



REACH

Our reach should exceed our grasp.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

December 2011

Services are held at Fellowship Hall, corner of West 2nd & Linden Streets in Northfield. Babysitting and children's religious education are provided.

December Services

Kristin Maier 651-647-5699
kmaier@q.com

President

Bob Ciernia 507-663-7876
bobciernia@gmail.com

Vice-President

Lee Topp 952-469-4859
bevorleetopp@frontiernet.net

Treasurer

Greg Marfleet 507-645-4035
gmarfleet@charter.net

Secretary

Marcia Jacobs 507-301-3160
mjacobs1939@gmail.com

Board Member-At-Large

Mairi Doerr 507-789-6606
dancingwinds@frontiernet.net

Director of Religious Education

Nancy Huppert 507-581-6437
nhuppert@gmail.com

Sunday Services

Suzannah Ciernia 507-663-7876
syciernia@gmail.com

Membership & Music

Bev Topp 952-469-4859
bevorleetopp@frontiernet.net

Membership

Bill McGrath 507-645-7660
billmcgrath52@gmail.com

Facilities

Bobbi Baker 507-645-9109
rdbaker12@gmail.com

Social Justice

Mera Colling 507-645-9174
eimalou@gmail.com
Marilyn Prevost 507-645-0285
marilyn57@vitalityforlife.com

Stewardship

Greg Marfleet 507-645-4035

Ministerial Liaison

Lee Topp 952-469-4859
Carol Marshall 507-301-3047
cmarshall2208@gmail.com

Reach Editor

Hortense MacLeod 507-645-4572
turhanz@gmail.com

Sunday December 4 • 10 a.m. • “A Loyal Heart” • Rev. Kristin Maier • Without a sense of loyalty to one another or one's values, human community would certainly fall apart. And yet, as humans we often find ourselves in positions of conflicting loyalties. Where can we rightfully place our highest loyalties? What do those loyalties rightfully require of us?

Sunday December 4 • 11:15 a.m. • “Kicking the Tires of Unitarian Universalism” What might it mean to become a member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield? Join our minister and our membership committee for a discussion about what joining this congregation might mean for you and your family. Bring your own perspectives, curiosity and questions. All are welcome. Childcare is available.

Sunday December 11 • 10 a.m. • “Inner Light Circus” • Hortense MacLeod • Don't hide your light under a bushel. Come celebrate. Come participate. Come join the Inner Light Circus service in the spirit of creativity.

Sunday December 18 • 10 a.m. • “Lessons from Light and Dark” • Rev. Kristin Maier • Join us for an intergenerational service celebrating the Solstice with a pageant by and for all ages, a ritual led by Mairi Doerr, and a homily from our minister, Rev. Kristin Maier.

Saturday December 24 • 4 p.m. • Traditional Christmas Eve Service • Suzannah Ciernia and Hortense MacLeod • Come in from the stress and the cold to sing carols, listen to ancient stories, and celebrate the warmth of community around the story of a birth.

Sunday December 25 - No Service



Called to Witness

by Kristin Maier

The images are all over the internet, easily found by anyone who types in “police brutality occupy.” With a few clicks we can see images of a small group of women protesters standing behind orange plastic fencing. There is a scuffle several yards away, but these women are not involved, other than asking why it is happening and holding up phones or cameras to record it. A deputy inspector walks through several other police officers to reach the women, raises his arm and without warning pepper sprays them in eyes.



Another click and we see young protestors linked arm-in-arm, sitting on the lawn and sidewalk of the University of California-Davis. Several campus police officers pull out enormous cans of pepper spray and walk up and down the line of seated students spraying them in the face.

Another click and images of an 84 year old protestor in Seattle appear, pepper spray running down her face. One more click, and we see police in Oakland throw flash grenades into a group of protestors who had stopped to help their friend who had just been shot in the head by a tear gas canister. The police did not help the man.

Many of us, as people of faith, find these images of unnecessary force disturbing. We are disturbed by images of people suffering needlessly. We are also disturbed by the shift in police tactics that seems to have snuck up on us as a nation. We thought the water cannons and cattle prods used against protestors in the 1960's were long gone, replaced by the negotiated protests of the 1990's in which the where and when of free speech was negotiated and played out without arrest or brutality. Now, we see police officers being asked to more aggressively and “proactively” control and arrest protestors. An insightful article by [Alexis Madrigal](#) of *The Atlantic* traces this shift in tactics and questions what is

being asked of our police officers today. He wonders what damage we are doing to the individual officers who are being asked to perpetuate these increasingly aggressive and violent tactics.

