



REACH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF NORTHFIELD



October 2025



Monthly Theme: Cultivating Compassion

October 5, 2025

**“Makoce kin Mitakuye: The Land is my Relative”
with Teresa Peterson**

Teresa Peterson is a Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota and a citizen of the Upper Sioux Community. The themes of her talk will include gardening is ceremony, the land is a relative, and nature is a source of healing. Teresa is the author of three books. Her most recent book, *Perennial Ceremony: Lessons and Gifts from a Dakota Garden*, was the winner of the 2024 Sigurd Olson Nature Writing Award.

October 12, 2025

**“An Expansion of Compassion”
with Rev. Sara Smalley**

The completion of our building project marks both the end of a long journey for UUFN and the beginning of a new phase in this congregation's life. Join us as we celebrate our new building addition and all we are creating together!

October 19, 2025

**“Compassion as the Ultimate Life Hack”
with Rev. Sara Smalley**

We tend to think of compassion as something that can lead to overwhelm. In other words, if we allowed ourselves to feel the depth of the world's suffering, how would we even be able to function? But compassion has a magical quality that allows other qualities such as generosity and patience to surface. The question then becomes: instead of overwhelming us, how might cultivating compassion for ourselves and others transform our lives?

October 26, 2025

**“Queer Muslim Solidarity and Liberation”
Special Guest Speaker: Ameera Sultana Khan**

Hear Ameera, a Bangladeshi-American Transgender Muslim, share her story intersecting theology, identity, queerness, community, and hope.

**We're building a social
change ecosystem at UUFN.
Join us!**

Whether you protest loudly
on the front lines or are a
quiet healer; whether you are
an organizer tending to the
details or a visionary
imagining bold possibilities:
the world needs your gifts.

Starting in October, UUFN will
be engaging in this year's
UUA Common Read, *Social
Change Now: A Guide for
Reflection and Connection* by
Deepa Iyer.



This workbook offers guidance on how each of us can contribute to building movements for equality and collective liberation. *Social Change Now* is intended for people at all stages of their social change journeys, from those learning how to get involved to experienced activists.

You can read more about this year's Common Read here:
[UU Common Read 2025–26: 'Social Change Now' Offers a Roadmap for Transformation](#)

Then watch [this video invitation](#) from the Unitarian Universalist Association President, the Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt, to join UU congregations across the continent in this year's Common Read.

To join the conversation at UUFN:

Three Thursday evening sessions:
October 23rd
October 30th
November 6th

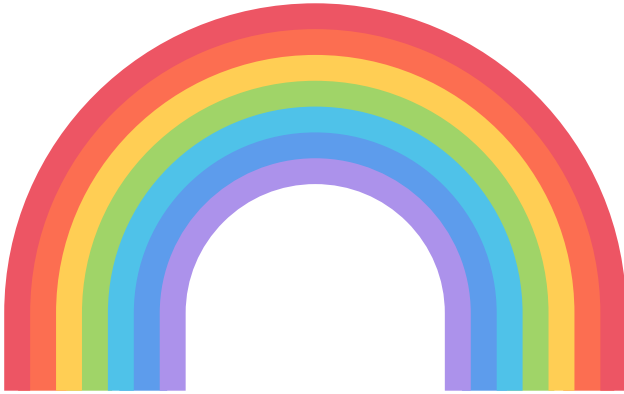
6:30 to 8:30 pm @ UUFN

Facilitated by Rev. Sara Smalley and Holly Kelchner

Books available online [through the UUA bookstore](#)
or in person at [Content Bookstore](#).

REjoicings!

A Religious Exploration Update
from Audrey



Happy October! This month's theme in children's Religious Exploration is Cultivating Compassion. We will explore how small things can make a big difference in helping everyone feel welcome.

Construction in the basement is mostly complete! Children's RE classes will be happening in the old Board/RE room or in the new space. Watch the weekly email for more information.

We are still looking for additional RE helpers in order to ensure our kids are supported on Sunday mornings. If you are interested, please email Audrey at uufnre@uunorthfield.org.

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.

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



No Kings 2

UUFN Democracy
Defenders have joined
forces with Northfield
Indivisible in planning the
next local rally:

No Kings 2
Saturday October 18
12:00-1:30pm
Ames Park.

Free speech for all!

More details [here](#).



*Wondering
what's going on
at UUFN?*

*Our calendar of
events is now on
our [website](#)!*

Sacred Circles Registration Now Open

Sacred Circles are small groups of around eight members that meet monthly to reflect on the month's theme. In between sessions, participants are invited to use the prompts in the provided Soul Matters packets to notice how the month's theme is showing up in their lives. These groups invite you to experience each month's theme more deeply and then connect with others who are doing the same.

This year we have three Sacred Circles groups: a Monday morning group, a Tuesday afternoon group, and a Friday late afternoon group. Groups will meet at UUFN.

