



# REACH

---

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF NORTHFIELD



August 2025



***Reminder: Due to construction in our sanctuary, services will not be available on Zoom or YouTube through the end of August. We invite you to join us in-person as you are able, or to virtually "visit" another UU congregation's summer services. The UU Church of Minnetonka is ready to especially welcome virtual visitors from UUFN. See the weekly email for more information.***

**August 3rd - 10am | Audrey McCann & UUFN Staff**  
***Joy is Something We Give Ourselves***

Humankind has always endured hardship—and always created joy and humor from it. Often, the historic peoples who experienced the most collective trauma are the same groups who have gifted immense works of art and joy to those of us who came after. We will look at joy as a fuel, a starting point, a gift for our own social justice work. What if we can experience joy before justice? What if we must experience joy before revolution? What if joy is the liberation we bring upon ourselves?

**August 10th - 10am | Members of The Sustainable Soul Book Study**  
***The Path of Discovery: Choosing to Live in Harmony with Our Natural World***

Several UUFN members read and discussed the book, *The Sustainable Soul: Eco-Spiritual Reflections and Practices* by Rebecca James Hecking. This book is intended to help us see how interconnected all organisms are on earth and what this means for us on a daily basis.

Members of the study group will share two basic discovery concepts from the book and then reflect on their personal most meaningful understandings from *The Sustainable Soul*.

**August 17th - 10am | Peter Allen, Elvy Day, and Shodo Spring**  
***In Their Own Words: A Celebration of UUFN Writers***

Join three UUFN writers for this special service: Peter Allen will share poetry inspired by his own life experiences; Elvy Day will offer reflections about evolution, the story of all stories; and Shodo Spring will read from her upcoming book, *Open Reality: Meeting the Polycrisis Together With All Beings*.

You're invited to stay after the service to get copies of their books – and books by other UUFN authors – at our very own UUFN merch table. We'll have a few limited edition UUFN mugs available for purchase as well.

**August 24th - 10am | Trish Zimmerman**  
***Eco-Spirituality of the Prairie***

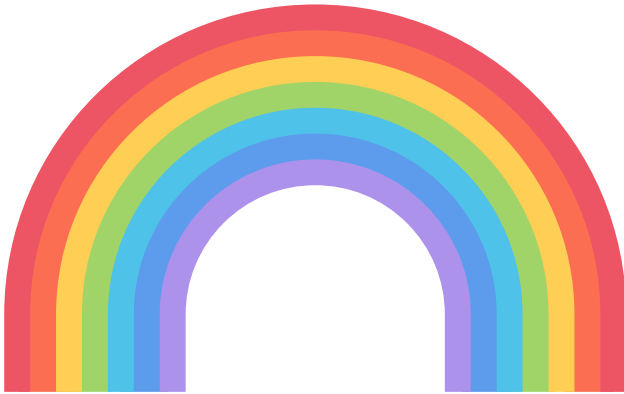
Can we meet the Holy, the Divine, the Beautiful on meditative walks through the Minnesota landscapes? The prairies in particular with their deep rootedness and entangled life force can be ideal. Even in their current fragmented state (only 1% of Minnesota's vast prairies remain) something powerful can happen if we open ourselves to these thriving, species-rich portals. We'll think spiritually through some local prairies and dream what a spirituality of this eco, that is this home, encompasses.

**August 31st - 10am | TBD**

---

## REjoicings!

A Religious Education Update  
from Audrey



The new church year starts soon, and so does RE! Children's Religious Exploration programming will begin again on September 14, 2025 after taking an annual summer hiatus. I think it would be wonderful for UUFN to host a family fun event somewhere in Northfield to kick off the new church year. In order to make this happen, we will need at least 2-3 volunteers to help with day-of tasks like snack preparation and childcare support. Audrey and the Religious Exploration Committee (REC) will plan the event itself.

Speaking of the REC, we are recruiting people who are passionate about ensuring young families feel welcome and nurtured at UUFN to serve on the committee and/or as teachers. If your strengths lie in teaching, creative ideation, administrative support, and dreaming big, [please fill out this Google Form](#). Reach out to me at [uufnre@uunorthfield.org](mailto:uufnre@uunorthfield.org) with any questions.

Blessings and gratitude,  
Audrey McCann  
Director of Children and Family  
Ministries

## 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 remaining date is:

**August 9**

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

## Survey: Programming Possibilities at UUFN

Please fill out [this short survey](#) to **share your input** about programming at UUFN and help us plan for the upcoming church year!

---

# Slow Dance with the Elements

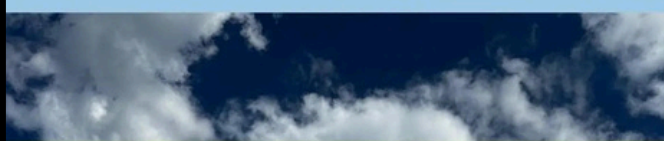
---

## Slow Dance with the Elements

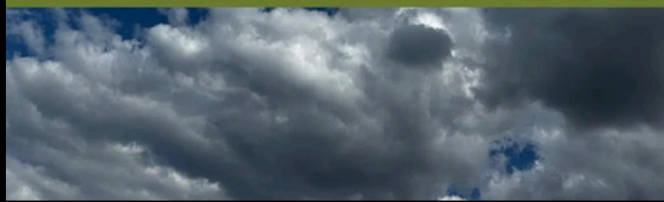


An Elements of Magic class in the Reclaiming Tradition of Witchcraft meeting in person in Northfield, MN  
with. Tere, Karin, and Theresa

## Slow Dance with the Elements



Meeting for 6 sessions:  
Saturdays 10 am - 1pm on  
Aug 16, Aug. 23, Sep 13, Sep. 20, Oct 4, & Oct. 25  
The final class is planned by the students as a community Samhain Ritual.  
Cost: \$120 - \$600 no one turned away if you can't pay.  
Carpools will be organized.