Just as disturbing, is the rise in arrests of journalists covering the Occupy protests. On November 25th, [Josh Stearns](#) reported that 26 reporters had been arrested so far while covering the Occupy protests. 10 of those occurred in one night on [November 15th](#) when reporters from *NPR*, the *Associated Press* and *The New York Daily News* were among those arrested while attempting to cover the police [clearing Zucotti park](#). These reporters had police issued press identification.

Like the nation, I am sure that the opinions in our congregation vary widely about the Occupy movement. Some of our members have participated in the protests, some have supported the movement indirectly, some are critical of the strategy or goals, and others are likely still trying to figure out what it is all about. Regardless of our stance on the protests, the events we are witnessing raise spiritual and moral questions for us as people of faith.

We believe deeply in the value of each person – protestor, police officer, and the everyday people struggling to survive in an economy that rewards the few and pushes the many toward an increasingly precarious day-to-day living. We also believe deeply in democracy as a way to honor each person's self-determination and the self-determination of a community of people. When one person is unnecessarily hurt or detained, it is an affront to our religious principles about the inherent dignity and worth of each person. When our ability to witness is curtailed by the arrest of legitimate journalists, it is an affront to our principle of the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process.

We ought not discount that role of witness. People are watching America's reaction to these events as much as they are watching the events themselves. And, witnessing has long held an important place in religious life as a way for people to live out their beliefs. Where will our witnessing lead each of us, any of us? What is it calling us to think, say or do?

Putting the Season in Perspective

by Bob Ciernia

If you are like me, you were probably upset by recent events surrounding the opening of the holiday shopping season, a.k.a. Black Friday. Stores opening at 10 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day. A shopper using pepper spray so as to acquire the goods she desired and keep her competitors at bay. Another shopper being knocked to the ground by compatriots eager to get the “best deals of the season.” Extra police and security guards on duty to both maintain order and promote decorum.



Just aberrations?

Perhaps. But, by all reports, 150 million of us went looking for bargains. That's well over half the driving age population of the country.

We've been headed in this direction much of my adult life. The transformation from a religious holy day to a secular holiday is just about complete. Oh, there will still be the obligatory manger scene flashed across the screen on Christmas Day, but the babe left the mall in a shopping cart long ago. Honestly, isn't shopping why we celebrate the day? If we didn't shop early and shop often at this time of year, lots of stores would show a loss for the year. Can't have that! And what's wrong with looking for that perfect gift at a cut-rate price? After all, the *Strib*, Minnesota's newspaper of record, says this may now be the new normal.

If that's the case, I think it's bizarre. How did we come to this? It's about enough to make me want to skip the tree, leave off the lights, and bag in its entirety what little remains of the tradition I once treasured. Most of what I thought we were honoring has been boxed, wrapped, and sold off at discount, with a pretty bow tied on top.

Oh, it's true that in my childhood, the gifts were a tad more important than the Christmas sermon (okay, perhaps a lot more important) but as I grew older, the idea of giving a gift as a token or acknowledgment of the friendship and love I felt for family and friends came to the fore. The crass commercialism increasingly evident in the marketplace of holiday merchandising has become nauseating. We now have one tablet manufacturer snickering that it's better to receive than to give. Really?

Is that the message this culture believes Christ brought to the world?

It's enough to make anyone with a grain of decency or reverence apoplectic. No wonder Moses smashes the tablets when he sees his people dancing around the Golden Calf. No wonder Jesus assaults the money changers and the merchants in the temple.

And since I have no intention of driving to the MOA in Bloomington and pepper spraying the worshippers of Baal, what is the appropriate response to the selling off of the sacred and the diminishment of the Christmas message?

The best thing I can come up with is to remind myself of what the original story was all about: love. To quote Dr. Seuss:

“And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow,
stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so?
It came without ribbons. It came without tags.
It came without packages, boxes or bags.
And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore.
Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before.
What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store?
What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more?”

UUUs may have some reservations about much of the Gospel story but one needn't be a believer in the divinity of Christ to affirm many of his teachings. If he were birthed into the latter part of the 20th century and was now old enough to begin making his mark, I have no doubt Jesus would be railing against our society's worship of the material and challenging us to follow a different path.

