



REACH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF NORTHFIELD



November 2025



Monthly Theme: Nurturing Gratitude

November 2nd

The Gifts of Remembrance

with Audrey McCann and Rev. Sara Smalley

Join us for our annual all ages remembrance service in honor of All Souls Day and Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) led by Audrey McCann and Rev. Sara. Invoking stories and memories from her own Mexican heritage, Audrey will invite us to build a sacred and celebratory altar together. **Bring pictures or mementos of loved ones you wish to remember**, in the spirit of joy and gratitude for the gifts our ancestors offer us still.

November 9th

Small, Indomitable Voices

with Rev. Kristin Maier, Minister Emerita of UUFN

Where do we find gratitude in those bleak moments when our courage feels shaky and our hope stretches thin? Are there small, brave voices that we have missed in the midst of the chaos? If we turn our attention to those voices, might we be filled with thanks and a little more courage of our own?

November 16th

The Heart of our Faith: A Theology of Gratitude

with Rev. Sara Smalley

What is it that defines Unitarian Universalists? Is it our social justice activism? Our affinity for philosophical discussions? What, actually, is at the heart of our faith? Join Rev. Sara as we consider how a theology of gratitude might inform and inspire us.

November 23rd

Holy Ghosts: A Trans Theology of Grief

with Seth Anderson-Matz

Trans people often move through the world like living apparitions, haunting every corner of history and yet often dismissed as fiction. With low life expectancies and disproportionately high experiences of violence, loss is an integral part of trans life. Yet for each trans person who lives, another finds the fortitude to become. In this service, we will honor the collective memory and spiritual lineage of trans people throughout history while exploring a theological framework for grief that honors trans life and offers sacred wisdom for us all.

November 30th

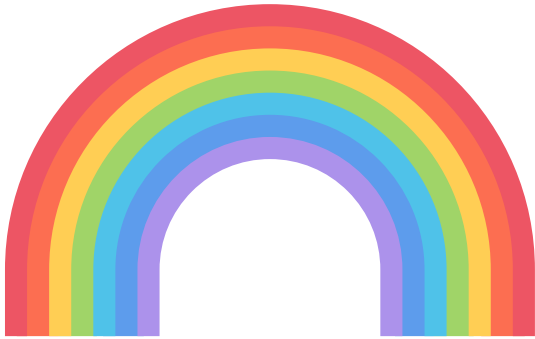
The World We Dream About

with Auggie Lehn

"To the world we dream about...and the one we live in now." So says Anais Mitchell in her lyrics for the Tony Award Winning Musical *Hadestown*. There is something precious about the "now", and about learning to live in it rather than idealizing a utopia. Life is not perfect – it has its bitter cold and its darkest nights. But we push forward nonetheless. Join Auggie Lehn, the "working chorus", and the lyrics of *Hadestown* as we celebrate the perseverance it takes to walk out of Hadestown, and the love it takes to turn around as we do.

REjoicings!

A Religious Exploration Update
from Audrey



The leaves have turned, the air is chilly, and the flannel shirts have come out of hibernation: It must be November! Autumn is my favorite time of year, and I'm filled with gratitude every time I see the season turning. It is fitting, then, that this month's Soul Matters theme is "Nurturing Gratitude".

All kids ages 5-12 are welcome in Children's Religious Exploration programming on Sunday mornings at 10am, where we will be in the new room in the basement. We also hope to offer more programming for families in addition to Sunday mornings, but we need input from parents about what your family needs from UUFN. **Please fill out this form—it should only take a few minutes!**

FYI: We will not have children's RE on November 30 and December 28 due to the holidays.

Gentle reminder to please register any children who may attend RE through this form to ensure we have safety and emergency information on file at all times. Once we have everyone's allergen information, I plan to incorporate snacks more often.

Grateful for you,
Audrey McCann, Director of Children
and Family Ministries



Widening Our Welcome: Skill-Building for Sunday Mornings

**Wed, Nov 19th
from 6:30-8:00pm**

Join us to gain some new skills and ideas for Sunday mornings! We'll talk about how to be an effective greeter, learn about utilizing our new kitchen, and hear about what happens in our children's religious exploration class on Sunday mornings so we can answer newcomers' questions.



*Wondering what's
going on at UUFN?*

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



The first **Soup Supper** in the new addition will be **Fri, Nov 14 at 6 pm!**



We gather to share food, casual conversation, and lots of laughs. Sometimes we have a story or trivia game and always door prizes. Everyone does not have to bring food every time, but we always appreciate what you do bring. There seems to be enough to go around at each meal.

Please RSVP or direct any questions to Gail Hendershot at hendershotgail15@gmail.com. Let Gail know if you are attending and what you might bring. And, as always, volunteers to help set up are always welcome.



