



REACH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF NORTHFIELD

June 2025

Monthly Theme: The Practice of Freedom

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.

June 1st - 10am | Rev. Sara Smalley

Breaking Down Walls, Building Up Community

*****Flower Ceremony - please bring a flower to share if you can!*****

All are welcome to join us for an important and joyful day in the life of this community! We'll welcome new members and celebrate our annual Flower Ceremony. The Flower Ceremony started over a century ago by Unitarians in Prague who created a ritual to affirm the beauty and diversity of community in a time of rising authoritarianism and fear. We gather to do the same. Bring a flower to share if you can, or some will be available for you. This is a Family Sunday where all ages are especially welcome in the service. Our Annual Meeting will be held after the service.

June 8th - 10am | Seth Anderson-Matz & Rev. Sara Smalley

A Riot in Your Heart

*****In Celebration of Pride*****

Join us for a **fabulous** service in celebration of Northfield's Pride in the Park weekend and the holy days of Pride Month, featuring guest leader Seth Anderson-Matz and co-led by Rev. Sara. In the spirit of the queer & trans uprisings at the Stonewall Inn, Compton's Cafeteria, the White Night riots, and so many more, together we will honor the sacred unrest and prophetic wisdom of queer & trans life, and heed the tantalizing call toward radical love and collective liberation—by any means necessary. This service will also include special music and a glitter blessing!

June 15th - 10am | Janet Scannell

A Purple Mindset in a Red/Blue World

During this service, we will explore how the current political polarization can impede our ability to listen and find common ground. We'll examine how embracing a "purple mindset" can help us navigate personal or political disagreements. We'll hear stories of bridging efforts, and consider how we can seek political survival with both passion and a willingness to understand diverse viewpoints. Ultimately, we'll reflect on the vital importance of seeking connection and shared understanding in our fractured world.

June 22nd - 10am | Ellen Saul

Resilience and Freedom

Resilience and freedom shape each other in ways both subtle and profound. True freedom isn't just about external circumstances; it's about aligning our inner lives with the world around us, so what we do can reflect who we are. Today, we will explore ways that embodiment can deepen our resilience—how listening to the wisdom of the body can clarify our values. Through practice and reflection, we'll consider how matching our soul's calling to our actions fosters a resilience that isn't just about surviving but thriving. Let us journey together into this space of alignment, where freedom is found not in escape, but in deep presence.

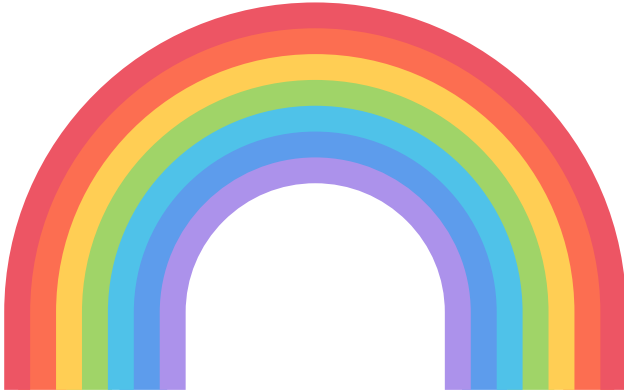
June 29th - 10am | Susie Weinbeck & UUFN Members

Credo for Now

Join us for a cherished tradition of members sharing their credo statements – statements of belief that are snapshots of one's values, faith, and identity at one point in time. Together we'll explore some of the great questions humans have been pondering throughout the ages, learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning, and celebrate our diverse experiences and theologies.

REjoicings!

A Religious Education Update
from Audrey



Our 2024-25 program year for children's religious education finished up at the end of May. Since I came on board as the religious education coordinator in February, I've been so grateful for the fun and friendliness I've come to expect from UUFN. Those exact qualities showed up in what we did in RE, too!