If you celebrate these holidays, I urge you to resist the pervasive cultural norm of spending your money on the things delivered in packages, boxes or bags. The people you care about want your presence more than your presents. Christian or Wiccan, agnostic or atheist, humanist or Deist, I invite you to embody the belief that love can't be bought or sold. Whatever is Sacred is surely more about being than about buying.

I'll close with a passage from one of my sacred texts, *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. In this scene, the nephew chides Scrooge for his uncle's inability to recognize that good and goods are not the same thing (slightly abridged): “There are many things from which I might have derived good, by which I have not profited, Christmas among the rest. But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round,

as a good time: a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys.

And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it *has* done me good, and *will* do me good, and I say, God bless it!"

Can I get an Amen?

UUFN Policy Board "Bits"

by Marcia Jacobs

Here are notes from the latest meeting held on November 10. If you would like more information, please feel free to talk to a board member about any questions you might have.

- The Board approved a policy regarding the Memorial Banner. (printed elsewhere in this edition of Reach)
- Bill McGrath, representing the Membership Committee, sparked a lively discussion on a number of topics related to his committee's work. Among the topics discussed: it was decided to treat the Caring Committee as an entity separate from the Membership committee; an additional effort will be made to invite Members and Visitors to "Continue the Conversation" at Coffee Hour; and, we will introduce the use of a Visitors / Welcome! card as a way of getting to know first-time visitors to the Fellowship.
- The Board received a report from Lee about the quarterly meeting of the Program Council. Representatives from Sunday Services, RE, Social Justice, and Membership attended. Updates were shared and information exchanged. Lee reports it was a good meeting.
- The topic of fundraising activities has been an ongoing topic of interest. Marcia and Lee will informally survey members and friends to determine what they think would be successful (and fund) events. If you have a good idea, or would like to work on one, please let Lee or Marcia know of your interest.
- The Board discussed creating a Communications Policy to help guide our Reach editor, listserv moderator, and webmaster in determining the ground rules for the use of these organizational tools. The first step will be to

look to other UU congregations to see what templates we might find already in use by our sister congregations.

- Preparations for February's 4th Annual Standing on the Side of Love/Rainbow Dinner continue to progress. A meeting with United Church of Christ has already taken place, and other churches will also be invited to participate. (see Suzannah's article elsewhere in this edition of Reach) Rainbow Ribbons will be on sale during the December 8 Winter Walk and proceeds will support the event and its speaker. Ribbons are available for \$3 each or 2 for \$5.

Next meeting December 6, 6:30 pm at the Ciernia home

ed. note - The Policy Board consists of Bob Ciernia, Lee Topp, Greg Marfleet, Marcia Jacobs, and Mairi Doerr (see the Reach masthead for contact information).

The UUFN Memorial Banner

by Bob Ciernia

As a way of honoring and remembering those in our congregation who have died, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield displays a memorial banner in our worship space. Using words from our chalice lighting, the banner reads, "In the memory of those whose light and warmth we carry in our hearts..." and includes the embroidered names of those members we have lost.

This banner is a lasting and beautiful way to recognize the significant relationship that many have had to our congregation. Individuals who are members of our congregation at the time of their death will have their names added to the memorial banner. Additionally, names can be included of friends or past members who had expressed a desire to be included, or whose family or loved ones have made such a request on their behalf, knowing that their inclusion would have been welcomed. Inquiries about being included on the banner can be directed to the minister or the board president.

The next time you are in our worship space, please take a moment to remember our friends and appreciate the beauty of our new banner.

Using the UU Email Lists

from the Board

So, you want to send an email to the UUFN but you're not sure which email address to use? Here is an explanation of each of our two primary email addresses.

If you want to send an email to everyone who's expressed the desire to be on our mailing list, then use: uufnorthfield@yahoogroups.com This list includes members, friends, former members who've moved away from the Northfield area, one-time visitors, the curious, and anyone else who'd like to find out what we're up to. Any activity that is UUFN or UUA sponsored, including interfaith activities in Northfield and surrounding communities, is appropriate for this list. [Please keep in mind that people gave their email address because of their interest in Unitarian Universalism and our activities and don't abuse their permission. Topics should directly relate to a Prairie Star District, MUUSJA (Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance), UUA, or UUFN sponsored activity.]

