We pledge to take action to support Indigenous peoples as we live together in Mni Sota Makoce (Minnesota).



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## newsletter

April 2024



### EXPLORING

We are excited to be able to delve into The Gift of Interdependence with three main focuses: community, creatures, and creations, and how we have a give-and-take relationship with them all!

The goal this month is to have fun working together in a way that helps kids explore what interdependence means for us as Unitarian Universalists, the difference between independence and interdependence, and how our faith teaches us and lifts up the idea that we can't go it alone. We hope you and your families enjoy this packet as much as we do!

### CALENDAR CONNECTIONS

- U.S. Air Force Academy Day - April 1st
- Ramadan (Islam) - Mar 10 - Apr 9, 2024
- Eid al Fitr - end of Ramadan (Islam) - April 9-10, 2024
- Passover (Jewish) - April 22 - 30, 2024
- Earth Day - April 22
- Lesbian Visibility Day - April 26
- National Superhero Day - April 28
- Arab American Heritage Month
- Jazz Appreciation Month
- National Poetry Month
- Climate Justice Month - March 22 to April 22

### SUNDAYS

- April 7<sup>th</sup>: Interdependence - What is it?
- April 14<sup>th</sup>: The Web of Community - How we nurture it, and it nurtures us
- April 21<sup>st</sup>: Multigen Service/Story of all ages Sing Children down to RE Class After the Story
- April 28<sup>th</sup>: How the Web of Creation Cares for Us

Reminder: UU Committee Zoom Meeting 4/8/24 @ 630pm

*We are needing Adult Volunteers to help assist RE Classes.*

*Please contact Ms. Ashley, Nita Wolf and Gail Hendershot*

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



Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light works in partnership with multi-faith communities to co-create a just and sustainable world by addressing the climate crisis.

Since its founding in 2004, Interfaith Power & Light has grown the multi-faith climate movement in Minnesota and across the United States by empowering communities to take action that is authentic, effective, and energizing in their context.

This is done in two ways:

- **Leadership development programs** for communities, adults, and youth; and
- **Action opportunities** that provide tangible ways to make an impact.

UUFN is using the MN Interfaith Power & Light to provide local legislative action opportunities to supplement the UUA Green Sanctuary program, moving UUFN forward to live our faith and values through effective and sustained action on climate justice.

Thank you for giving as you are willing and able.

## February Share the Plate: SIDE WITH LOVE

UUFN members contributed \$674.75 to Side with Love.