Here are a few things UUFN worked on regarding RE this year:

- We wrote 54 (54!!!) cards and letters to trans youth and young adults through the nonprofit Point of Pride. I was so excited to mail them such a tall stack of kind and affirming words—something desperately needed across our country.
- We welcomed over a dozen children into our services and religious education classes.
- We recommitted to providing consistent programming for kids and families at UUFN.
- We donated countless supplies, time, and energy to the RE program to ensure the kids can meaningfully and creatively learn our shared UU Values.

Children's religious education programming at UUFN will resume at the end of summer. Stay tuned for the details as the time nears! If you have ideas for activities to do during our summer break, reach out to Rev. Sara (revsara@uunorthfield.org) or Audrey (uufnre@uunorthfield.org) to brainstorm.

If you're passionate about nurturing a flourishing religious education program at UUFN, there are countless ways you can contribute to its success. A religious education committee is in the early stages of formation at UUFN, too, so if your strengths lie in creative ideation, administrative support, and dreaming big, please reach out to Audrey (uufnre@uunorthfield.org) for more information.

Have a blessed summer!

Summer Playground Fellowship

Join other UU kids and parents this summer for a casual monthly meetup at Way Park. We'll meet on the second Saturday of the month, starting at 10:30am and stay as long as people want. We hope to create a space to play and connect while our usual school-year routines are on pause. The dates are:

June 14
July 12
August 9

Newcomers are extra welcome!
No need to RSVP, just show up.
Text Laura for more information:
(518) 369-5207.

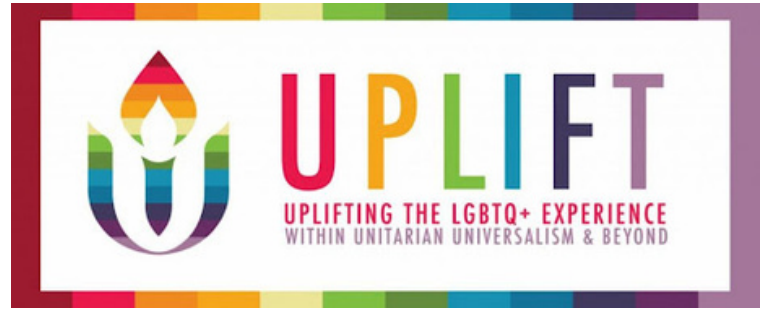
Summer Solstice Families Potluck

Saturday, June 21
4:00-8:00pm

The Gerbers (Laura, Aaron, Chloe, and Quinn) will host a kid and parent-focused potluck at their house in Northfield. Join us to celebrate sunlight, community, and summer's abundance! We'll provide hotdogs, brats, and fixins. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Bonfire, s'mores, and outdoor play are on the menu. We'll have a rain date if the weather isn't good. [Click here to RSVP](#). Text or email Laura with questions.

June Share the Plate Recipient: UPLIFT

UPLIFT is doing vital, life-saving work within Unitarian Universalism and beyond! UPLIFT provides a space for LGBTQIA+ people and allies to share stories, curate resources, and receive/provide spiritual care.



UPLIFT offers a trans-led monthly group for trans/nonbinary UUs and non-UUs. It partners with Side With Love's bodily autonomy campaign to address anti-trans legislation and reproductive justice. And it does all of this while addressing the intersectionality of race, class, gender, and sexuality and focusing on communal care.

You can learn more about UPLIFT in [this UU World article](#). In their words, **together we commit to growing our skills, deepening our spiritual grounding, honing our analysis, and fighting together for a world in which every body is sacred.**



Be sure to stop by UUFN's table at Pride in the Park on **Saturday, June 7th!**

The festivities run from **noon to 4pm** at Central Park.

More information [here](#).



“No Kings” Rally in Northfield

Join us for “No Kings” Day on Saturday, June 14 from 12–1pm at Ames Park in downtown Northfield. This family-friendly event is part of a nationwide movement celebrating democracy and community power over authoritarianism. With music, connection, and a spirit of solidarity, we’ll gather to affirm our shared values of justice, equity, and freedom.