Feeling a bit more selective? Or, have a comment on our governance or polity you don't think is of much interest to anyone but members? If that's the case, you want to send a message to: uufnmembership@yahoogroups.com

Not sure if you are a member of one of these groups? Go to www.YahooGroups.com and sign in. Can't remember your password or anything else about this site? Then just send Mera a note and ask her to check for you.

You should also be aware we are now on Facebook. Sign in to your FB account, do a search for Unitarian Universalist Northfield, and you're on your way.

Association Sunday Update

from the Board

On October 2nd UUFN held its Association Sunday 2011: Celebrating Excellence in Ministries. This year according to the UUA website "donations to Association Sunday will support scholarships, continuing education, and a comprehensive assessment of UUA ministries and their needs for the future. Grants from Association Sunday 2011 funds will help religious professionals get ongoing training to support thriving congregations". UUFN Association Sunday special donations amounted to \$422.00!

It's Snowtime!

from the Board

It's been an unusually warm fall, but anyone who's lived in Minnesnowta for any length of time knows that we could get a good blizzard any day now. And that means some shoveling!

Our landlord clears the parking lot, but our rental agreement obligates us to clear the sidewalks on Linden and Second Streets, as well as the walkway entrances to the church itself. In years past, we've relied on volunteers to do this work for us. Generally, that's meant just a handful of people do this work. We've asked for such help again this year, but so far we've only got coverage through the end of December. That leaves three (or even four) months that still need to be covered.

That's a problem. We can't spend money we don't have, and our Budget does not include a line item for this unanticipated expense. Depending on the number and severity of the storms we encounter, the Board estimates the cost of clearing the snow at somewhere between \$300 and \$400. We see two options: enough volunteers come forward for two-week or month-long stints so that we don't have to look outside the congregation; or, we solicit money for a Snow Fund to cover the estimated cost.

Not everyone can (or should) be out shoveling snow, but the job still needs to be done. If you can donate your time, please contact Bobbi Baker (our Facilities Coordinator) and let her know when you are available. (Who knows? If you're lucky, those weeks may be snow-free.) But if you cannot do this physical work, please consider making an additional donation to the congregation; just add "Snow Removal" to your check's memo line and drop it in the collection basket.

Thanks!



December RE

by Nancy Huppert

Sunday, December 4

K-4 & Youth: Solstice Pageant Rehearsal

Teacher: Suzannah Ciernia & Kristen Lucas

Nursery: Ben & Theo Lucas

On Sunday, December 18th, UUFN will hold a Solstice Pageant that tells the story of Vainamoinan, who is the main character of the Finnish national epic "Kalevala".

Today we will have a rehearsal for the pageant during RE.

Sunday, December 11

Solstice Pageant Rehearsal – 8:45 a.m.

K-4: The Shortest Day



Teacher: Nancy Huppert

Nursery: Nick & Will Marfleet

The beginning of winter is marked by the solstice, the shortest day of the year. Long ago, people grew afraid when each day had fewer hours of sunshine than the day before. This book explains what the winter solstice is and how it has been observed by various cultures throughout history.

Youth Group: Heresy Apparent: The Heresy of Faith in Action

Teacher: Bob Ciernia

This session introduces youth to the rich history of social action in Universalist history. The session also explores the relationship of social justice activities with American Unitarian and Universalist thought.

Sunday, December 18

K-4 & Youth: Multigenerational Service – Solstice Pageant

Nursery: Olivia & Claire Paulsen

Sunday, December 24

Multigenerational Service: Cookies & Carols

No Nursery



Circle Supper

Bottom left around table: Anna Brown, Bobbi Baker, Sarah Singer, Gladys Savage, Pat Jones.

Coffee Hour

Below is the list of those who have volunteered to set up, bring treats, and clean up for Social Hour. Thank you all! We are trying to simplify for the hosts this year so are asking that you provide just one sweet and one savory treat.

Feel free to exchange with someone else if another date works better for you and please let Bev Topp know about the changes at bevorleetopp@frontiernet.net or 612-702-6127

Thanks to everyone!

