



REACH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF NORTHFIELD

✿—✿—✿—✿—✿ **May 2025** ✿—✿—✿—✿—✿

Monthly Theme: The Practice of Imagination

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.

May 4th - 10am | Rev. Sara Smalley ***Saving What We Love***

May 4th is celebrated as Star Wars Day, since “May the Fourth be with you” plays on the iconic phrase, “May the Force be with you.” For this service, we’ll launch our new month’s theme of The Practice of Imagination by imagining a rebel alliance forming, a force awakening, and the ushering in of a new JEDI era – JEDI standing for Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion of course. Join us for this Star Wars Day service that offers both lightheartedness and challenge as we build our resistance to imperial forces.

May 11th - 10am | Rev. Sara Smalley ***Something Wonderful***

Mother’s Day was started by a Unitarian abolitionist and suffrage activist. Rather than a holiday that reinforces an idealized stereotype of motherhood, the first Mother’s Day Proclamation was a demand for the end of war. *Can you imagine?* we smirk, as if to discount the notion. But it’s a good question. *Can we imagine?* Can our imaginations even conceive of a world of peace and love? And might our imaginations help us get there? Join us as we allow ourselves the possibility that, even now, something wonderful might happen.

May 18th - 10am | Rev. Julica Hermann de la Fuente ***A Battle of Imagination***

Black futurist and leader adrienne maree brown says we are in a battle of imagination. What does she mean and how do we fight this good fight? Join us to explore future possibilities and avenues for resistance and hope.

Our guest speaker, Rev. Julica Hermann de la Fuente (she/ella), serves as the Lifelong Learning Manager at the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA). She is also a coach, trainer and facilitator for liberation, transformation and justice, and Unitarian Universalist minister.

May 25th - 10am | Sue Coleman ***Choices We Make for Our Beliefs***

We are dealing with challenging times and may struggle with what to do. How do we decide what we truly believe? What choices do we make based on these beliefs? How will our actions affect others? These are difficult decisions we must make for ourselves, but we cannot ignore them if we strive to honor our UU values. During this service we will look at ways to view the word “freedom” and hear stories of how others have made decisions based on their values.

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Rollie Davidson

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Katy Gillispie (Treasurer)

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Don Stager (President)

John Thwing

Sunday Service Coordinators:
Sue Coleman
Susie Weinbeck

Indoor Facilities Committee:
Wyman Weinbeck

Outdoor Facilities Committee:
Matt Thieding
Larry Vorwerk



Calling All Musicians!

Music is truly a special part of our community! Interim Music Director Taylor Wessel is curating and expanding a list of musicians to take part in "special music" moments for Sunday services. Since UUFN is bursting with talent, she would like to feature these folks more regularly moving forward.

If you are interested at all in sharing your talents with the fellowship, please do one of the following:

- Fill out this google form: <https://forms.gle/yXY1aP691HZDuh8e6>
- Email Taylor directly at music@uunorthfield.org
- Find Taylor in person after a Sunday service (she'll be there every Sunday in May!)

If you have any questions at all, feel free to reach out to music@uunorthfield.org.



Looking for speakers for our summer services!

Might you have a sermon to share this summer? Or want to recommend an outside speaker?
[Please fill out this form by May 19th.](#)

There is more information about the process on the form as well, but if you have questions please don't hesitate to reach out to Rev. Sara.



New Member Sunday is June 1st!

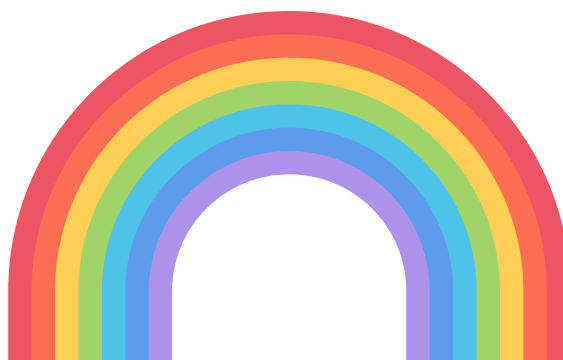
Interested in becoming a member of UUFN? Our next New Member Ceremony will be during the service on June 1st. There is never any pressure to become a member of UUFN, but always a warm invitation. Please fill out [this link](#) if you're interested in becoming a member.

Budget Listening Session After Service on May 4th

Join Board members for a conversation about the draft budget for our 2025-26 congregational year. They'll share budget priorities they heard from the congregation and listen to your feedback before creating a final proposed budget to be voted on at the annual meeting on June 1st.

REjoicings!

A Religious Education Update from Audrey



In the month of May, children's religious education will be focusing on the practice of imagination! Star Wars Day (May the Fourth be with you) is going to be a fun way to kick things off. Since the weather is getting nicer, we may have a couple of lessons outdoors—construction permitting.

This month also brings us to the end of our RE program for the 2024-25 church year. May 25th will be the last Sunday with formal children's religious education programming until the end of summer. There will still be busy bags in the sanctuary every Sunday and occasional informal activities. Sneak peek: June 1st will be flower communion, which is a multigenerational event that is fun for everyone! Audrey is interested in organizing a gathering for UUFN families sometime over the summer, so please stay tuned for more information.



May Share the Plate Recipient



Our May Share the Plate donations go to protecting the waters of our beloved Cannon River through the work of **Clean River Partners**.

**CLEAN RIVER
PARTNERS**



The Green Team at UUFN raises awareness of and acts on behalf of environmental justice within our UUFN community and beyond. This month we are all invited to lend our support to environmental justice as a core value of our UUFN community!

