



REACH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF NORTHFIELD



August 2026



**August 2nd | “Sing Out Love”
with Taylor Wesseln**

Summer music Sundays have become a cherished tradition at UUFN! We will dive further into new songs from “Sing Out Love” (the online UU hymnal) while offering connections to hymns already established in our living tradition. Whether you join us every week or this is your first Sunday, come enjoy some wonderful new music, reflections on songs in worship, and so much more in this vibrant service.

**August 9th | “Question Box Sunday”
with Rev. Sara Smalley**

“Question Box” Sunday is back! During this service Rev. Sara will take your questions written on notecards and answer them off the top of her head and from the bottom of her heart. Bring your questions about Unitarian Universalism, theology, spirituality, and more as we co-create this service together in real time.

**August 16th | “Fantasy and the Search for Truth and Meaning”
with Rev. Schuyler Vogel**

In these stressful and troubled times, the temptation to sink into fantasies of all kinds is real. We'll explore the virtues and drawbacks of escapism, and get to the heart of what truth, comfort, and resiliency can mean for us today.

Rev. Schuyler is the Chaplain at Carleton College and an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister.

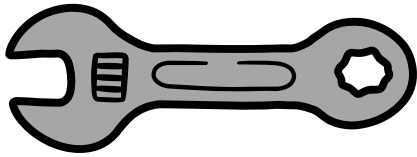
**August 23rd | “The Song in Our Hearts:
A Service on Dementia, Music, and Hope”
with Kristin Kivell and Rev. Sara Smalley**

“A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words,” writes C.S. Lewis. The Lifting Voices choir program in Northfield brings this quote to life as they unite people living with a dementia diagnosis, their care partners, and other singers to foster joy, well-being and belonging through music. Join the director of Lifting Voices Kristin Kivell for this meaningful, hopeful service about community, dementia, and how we can remind each other of the songs in our hearts.

After the service, Rev. Sara will be hosting a sharing circle for those who want to talk more about how dementia has touched their lives.

**August 31st | “Inverse Question Box Sunday”
with Rev. Sara Smalley**

Here at UUFN, questions are not only welcome, they are celebrated. Our understanding of truth is that it belongs to all of us; there's no one person, no one book, no one authority that has all the answers. Part of the magic of this faith community is that we are willing to bring our questions, listen to how others answer, and engage in respectful dialogue about our beliefs. That is what we will be doing in this service. Rev. Sara will have some questions to ask you all (perhaps some of the same ones she answered during the August 9th Question Box service!), but rest assured no one will be forced to participate. Come with curiosity and an open heart and let's learn from one another.



Get help with your broken stuff and learn valuable repair skills at a free **Fix-It Clinic**. This is an opportunity to meet community members and keep some clothing and small appliances out of the landfill!

Fix-It Clinics offer free, guided assistance from volunteers with repair skills to disassemble, troubleshoot, and (hopefully) fix small household appliances, clothing, electronics, mobile devices and more. Fix-It Clinics teach valuable troubleshooting and basic repair skills, build community connections and reduce the number of repairable items that are thrown in the trash. [See more information here](#), and help spread the word!

Your Ideas and Input Needed! Visioning and Planning for Sunday Services at UUFN

**Monday, August 3rd
6:30 to 8:30 pm at UUFN**

What are the most meaningful parts of the Sunday morning worship experience for you? What would you like more of on Sunday mornings? We'll gather at UUFN to talk about Sunday services in general, and then share ideas about the themes for 2026-27. Whether you've been a worship associate, given a sermon, want to get more involved, or simply want to know more about the worship life of this community, you are warmly invited to attend.

Facilitated by Rev. Sara and Taylor Wesseln.

2026-27 *Soul Matters* Themes

September: Beginnings
October: Courage
November: Healing
December: Awe
January: Thresholds
February: Commitment
March: Balance
April: Emergence
May: Play
June: Horizons

If you would like to lead a Sunday service or have a recommendation for a guest speaker, please fill out this form by August 16th:
<https://tinyurl.com/UUFNsundayservices2026>



From Rev. Sara:

**UU Wellspring is
coming to UUFN!
Information sessions:
August 2nd and 9th
after Sunday services**

UU Wellspring is a yearlong program of spiritual deepening connected to the diverse sources of inspiration for our living Unitarian Universalist faith tradition. Through reading and reflection, daily spiritual practice, spiritual companionship, and small group meetings (every other week) that hold space to hear our deepest truths, the UU Wellspring Sources program is a meaningful way to explore what Unitarian Universalism means to you and how you want your faith to guide your life.

I have both participated in and facilitated UU Wellspring groups in congregations and nationwide groups on Zoom, and every time my understanding of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist – and what it means to be human on this hurting and beautiful planet – deepens.

I am so excited to bring it to UUFN and share and learn with you!

UU Wellspring is admittedly a big time commitment. We will meet every other week from September to June, and there are readings and reflections between sessions. It's not for everyone. But if you're curious and simply want to learn more, join me at one of the two short information sessions, or let's set up a time for a phone call or meeting.

You can also read more about it [here](#).

**UU Wellspring Information Sessions
Sundays August 2nd and 9th
After Sunday services**

Register at tinyurl.com/uuwellspring by August 16th.
Registration is limited.

♥ A Message from the Care Team ♥

Summer is giving way to Autumn, a time of endings and new beginnings. If you find yourself in a situation where you could use a listening ear, do not hesitate to reach out to the Care Team. The Care Team provides support for people in our UUFN community, and in order to learn more about compassionate care, we have begun a book study, *Spiritual Care First Aid: An All-Hands Approach for Church and Community*.

For more information, contact: Mary Jane Lipinski 715-897-1019, Martha Easter-Wells 563-343-8578, or speak with any member of the Care Team.