Sunday Social Hour Hosts

Dec 4 – Mike & Megan Jonas

Dec 11 – Roxanne & Scott Davis

Dec 18 – Carol Marshall & Ed Frost

Dec 25 – Christmas



Greeter List

December - Bobbi Baker & Burt Fleming

Greeters are asked to serve for a month of Sundays. In the event there is a Sunday in your month that doesn't work, please just contact Bill McGrath at billmcgrath52@gmail.com (or 645-7660) and we will find a fill-in for you.

DECEMBER - Bobbi Baker & Burt Fleming

JANUARY - Kristin Lucas & either Scott or Roxanne Davis

FEBRUARY - To be Determined

MARCH - Marcia Jacobs & Klaus Huehn

APRIL - Mera Colling & Paula Case



Membership Committee News

by Bill McGrath

Please look under your toaster. If there a UUFN nametag-badge lurking there, please bring it to the church on your next visit.

The Membership Committee tries to gather just enough contact information on visitors so that we can keep in touch with them. Our greeters are a key part of this process. Our greeters:

There is a frenzied bottleneck in the entrance of the church at 9:55 each Sunday morning. Rather than having greeters get each visitor to sign our guest book, we are going to a new system in which the greeters will hand a card to each visitor.

Then the visitor can take his or her time filling out the card and drop the card later into the money basket. The Membership Committee will then transcribe the person's full name, e-mail address, mailing address and phone number into the guest book.

Another small change for greeters: No longer will greeters paw through the rat's nest of name badges in the basket. From now on, either you have a name badge on the nice big badge board, or you don't have one, period. (Unless it's at home under the toaster.)

There will be no more rat nest basket. Visitors can write their name on an extremely temporary colored sticky tag. If a person wants a more permanent plastic-covered name tag, he or she should be sent to Bill McGrath or Bev Topp of the Membership Committee.

BOOKS OF JOY



UUFN's new rolling library will be available each Sunday. The books were donated by Bruce Burnes; by Kristen and Ted Tollefson, our former minister and his wife and by the family of UUFN founding member Joy Wolf for whom it was named. Several others have made generous contributions recently. A check-out book is available in the pocket on the end of one of the carts. There is a box for returns and one for donations. Take a look at our nice collection! If you have questions talk to those (pictured above) who have assembled the collection -- Lois Burnes, Marcia Jacobs and Janet McGrath.

Ethical Eating Can be Affordable

by Azna Amira

Suzannah Ciernia's sermon on "Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice," while preaching to the choir for many of us nevertheless raised an issue that's a thorny one for some of us: eating ethically, sustainably and healthfully can be *expensive*. For those on restricted incomes, it can be prohibitively so—but maybe it doesn't have to be.

We all know that organic vegetable and free-range meats are better for our health, kinder to animals, more respectful of resources and to the planet. I, for one, am therefore committed to shopping at my local coop for these foods, but it costs over a third of my monthly income—not always sustainable. (So if you see me ducking in or out of Econo Foods or Cub, it's because I sometimes have to cheat to make it through the month).

I am grateful that our community *has* a food cooperative—and a community food shelf that makes an effort to offer locally-grown produce. All any of us can do is move in the direction of greater responsibility and accountability to the extent that our resources allow. We do what we can. We shop in bulk, thereby reducing the amount of petroleum used in packaging and saving us money in the bargain. We stock up during sales. And we cook at home. It can be fun to come up with creative ways of combining and preparing fresh—and hopefully, mostly local—ingredients into meals that satisfy both our senses and our pocketbooks.

This is how the great cuisines of the world were created. In answer to the question, "What shall I make for dinner?" people looked around at the animals at hand and the plants in season around them, combined them with whatever herbs and spices seemed pleasing, and combined them in ways that pleased the senses, brought people together, and stretched their resources without depleting them.

On November 13, the day of Suzannah's sermon, it was also my turn to bring after-service treats. You know how it goes: one person brings a savory treat, the other brings something sweet. I somehow drew the "sweet straw," which put me in a quandary because I'm not a baker—I don't even keep sugar in my house. But if the idea is to share with the community, why not share what I enjoy at home?

So what I brought that day was a recipe I made up to get certain nutrients into myself by blending delicious, but inexpensive ingredients in a way that's balanced, doesn't set off any food addictions, is low-fat, and doesn't require

a lot of preparation time. I call it Wheat Berry Waldorf salad (see recipe below). It's so yummy I've eaten it for breakfast, with lunch or dinner, and for dessert.