Care Team Conversations



Our Sunday service on **November 2nd** will have a time for remembering our loved ones who have passed on. Remembering them can bring up a range of emotions. For those who would like some time to share your memories, join us afterwards for further conversation. We will gather downstairs in the new multipurpose room about **15 minutes after the service ends**, and bring with you any coffee and treats from coffee hour.

Losing a beloved animal companion is a deeply painful experience. Join us for a conversation on pet loss on **Saturday, November 15th** from **2:00-3:30pm**. We will offer a compassionate space for those navigating this unique grief. Feel free to bring a photo of your pet/pets.



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.

Upcoming Growing Together topics:

November 8th
What to Say After You Say You're UU
10 am to 12pm

Perhaps you've had this experience: somehow you mention you're a Unitarian Universalist, and then you get the follow up question: "What's that?" Join Rev. Sara for this informative, practical, and fun workshop as we figure out how we might each answer that question both accurately and authentically.

December 13th
Planning Your Own Memorial Service
10 am to 12pm

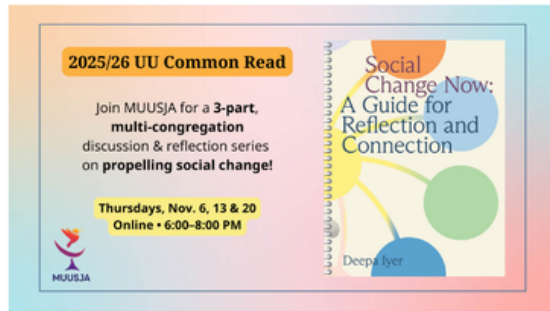
We'll gather for a meaningful conversation about memorial services, and you'll be invited to begin planning your own. While the topic is tender, our time together won't be somber.



**You can now sign up for Sunday
volunteer roles online!**

If you regularly serve as a coffee host, greeter, or religious exploration volunteer (or if you are interested in trying it out!) you can now sign up for dates on our new SignUpGenius.

[Sign up for November dates now!](#)



Scan to register or go to
muusja.org/events



Join MUUSJA for a 3-part, multi-congregation exploration of Deepa Iyer's book, *Social Change Now*, through the lens of our UU faith and shared values. This year's UU Common Read offers a path for more authentic, connected, and effective work pursuing the social justice missions we share.

www.MUUSJA.org

Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance

Board Update

This month the Board welcomed Lisa Ebert as a new member. Lisa was approved by the Board according to our bylaws, and will be filling the open space on the Board until the annual meeting in June. Please join us in welcoming and thanking Lisa!

We have one additional opening on the Board. If you're interested in finding out more about that role, please contact one of our Board Co-Chairs, Mairi Doerr or John Thwing.



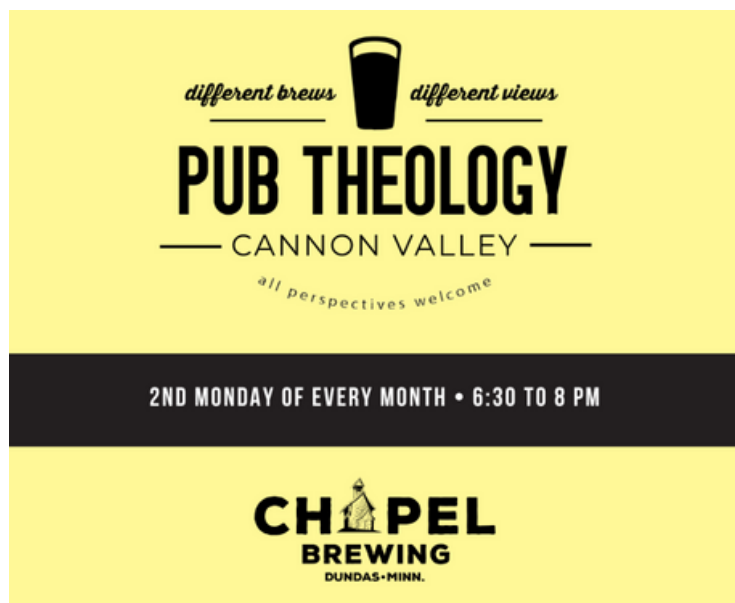
Community Action Center

November Share the Plate

Every year in November, we donate to Community Action Center (CAC) so they have additional funds before the holiday season.

CAC provides housing support, addiction recovery resources, holiday gifts for struggling families, food shelves in Faribault and Northfield, and so much more.

Because of drastic cuts on the federal level, the rates of food insecurity have increased while the amount of food available at food shelves has decreased. **The situation is dire. Our financial support is needed now more than ever.** Please give generously to support our neighbors in Rice County. If you are facing food insecurity yourself, please reach out to Rev. Sara.



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, November 10th. 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 **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.





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.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
OF NORTHFIELD

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 (Co-Chair)

Lisa Ebert

Sabina Peters-Daywater

Don Stager (Treasurer)

John Thwing (Co-Chair)

Kimesha Winn

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