The Gathering: Declarations of Democracy - Healing and Repair Monday, August 10, 2026 7pm CT

The Gathering is a monthly nationwide online meeting of Unitarian Universalists hosted by Side With Love. Each month, we come together to ground ourselves spiritually, deepen our political analysis, and move into action together. Because we know that the work of justice is not sustained by urgency alone. It is sustained by community, nourishment, and the practice of returning again and again to the vision of the world we are building.

The Gathering is open to all.

This month we will dig into Healing and Repair with a rockstar panel of Caitlin Breedlove (UU the Vote), Rev. Vahisha Hasan (Movement in Faith & author of *Building Up a New World*), and QuianaDenae Perkins (Black Women of the Chalice). Rev. Verdis LeVar Robinson will root us in song and prayer

September: Solidarity
October: 10 years after Standing Rock
November: Elections
December: Spiritual practice

See you at The Gathering to strengthen your spirit, make sense of the threats to democracy, and take meaningful action alongside others.

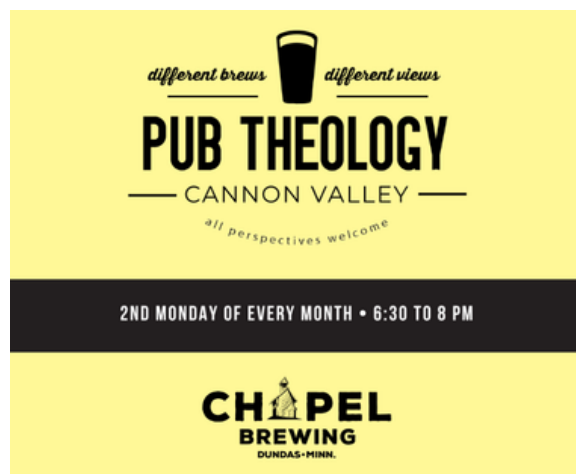
[Register here.](#)

August Share the Plate



This month's share the plate donations support the Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA, known as "Moose Jaw"). MUUSJA equips Unitarian Universalists in Minnesota to do powerful, sustainable, accountable, spiritually-rooted work. This fall, MUUSJA is gearing up for a vitally important UU the Vote initiative before the elections in November, as well as continuing their advocacy for climate justice, racial justice, immigration justice, gender justice, and reproductive justice.

Only together can we unleash courageous leadership and collective power to build a just and loving world!



Join us for Pub Theology on **Monday, August 10th** and the second Monday of every month from **6:30 to 8 pm** on the deck at **Chapel Brewing** in Dundas.

These gatherings are open to everyone - theists, atheists, agnostics, and others, churched and unchurched - so come alone or bring a friend.

You'll be able to share your own wrestlings and thoughts while learning something new along the way, and perhaps try a new craft beer or kombucha flavor you haven't tried yet. Chapel also has some new hard-seltzer-based cocktail options, as well as a number of non-alcoholic options.



Join the Coalition for Responsible Data Center Development and Northfield Indivisible at UUFN on **August 6th** to learn more about **data centers**.

We'll talk about:

- What they are, how they operate, and their impact on our environment-- our land, air, and water, and our utility grid.
- You'll have the opportunity to hear from local experts who've worked to protect Dakota County from the explosion of data centers just to our north, and about projects nearby in Faribault and elsewhere.
- You'll have plenty of time to get your questions answered, and to learn more ways to take action in Northfield.

This is a strictly nonpartisan event. No political campaigns will be discussed or endorsed.

[Click here](#) or contact Julia Menard for more info.

Lost and Found Are you missing anything?



Several warm jackets have been hanging in the entryway for many months. If nobody claims them, at the end of August we will donate them to the Clothes Closet in Northfield. There is also a bin in the entryway holding small things like gloves, a scarf, and forgotten travel mugs.

Please have a look this month and reclaim your lost items.



National Convergence for Democracy Friday-Sunday, August 21-23 | Minneapolis Convention Center

The **National Convergence for Democracy** is a three-day gathering in Minneapolis designed to bring together community, grassroots, and frontline organizers and leaders from across the country who want to skill-share and coordinate the next iteration of democracy defense in the United States. [Get all the details and register today](#) or [sign up to attend an information webinar](#).

You can choose one of four tracks to focus on:

- rapid response & mutual aid
- legal advocacy
- labor, community organizing & mass mobilization
- faith organizing (co-led by [the same organization](#) that issued the national clergy call to Minneapolis in January)

Rev. Sara will be attending the faith organizing track, but you do not have to be a minister to attend that one (or a lawyer to attend the legal advocacy track!).

Note when you register use "MUUSJA" as the reference and "director@muusja.org" as the reference email. If you are interested in attending but cost is a barrier to you, please reach out to Rev. Sara.





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:

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Administrator:

Seth Anderson-Matz
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Music Director:

Taylor Wesseln
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Nursery Teacher:

Julie Bailey

Board Members:

Nan Cedar (Secretary)
Mairi Doerr (Co-Chair)
Lisa Ebert
Beth Goodell (Treasurer)
Bob Spear
Don Stager
John Thwing (Co-Chair)
Kimesha Winn

August Greeters:

Aug 2: Claire and Jim

Aug 9: Mairi and Nan

Aug 16: Barbara and Paul

Aug 23: Sue and Martha

Aug 30: Cot and Brynda

Your life is sacred and important.

Suicide Prevention Lifeline: Call or text 988

Sexual Assault Support: Call 800.656.HOPE or text
"HOPE" to 64673

Domestic Violence Hotline: Call 1.800.799.SAFE or text
"START" to 88788

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Helpline: call
1-800-662-HELP (4357)

LGBTQ Youth and Young Adult Crisis Line: Call 1-866-
488-7386 or text "START" to 678-678