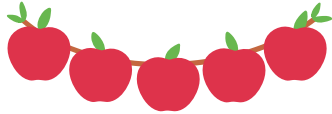




REACH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF NORTHFIELD



September 2025



Reminder: Due to construction in our sanctuary, services will continue to be unavailable on Zoom or YouTube through September. 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.

**September 7, 2025 | Water Ingathering
Rev. Sara Smalley and Audrey McCann**

Join us for our fall ingathering as we launch the 2025-26 church year! Bring a vial of water from a place that holds meaning to you so that we might mingle the waters of memories and hope.

**September 14, 2025 | Welcoming and Belonging
Lauren Wyeth and Rev. Sara Smalley**

Even in our loneliest hours, our very longing for belonging can feel risky. What will we be asked to sacrifice in order to belong? What harm might we experience if we let others close? What will others think of us if we reveal who we truly are? It's perhaps easier for many of us to focus on the work of creating welcoming places for others than it is to acknowledge our own needs. Yet our wish to be welcoming is intertwined with and deeply related to our human need for belonging. Neither can be realized separately from the other. What new possibilities might emerge when we practice both being the stranger and welcoming the stranger?

Join us for this special Sunday as we welcome our guest speaker, Lauren Wyeth, to UUFN. Lauren is the Faith Development Specialist and a Congregational Life Consultant with the MidAmerica Regional Staff. She is an Advanced Level Credentialed Religious Educator who is passionate about growing interdependent, joyful, justice-seeking, liberating communities for people of all ages and diverse identities.

**September 21, 2025
Making Space: Celebrating Our Building Addition
Rev. Sara Smalley**

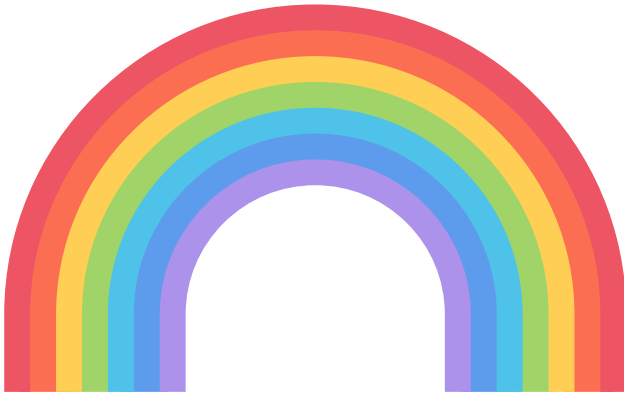
Today we'll bless our new building addition and celebrate all that we create together, including making more space for connection and belonging in a hurting world.

**September 28, 2025 | Building Our Beloved Community
Bring a Friend and Sign Up Sunday!
Rev. Sara Smalley**

Join us as we reflect on the beautiful, messy work of building community. Bring a friend and stay after the service for Sign Up Sunday to get more involved!

REjoicings!

A Religious Education Update
from Audrey



This month kicks off a fresh new church year for children's Religious Exploration at UUFN! Join us for a multigenerational Water Ingathering service on September 7, a sort of "welcome back" for our community after summer break. Children's Religious Exploration programming will begin September 14, and our theme this month is about Building Belonging.

Due to ongoing construction in the basement, the location of children's programming for the month of September is flexible week-to-week. We may use space downstairs, or we may do our lessons outside (weather permitting). The weekly newsletter for each service will give information on where to drop off your little ones, and the greeters onsite can help as well.

Important Action Item: If you have a child in your life that may join you during services, [please fill out this online form](#). This ensures we have safety and contact information on file in case they do participate in RE programming. If we do not have this information on file, parents and guardians will need to fill out a paper form in person with Audrey.

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

Music for Building Belonging

As we embark on this month of "Building Belonging," check out this Soul Matters-curated playlist for further reflection and meditation on this theme.

Building Belonging
Playlist ([Spotify](#))

Building Belonging
Playlist ([YouTube](#))



Sacred Circle Facilitators Needed

Please reach out to Rev. Sara if you're interested in co-facilitating a Sacred Circle small group this year:

revsara@uunorthfield.org
or call or text (507) 200-8394.



September Events

Wondering what's going on at UUFN?
Our calendar of events is now on our [website](#)!

Pub Theology

Different Brews, Different Views
at Chapel Brewery in Dundas
The second Monday of every month,
starting September 8th
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Come bring your questions, your curiosity, and pull up a chair. The format is simple: beer, conversation, and meaningful topics. Be ready to engage with people of varying religious traditions, philosophical perspectives and life experiences. You'll be able to share your own wrestlings and thoughts while learning something new along the way.

Chapel Brewery has both beer and non alcoholic beverages including lemonade and root beer on tap. Come a little early to get a drink and a seat.