Registration closes **October 13th** and groups start in late October. Please note that registration is limited.

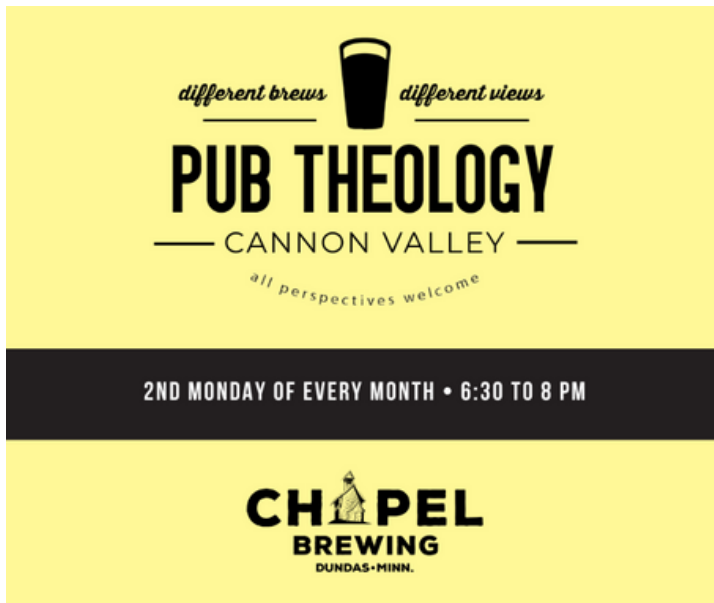
Rev. Sara will host orientation sessions on Zoom for participants Wednesday, October 15th at 7 pm and Thursday, October 16th at noon. (Choose one. The same material will be presented at each.)

[Register for Sacred Circles here by October 13th!](#)



Newcomer Coffee with the Minister Sunday, October 19th After the service

All visitors and newcomers to UUFN are invited to join Rev. Sara downstairs after the service for coffee and conversation. Sara will share some information about Unitarian Universalism and UUFN, but this is mostly a time just to chat and connect with others.



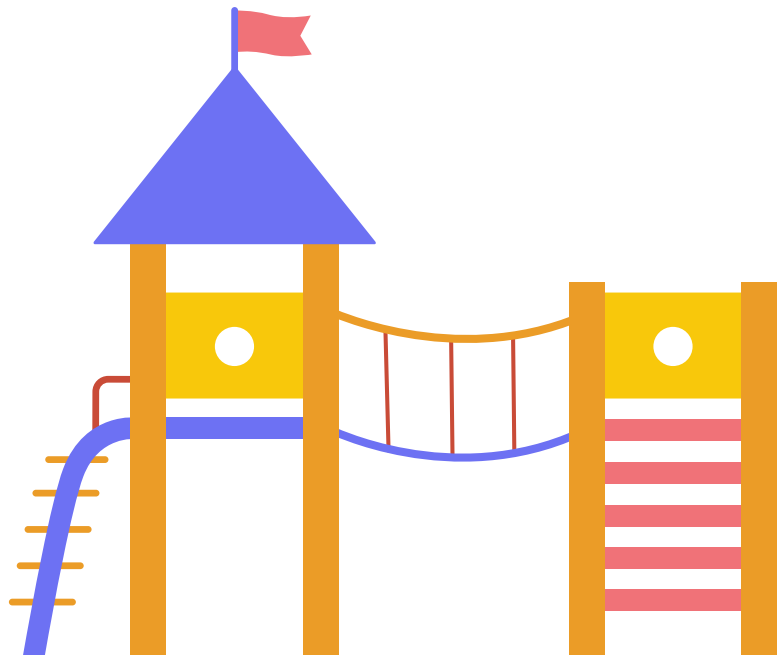
Join us for **Pub Theology** at Chapel Brewery in Dundas every second Monday from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm! Our next gathering will be Monday, October 13th. Come bring your questions and your curiosity and pull up a chair.

Chapel Brewery has both beer and nonalcoholic beverages including lemonade and root beer on tap. Come a little early to get a drink and a seat before we begin at 6:30.

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

Playground Fellowship Continues!

Join us for monthly playground fellowships for kids and families (and anyone else who'd like to attend!) on the second Saturday of each month from 10am to noon. Come and go as you like during that time. Dates over the next few months will be **October 11, November 8, December 13, and January 10.**



The default location will be Way Park. As the weather turns we'll figure out an alternate location. Newcomers are extra welcome! Connect with Laura Gerber if you think you might come so she can notify you if there's a last minute location change.

New this fall!
Growing Together
Every Second Saturday

Each month on the second Saturday, we'll gather at UUFN for community building programming. These are one-time sessions open to newcomers, long term members, and everyone in between.