Clean River Partners focuses on conservation agriculture, habitat protection, and community engagement. They bring together diverse partners including residents, farmers, and landowners in order to co-create a healthy and resilient watershed.

They also have community events if you are looking to get more involved in their work. See cleanriverpartners.org for more information.



You're Invited to the Lunch Bunch!

Lunch Bunch is a group of UUFN women who meet monthly to eat and share beloved community. We have most recently been meeting at church, but also dine out locally, and occasionally meet at parks or people's homes. Nan Cedar and Sue Coleman are the organizers of this group that was initially spearheaded by Brynda McCoy.

This group is welcoming and inclusive to all women from UUFN who are interested in attending. Some may only be able to attend on occasion or during summer months. We are busy people after all!

If you would like to be included in receiving notifications and emails from this group, please click and complete the link below. We have streamlined communication, so that it is not a barrage of "reply all" emails. We are utilizing user-friendly technology (Google Forms) to record RSVP's and other responses to benefit all.

<https://forms.gle/8Hm3d9efnYVEBk5N7>

Our next gathering will be **Tuesday, May 27 at noon**. Location to be determined. Please consider if Lunch Bunch is of interest to you!

Social Justice Council Update



So much is happening with social justice at UUFN! Our new Social Justice Council met for the first time in April. This Council includes representatives from each of our four working groups but is open to all who wish to attend.

At our inaugural meeting, each of the working groups shared their purpose statement and gave an update on the good work they're doing. We also shared questions and ideas and started to envision next steps.

We'll likely meet again mid-summer to check in about how things are going and update each other on our work, and then again in August to plan for the upcoming church year. Again: all are welcome!

Here are purpose statements from some of our social justice working groups so you get a sense of what each is focused on:

Democracy Defenders Mission Statement

Our country was founded on the principles of unity-in-diversity and government by the people. Democracy Defenders seeks to protect the civil rights of all, voting rights, and the balance of power in government that make these principles possible.

Beyond Land Acknowledgement Purpose Statement

Our purpose statement IS what is in the Land Acknowledgement Statement, which includes:
help heal this injustice by hearing stories of this place and those who have lived here for generations;
learn about Indigenous history;
advocate for just public policy that impacts Indigenous people;
take action to support Indigenous peoples.

We continue to learn ourselves and share what we learn within our working group and we hope to bring the congregation along with us in this learning. We will continue to make the congregation aware of opportunities to learn about history, about actions we can all take to support or discourage particular legislation, and to help heal injustice.

Green Team Mission Statement (draft)

The mission of the UUFN Green Team is to raise awareness of and act on behalf of environmental justice within our UUFN community and beyond. This includes, but is not limited to, climate change and its life-threatening impact on our interconnected world.

The Green Team role is to encourage best practices that help mitigate climate change, waste, pollution, and the exploitation and degradation of the natural world. Our guiding principle is to act locally within our congregation and community, while thinking globally as we take concrete action to support a healthy environment on which we all depend.

Care Team Update



The Care Team had an informative half-day retreat at the end of April with Rev. Sara on Trauma-Informed Pastoral Care. We discussed how trauma impacts our brains, bodies, and emotional responses. We learned about types of trauma, trauma responses (flight, fight, freeze, fawn), and how to respond compassionately to people requesting a listening ear, some of whom may be dealing with issues related to trauma. In some cases, a referral to the minister is the appropriate response for a member of the Care Team as we continue the journey of learning how to be there for those in the UUFN community going through a rough period.



Save the Date for Pride in the Park!



[Pride in the Park](#) will be from noon to 4pm on **Saturday, June 7th**. UUFN is a Rainbow Sponsor this year and will again have a warm and welcoming booth filled with fun and fellowship.

Watch your emails for ways to get involved as a volunteer.



May Greeters

May 4th:

Susie & Wyman Weinbeck

May 11th:

Cot LaFond & Katy Gillispie

May 18th:

Gail & Reid Hendershot

May 25th:

Paul & Barbara Krause

UUA General Assembly June 18–22, 2025

If you're interested in being a delegate to General Assembly, the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association, [please fill out this form](#) by May 14th.

Garden Team Update

The UU Garden Team met on Wed, April 16th for our Spring Clean-Up Day at UUFN. We pulled back old mulch in prep for planting, we raked & pruned in gardens where needed, and generally got the grounds & gardens looking tidied-up & ready for 2025 season. We were a crew of 8 hardy, outdoor-loving souls including 3 new members that have enthusiastically joined! Gratitude to each of you who could come on those recent dates!

The Garden Team also had a successful prairie burn on April 23rd!





In a time when trans lives are under direct attack, LGBTQ leaders are pushing back and inviting more allies to speak up about our religious identity. Join other people of faith at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in St. Paul on May 30, 2025, starting at 9:00 AM for a day of **Justice and Joy: Empowering Religious Support for Trans Lives** and learn how to lift your voice effectively in large and small ways that are authentic to your beliefs and tradition. UU specific breakout groups and discussions will be included.

Then, you are invited to head over to SpringHouse Ministry Center in Minneapolis for the **Totally Fabulous, All-Generations Queer Prom**, a night of pure joy, community, and celebration! This free, intergenerational, and sober event welcomes people of all ages and backgrounds to dance, celebrate, and be unapologetically themselves in a fun and affirming space. Whether you're attending your first prom, experiencing the excitement again, or finally getting the chance to celebrate as your full self, this night is for you! Come dressed in whatever makes you feel amazing and dance the night away with your queer and trans family.

*****Register [here!](#)*****