The recipe came about because I love Honey Crisp apples (a seasonal delight), raisins, craisins (dried cranberries) and walnuts—but would probably eat too many if they were just lying around uncombined. I also love the chewy texture of wheat berries, which are wheat in its whole, unprocessed form with all the nutrients intact. They are high in fiber, low in fat and calories, and packed with vitamins and minerals like manganese, selenium, phosphorous and magnesium. They also contain lignans, phytochemicals that fight against breast and prostate cancers.

So, here's the recipe for Wheat Berry Waldorf Salad:

2 cups wheat berries

1 cup chopped walnuts

2 apples, chopped

1 cup seedless raisins (or dried cranberries, or ½ cup of each)

½ teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon pepper

½ teaspoon ground cinnamon

½ teaspoon ground nutmeg

2 tablespoons lemon juice

1/3 cup of Noyonnaise or honey Greek yogurt

Directions:

In large pot, cover wheat berries with about 6 cups of water, bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer—covered—for about an hour, or until cooked through. (They will have a chewy-crunchy texture). Drain and set aside to cool.

In a large bowl, sprinkle lemon juice over chopped apples, and mix with walnuts, raisins, salt, pepper, nutmeg and cinnamon. Fold in Noyonnaise or yogurt, mix thoroughly and chill in refrigerator until needed.

Note: Wheat berries are available in the bulk section of Just Food Coop for \$1.11 per pound. All other ingredients also available at the coop.

Nov 22, 2011

Standing on the Side of Love

from the Philadelphia Inquirer

Famed civil rights activist Rev. Jesse Jackson stopped by Occupy Philly this week to start a discussion about bringing more diversity to the Occupy Movement. While he was there, he asked our own Rev. Peter Friedrichs to lead an interfaith group in prayer before the press conference. Check out the video here.

Rev. Jackson came to Philadelphia with the goal of engaging clergy and people of color in a meaningful diversity dialogue. Some people of color had previously felt unwelcome in the Occupy Philly community and Rev. Jackson wanted to discuss the creation of a more diverse movement. They also talked about how the economic justice issues at the heart of Occupy often have a disproportionate effect on people of color.

Rev. Friedrichs and his Standing on the Side of Love t-shirt made it all the way to the cover of the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Before he left, Rev. Jackson made a commitment to link the interfaith working group at Occupy Philly with local African American church leaders in an effort to incorporate more voices into the movement. He also drew a clear connection between the Civil Rights Movement and the Occupy Movement, describing it as a continuation of the same work. Rev. Friedrichs reported that it was inspiring to be in Rev. Jackson's presence and that the discussion left him energized and hopeful for the broadening of the Occupy Movement.



Rev. Peter Friedrichs, Rev. Jesse Jackson, and others in the Quaker-sponsored interfaith tent. (Credit: Ashlee Espinal/Philly.com)



Several members of the UUFN have participated in "Occupy Wall Street" events. Bob Ciernia, Pat Jones, Bill McGrath and Burt Fleming went to an outdoor rally in Rochester on Oct. 16. Bob and Bill also joined an "Occupy" parade through downtown Minneapolis on Nov. 14. Several UUFN members also have participated in "Occupy" events in Northfield, including a one-hour vigil in Bridge Square on Nov. 18. The idea behind "Occupy Wall Street" is that 99% of our society is being controlled by the great wealth held by the top 1%.

from Bill Mc Grath

On the Scene

November 15th, 2011

Not sure what will happen tonight, but I wanted to report on what happened Monday night at Government Center. I saw about a dozen people from Northfield over the course of the evening and we joined a few hundred people (perhaps as many as 500) gathered on the plaza.

We arrived about 5:30. After listening to a half dozen speeches, we set off on a march around the downtown area. The Occupy MN folks had traffic monitors out for each intersection and those riding the bus or light rail, driving in their cars, or walking the streets heard and saw a brief lesson about how citizens might ask their government for redress of grievances.

Upon our return to the plaza, people were invited to bed down for the night, breaking the rules set out by the County Commissioners last Thursday. It's hard for me to estimate how many people spent the night, but the

number was somewhere between 50-100 at the time we left.

We saw no police during the evening with the exception of three officers who remained at a distance. There were no police watching us depart the plaza, or acting as escort as we walked the city, or waiting to greet us upon our return.