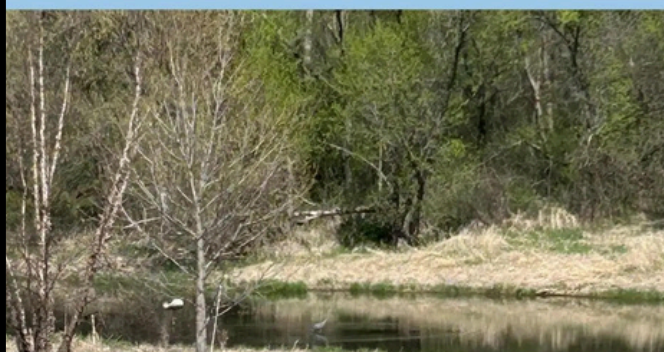


## Slow Dance with the Elements



It's time for a slow dance with magic. In the circle of community, we will practice the fundamentals of Reclaiming magic through a slow dance with the elements of air, fire, water, earth, and spirit, recognizing our shared magic is a powerful force of healing for ourselves and the world.

## Slow Dance with the Elements



This class is for newcomers to magic and Reclaiming, as well as people who have taken other Elements classes. We welcome students ages 13 and up, with guardian permission for those under 18. Anyone under the age of 18 needs to have one adult attend with them.  
[Link for more information and registration in comments.](#)

Register **here** or reach out to Sabina Daywater-Peters for more info.

---



---

# August Share the Plate Recipient: Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA)



In a time when division and injustice dominate the headlines, MUUSJA is building a different kind of movement—one rooted in faith, collaboration, and the deep belief that collective liberation is possible.

They bring Unitarian Universalists across Minnesota together with community partners to take meaningful action on the issues that matter most.

MUUSJA shows up with courage and compassion: offering glitter blessings at Minneapolis Pride, organizing aid for congregations impacted by local disasters, and hosting workshops to help UUs respond to the growing anti-trans movement with love and clarity.

They're also leading a statewide Climate Revival—stay tuned for ways to get involved!

This month's Share the Plate supports their ongoing efforts. To learn more or join the movement, visit [muusja.org](https://muusja.org). Now is the time to show up for justice—and for those showing up every day to lead the way.

---



This is another invitation for any and all voices to join the UUFN Choir for a summer session of rehearsals. If you've been thinking about joining this lively and musical community, this is a wonderful opportunity to try it out before the official choir season begins on September 2nd!

These summer sessions will be spent working on two specific projects (including some original music!), as well as incorporating more vocal technique elements (solfege, breath control, etc...). Singing experience is not required.

Come as you are to any of these dates: the more, the merrier!!

Rehearsal times will be most **Tuesday evenings from 6-7:30PM.**

See below for the remaining summer session dates:

**August 5th**

**August 12th**

**August 26th**

**September 2nd** (*new choir season begins!*)

### **Frequently asked questions:**

Q: Do I need to attend ALL of these sessions?

A: No! While we are working on a couple of "larger projects", we'll be tackling these in small chunks. Easy to catch up.

Q: Do I need to read music?

A: No! While it is helpful to read music in a choir setting, it is not required. We'll meet you where you are!

Please email Music Director Taylor Wesseln ([music@uunorthfield.org](mailto:music@uunorthfield.org)) with any questions.

---



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP  
OF NORTHFIELD

**5875 Lonsdale Blvd E  
PO Box 363  
Northfield, MN | 55057**

**Minister:**

Rev. Sara Smalley  
(507) 200-8394  
revsara@uunorthfield.org

**Administrator:**

Seth Anderson-Matz  
info@uunorthfield.org

**Director of Children and Family  
Ministries:**

Audrey McCann  
uufnre@uunorthfield.org

**Music Director:**

Taylor Wesseln  
music@uunorthfield.org

**Nursery Teacher:**

Julie Bailey

**Board Members:**

Rollie Davidson

Mairi Doerr

Sabina Peters-Daywater

Don Stager (Treasurer)

John Thwing

Kimesha Winn

---

**August Greeters**

**August 3rd**

Katy G. and Matt T.

**August 10th**

Paul K. and Barbara K.

**August 17th**

Jen H. and Don S.

**August 24th**

Janet S. and Shawntel H.

**August 31st**

Susan W. and Wyman W.

**Sunday Service Coordinators:**

Sue Coleman  
Susie Weinbeck

**Indoor Facilities Committee:**

Wyman Weinbeck

**Outdoor Facilities Committee:**

Matt Thieding  
Larry Vorwerk