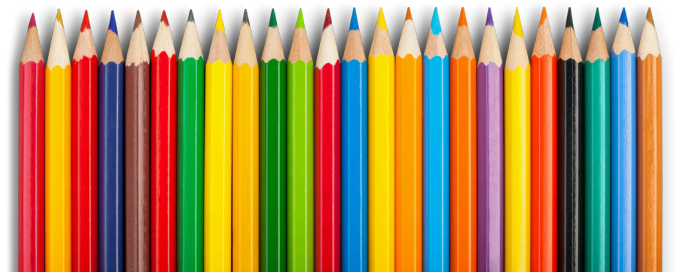
These gatherings are open to the wider community, not just UUFN members and friends, so help spread the word!



Community Art Making

Steph's Studio (next to UUFN)
Saturday, September 13th

Watch your emails for more details.



Social Justice Council

Wednesday, Sep 24
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
At UUFN

All are welcome to gather to share updates about the work the social justice teams are doing at UUFN, to learn new skills, and to connect with others.





MEETS WEEKLY in the SANCTUARY
TUESDAYS 6-7:30 PM

QUESTIONS? EMAIL TAYLOR WESSELN AT [MUSIC@UUNORTHFIELD.ORG](mailto:music@uunorthfield.org)

The UUFN Choir will gather for our first rehearsal on **Tuesday, September 2nd** from **6:00-7:30 PM**. This ensemble meets weekly on Tuesday nights at the same time, under the direction of Taylor Wesseln, UUFN Music Director. These rehearsals will include exploring your voice as an instrument, expanding your musical ear, singing a wide variety of genres, and making music with some stellar UUFN-ers.

The choir will sing a featured anthem on the third Sunday service of every month, while also leading hymns from within the fellowship. No audition is required to join! All voices are welcome!!

Please email Taylor Wesseln at music@uunorthfield.org for any additional information or general questions.



A Message from the Care Team



The UUFN Care Team is entrusted with providing care and support for people in our community who find themselves in a stress-filled transition. We visit people having a rough time, organize memorial services, take food to people with a temporary need, give rides to people who have challenges with mobility or driving, send cards to people needing a little support, and even run errands, if that is what is needed. We organize occasional in-person or online group conversations on topics relevant to the congregation, such as grief, addiction, death and dying.

The Care Team welcomes new members and invites you to reach out if you would like support or would be interested in helping by offering rides or participating in a food chain for a congregant who may be in need of a helping hand. If you know of someone who can use support, please reach out to co-facilitators Martha Easter-Wells or Mary Jane Lipinski.



September CAST Meeting



UUFN's Community and Service Team (CAST) will meet on **September 15 at 7 pm** at UUFN. Our group plans events and actions in and for the community, including a fix-it clinic and opportunities to volunteer.

Anyone interested is encouraged to attend!



Board Update



Dear UUFN members and friends,

The Board of Trustees is very excited about the new year of 2025/26. UUFN is a warm, loving and dynamic congregation with A LOT going on. The UUA theme of 2025/26 is "Meet the Moment", which is appropo for UUFN, considering our new building addition, new and developing staff and expanding social justice work.

A few updates:

-Our 2025/26 board is Mairi Doerr and John Thwing as Co-Chairs, Don Stager as Treasurer/Secretary, with Sabina Daywater and Kimesha Winn as board members, and Rev. Sara Smalley as ex officio member.

-Rollie Davidson has recently resigned his board seat for personal reasons. We thank Rollie for his contribution to the board and for the wisdom, experience and perspective he has shared during his tenure.

The board is actively engaged in developing potential new board members to add to our skills and resources.

-The board had a half-day retreat on Aug. 16 to kick off our new year and lay the foundation for 2025/26 priorities. We worked toward developing a board covenant, clarifying roles and our vision and values.

-UUFN committees continue to get things done. As a board member, I appreciate our capable and competent committees that do so much of the work to keep UUFN going and growing. The Building Addition Committee deserves additional praise as their work is appearing right before our eyes and will have a revolutionary effect on our physical and spiritual capacity.

-For those interested, board meetings are open to members of UUFN. Our upcoming board meetings are at 6:00 p.m. on Sept 18, Oct 16, Nov 20, Dec 18, Jan 15, Feb 19, Mar 18, Apr 16, May 21, June 18. All at UUFN in person or on Zoom on our regular Sunday morning link. Feel free to join us!

Please reach out to Mairi, John or any board member anytime to share what's on your mind. Let's "Meet the Moment" together!



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:

Mairi Doerr
Sabina Peters-Daywater
Don Stager (Treasurer)
John Thwing
Kimesha Winn

Sunday Service Coordinators:

Sue Coleman
Susie Weinbeck

Indoor Facilities Committee:

Wyman Weinbeck

Outdoor Facilities Committee:

Matt Thieding
Larry Vorwerk

September Greeters

9/7
Larry V. and Nita W.

9/14
Lyn and John T.

9/21
Nan C. and Martha E-W

9/28
Ellen S. and John B.