The march was empowering and the high point of the evening.

from Bob Ciernia

Sunday Service Committee Update

by Suzannah Ciernia

With a third of the church year already behind us, services at UUFN have covered a lot of ground. Each month we've heard 2 sermons from our minister and 2 lay-led services featuring guest speakers on a range of topics.

In addition to the ongoing and exciting challenge of coordinating a service each week that offers substantive ideas and reflections, we have also broken some new ground in the "Order of Service" format. We promised a check-in with folks to hear your feedback, so here's a short list of some of the subtle, and not-so-subtle, tweaking we've worked on to improve the flow.

Music: We are fortunate to have volunteer musicians who prepare beautiful pieces that add much to our Sunday services. Recorded music will be quietly played before the bell sound as people gather. The opening bell sound indicates the beginning of the service and a time for quiet reflection during the prelude.

Goal: recorded background music to soften gathering and chatting noise before service starts at 10am; bell at 10am to signal quiet time during prelude.

Seating: One of the more noticeable changes on Sunday morning has been shifting the chairs to face the north wall instead of the east. Goal: give the room a more spacious and welcoming feel, and also maybe minimize the occasional interference experienced by the lapel microphone in the previous location.

Choir: Another change being tried out is moving our choir up onto the stage. Goal: free up more seating, using the previously wasted stage space, and provide a better performing spot.

Greetings: Although there was discussion of ways to better contain this part of the service, where members

may freely wander over to greet others in the room, the final result has been more of a voluntary abridged version. Goal: balance the desires of those who enjoy mingling, with those who are more comfortable staying put and just saying hello to those around them. Having a sparkling bell sound helps punctuate the friendly hubbub and get us back in our seats in a timely manner - just remember to listen for it!

Continuing the Conversation: This tradition after the sermon is now guided by a question printed in the bulletin. Goal: help us frame our thoughts ahead of time and listen better.

Announcements: always a time challenge, especially on days when there seem to be several. So now those with an important item related to the life of the congregation, are encouraged to come forward, get in line, and keep them brief. Goal: tighten up the time taken by people getting up and walking back and forth between announcements.

Closing Hymn: Lastly, the practice of forming a circle in the sanctuary has been shifted into an 'interconnected web' with people simply taking hold of the hands of those next to them while we sing 'Spirit of Life'. Goal: maintain the hand-holding tradition many enjoy, but in a way that removes the obstacle course of forming a circle.

We hope these small changes have resulted in a more flowing church service experience and encourage you to give us your feedback and ideas whenever you like.

Standing on the Side of Love - Rainbow Community Dinner is coming!

by Suzannah Ciernia

This year marks the 4th Annual gala celebration of our "Rainbow Dinner", featuring a chef-prepared entrée, rainbow-themed decorations, and culminating in a keynote presentation.

Traditionally UUFN, and many other UU congregations, have set aside the Sunday closest to Valentine's Day to focus on LGBT rights and issues. Several years ago, Suzannah Ciernia and Hortense MacLeod decided to expand the idea and invite the larger community to visit, have a great dinner, and hear a thought-provoking speaker afterwards.

The goal was a simple but important one: raise awareness of issues of discrimination, focusing on equal rights for those in the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgendered

(LGBT) community and the rights of immigrants and refugees; and also raise money to help support programs working on these issues in the larger community.

Previous speakers included activist ministers, published authors, and national coordinator of the Unitarian Universalist Association office of LGBT Ministries. Recipients of rainbow funds have been "Two Spirit Press, a GLBT native media cultural and literacy project; St. Olaf College's "Gay, Lesbian, or Whatever" student organization (GLOW); and the Carleton Gender and Sexuality Center.

Guided by the Unitarian Universalist Association's 'Standing on the Side of Love' campaign

(www.uua.org/love, and inspired by last year's speaker, this fall we pumped up the publicity with a creative campaign asking people "So, what else might we defeat?" (spun from the Defeat of Jesse James Days festival). Rainbow ribbon pins were sold carrying that message and the response was terrific.

With the upcoming dinner likely to overflow our Fellowship Hall, we've been invited by our neighbors at First United Church of Christ to host the February 11, 2012 dinner there, and they'd like to participate.

Plans are moving forward, and other churches will be invited to participate as well.