Our first Growing Together Saturday will be:

**Singing Through the Generations:
Worship Wars, Musical Heresies, & Sound Innovations**
Saturday, October 11 – 9-11:30 am @ UUFN

If you're interested in Unitarian Universalism, music, theology, congregational life, history, and/or religious drama, you're invited to attend "Singing Through the Generations: Worship Wars, Musical Heresies, & Sound Innovations" on October 11 from 9-11:30 am at UUFN.

Our history as Unitarian Universalists is full of innovations, controversies, and sometimes missed opportunities for community singing. We'll journey from Puritan call-and-response, to the earliest hymns, to the controversial formation of choirs, and the heretical introduction of instruments. Together, we'll sing our way through centuries of change, connection, and creativity, considering these questions and more:

*Why were hymns so controversial?
How did our church choirs first form and why?
Who introduced the heresy of instruments in worship?
What happened to our songleading roots?*

There will be singing, there will be plot-twists, and there will be historical gossip.

This is a live online workshop. No musical ability required. Taylor Wesseln and Rev. Sara will be hosting a watch party and discussion at UUFN. Preregistration [here](#) is encouraged but not required. Registrants will be emailed copies of the handouts and resources.



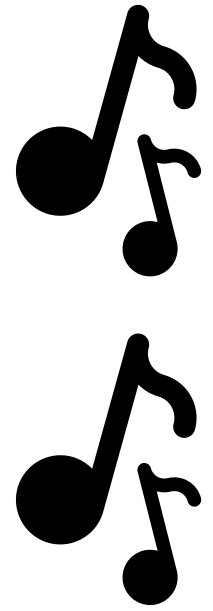
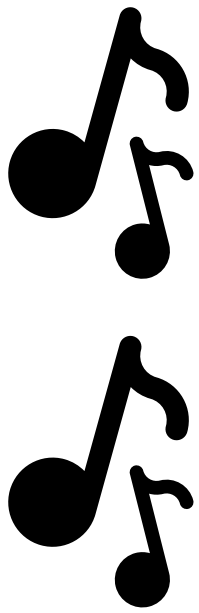
MEETS WEEKLY in the SANCTUARY
TUESDAYS 6-7:30 PM

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

The UUFN Choir meets weekly on Tuesday nights from 6:00-7:30 PM 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.



Choir practicing at Dacie's while the sanctuary floors are being redone at UUFN.
Photo courtesy of Holly Kelchner

A Message from the Care Team

As we welcome a new church year, the Care Team thanks the many congregants who stepped up this past year to support the flourishing of our UUFN community. Maybe your support came in the form of a meal, a ride to an appointment or Sunday service, an electronic birthday announcement, a card of support in the mail, a friendly text, visit, or phone call. Maybe you showed up mightily in getting our building addition to become the artistic and functional triumph it is!

Maybe you cared for the grounds, mowed, planted, and weeded, attended committee meetings, lead Sacred Circle or other gatherings for spiritual and intellectual growth. Thank you for sharing your time, talent, financial support, and joy in being together and growing our community connections. The Care Team thanks you for caring deeply about our beloved community this past year, and, if you would like to join the Care Team, you are welcome!



A Summer Festival

by Janet McGrath



Four members of UUFN attended the Mid-Summer Festival at Zani Otunwe, one of three villages of Makoce Ikikcupi (Land Recovery). Zani Otunwe means Village of Wellness. It is on 21 acres located in Granite Falls MN, overlooking the beautiful Minnesota River Valley. Two of the parcels of land have been funded by many “settlers,” that is, non-Natives. The third property was a donation of 20 acres near Mountain Lake MN. The day was lovely, and we all enjoyed it very much. We were welcomed into one of the lodges - an amazing structure. From the outside they look like a grassy hill but the inside is spacious and fascinating.



(Preserving water/connections)

A highlight was when Waziyatawin, the remarkable woman who founded the project, told stories of how it all began. We participated in a dance/give away while moving to the rhythm of Dakota drums. Some took a guided walk to learn the uses of local plants. A woman did a presentation inside the lodge about the conservation and protection of water. Food was available, including freshly roasted sweet corn. Dakota vendors were selling art and other items. It was fun to see some local children splashing in a portable wading pool on a warm day and doing art at a table provided. This was the first ever open house on the land.



(Speakers)



(Drummers)

Makoce Ikikcupi is our Share the Plate organization for the month of October.
“Each contribution demonstrates a personal commitment to reparative justice.”



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
OF NORTHFIELD

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Taylor Wesseln
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Nursery Teacher:

Julie Bailey

Board Members:

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

Sunday Service Coordinators:

Sue Coleman
Susie Weinbeck

Indoor Facilities Committee:

Wyman Weinbeck

Outdoor Facilities Committee:

Matt Thieding
Larry Vorwerk

October Greeters

10/5

Matt Thieding & Sharon
Snyder-Thieding

10/12

Nan Cedar & Sue Coleman

10/19

Carol & Bob Spear

10/26

Marla Welsford & Wendell
Refior