NO KINGS is a national day of action and mass mobilization in response to increasing authoritarian excesses and corruption from Trump and his allies. We’ve watched as they’ve cracked down on free speech, detained people for their political views, threatened to deport American citizens, and defied the courts. They’ve done this all while continuing to serve and enrich their billionaire allies.



On Saturday, June 14, we’re taking to the streets nationwide. We’re not gathering to feed his ego. We’re building a movement that leaves him behind. The flag doesn’t belong to Donald Trump. It belongs to us. We’re not watching history happen. We’re making it.

On June 14th, we’re showing up everywhere he isn’t—to say no thrones, no crowns, no kings. Check out nokings.org for more information.

Learn more or RSVP at mobilize.us/nokings/event/790922.

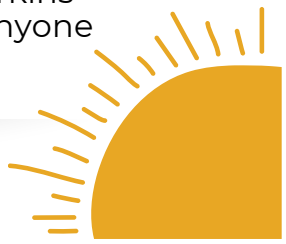
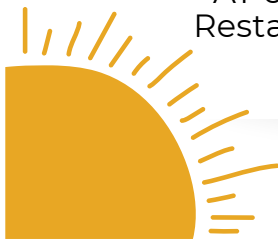
New! For all social justice related activities in Northfield, visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/nfld-mn-indivisible-calendar/home>.

Summer Solstice Event



On Friday, June 20th from 5:00-6:00 pm, Nita Wolf will lead a Summer Solstice event with assistance from Paul and Barbara Krause and Sharon Snyder.

There will be a celebration of the summer season with music, readings, and a "Four Directions" ceremony to bless the Earth.



AT 6:30, there is the option to gather at Northfield's Perkins Restaurant. Nita has reserved a private room there for anyone interested in supper and conversation together.

General Assembly Livestream - Open to All!



General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Anyone can register to attend online or in person in Baltimore, but only delegates may vote during general sessions.

This year, UUFN's delegates are Holly Kelchner, Martha Easter-Wells, and Rev. Sara Smalley (minister delegate), and Audrey McCann will be attending as well. All four of us will be in Baltimore, and all four of us are looking forward to sharing reflections on our GA experiences when we return! While only registered attendees can watch some of the programming online, anyone can watch the livestream of general sessions for free without having to register. [Click here](#) for the daily schedule for general sessions and the livestream link.

We'll gather at UUFN to watch the recording of the GA Sunday morning service later this summer when construction has progressed enough that we have screens to watch it on.

♥♥♥♥♥ A Note from the Care Team ♥♥♥♥♥

As we continue living into the unprecedented challenges to our democracy, may we remember that love is our true identity and our job is to love others. We need to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered in the present moment and embrace them with courage, faith, and hope. May you all have the blessings you need as you hold on to the best within you. Peace to all.

Coffee with the Minister and UUFNers

Join Rev. Sara for what has become a summer tradition of gathering for coffee and conversation at HideAway Coffeehouse. Stop by to chat about UUFN, the state of the world, what's going on in your life – wherever the conversation leads us!

Tuesdays, 10 to 11:30 am
June 24
July 1, 8, 15

HideAway Coffeehouse (outside weather permitting)





UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
OF NORTHFIELD

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Julie Bailey

Board Members:

Sue Coleman (Secretary)

Rollie Davidson

Mairi Doerr

Katy Gillispie (Treasurer)

Sabina Peters-Daywater
(President-Elect)

Don Stager (President)

John Thwing

Sunday Service Coordinators:

Sue Coleman
Susie Weinbeck

Indoor Facilities Committee:

Wyman Weinbeck

Outdoor Facilities Committee:

Matt Thieding
Larry Vorwerk

June Greeters

June 1st

Nita W. and Larry V.

June 8th

Tim L. and Jen H.

June 15th

Nan C. and Lois B.

June 22nd

Ellen S. and John B.

June 29th

Bill J. and Mary Jane L.