Sound exciting? Want to be part of this fun and important annual tradition? Our next planning meeting will take place on December 1 at 7pm. However, if you can't make it, there are still many small tasks that will need takers. Please contact Suzannah at 663-7876 or Hortense at 645-4572 soon!



An Opportunity

from Unity Church (St Paul) members, Allen and Cheri Desmond

We are writing to about an exciting couples' enrichment program called Heart to Heart. It is a weekend workshop experience followed by the possibility of an ongoing couples support group. Heart to Heart is based on the Marriage Encounter model, only designed from a more liberal, religious tradition. It has been happening in the Twin Cities for 17 years, since 1994 and while supported by Unity Unitarian Church in St Paul, MN, it is open to all couples of all faiths. Allen and I are one of the volunteer "lead couples" for the upcoming weekend, February 10-12, 2012, Heart to Heart Couples Weekend. Our weekend program offers a rare opportunity to see "inside" the relationships of the lead couples, and offers a way for couples to deepen their communication and understanding of each other in a safe and supportive atmosphere.

Heart to Heart: A Couples' Enrichment Weekend

February 10-12, 2012, at Koinonia Retreat Center

Heart to Heart is a program designed to enrich communication and deepen the intimacy in your relationship. The weekend emphasizes personal reflection and couple dialogue. Participants are not asked to share with the group, but rather, to dialogue privately with their partners. All couples committed to their partners and to their relationships are welcome—same-sex and opposite-sex, married and unmarried.

A team of three experienced volunteer couples lead our retreats. The cost is \$385 and includes two nights lodging and meals Saturday and Sunday. Thanks to the generosity of previous participants, "scholarship" assistance is available. If the weekend cost is too high and would prevent your being able to attend, please contact us. Space is limited to 15 couples, so please register soon.

Led by: Allen Desmond & Cheri Desmond May, Sue Harrington & Terry Miller, Susan Hoffman & Nancy Gossard

Sponsored by: Unity Church—Unitarian

For information: [Website at http://heart.mn.cx](http://heart.mn.cx)
email: cheri@desmondmay.com or call 612-722-3304

Jeanne Agee passed on this list of services available for those in need or for those who know of someone in need, in lieu of her recent service.

Community Action Center of Northfield

1650 Jefferson Road, Suite HS-200

Northfield, MN 55057

507.664.3550

Jim Blaha, Executive Director

www.communityactioncenter.org

info@communityactioncenter.org

Mission: promote a healthy, caring and just community for all people through resources, advocacy and volunteer effort; provide services to our neighbors in need and make a difference in the lives of families and individuals.

Office: Monday–Friday: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (Tuesday until 7 p.m.)

Food Shelf: Monday, Thursday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Tuesday from noon – 7 p.m.

Clothes Closet: Monday–Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Thursday until 7 p.m.), Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Thursday's Table: Meals served every Thursday from 5-6:30 pm in the Northfield Community Resource Center's dining room.

NAPS: monthly supplemental food program for senior citizens

MAC: for children up to age six, women with a baby under one year old, nursing mothers, and pregnant women.

Transportation Program: small vouchers for purchase of gas at local gas stations for travel to work or medical appointments; limited supply of bus tokens for local transportation for individuals or families in crisis.

HealthFinders Collaborative

706 South Division Street

Northfield, MN 55057

Charlie Mandile, Executive Director

507-330-4031 (Cell) 507-646-8964 (Office)

www.healthfindersmn.org

mandile.charlie@healthfindersmn.org

Mission: provide quality health care, advocacy and wellness education to people in our

community who have limited healthcare alternatives. This region includes: Dennison, Dundas, Faribault, Kenyon, Lonsdale, Montgomery, Morristown, Nerstrand, Northfield, Veseli, Warsaw, Waterville and Webster.

Hours: Tuesday and Thursday evenings, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Little Prairie United Methodist Church, located on County Road 88/130th Street in rural Dundas, MN

Primary Care services

Chronic Disease Programs: Monthly educational sessions, weekly drop-in hours, and regular appointments for diabetes, hypertension, asthma.

Pura Vida Program: program combines healthy eating, physical activity, stress reduction, and community involvement in classes based in Northfield and Faribault.

Medication Assistance Program: prescription drug fund in managed in partnership with local pharmacists, medical personnel, and public health officials to provide prescriptions to low- income, uninsured community members.

Rice County Social Services

Government Services Building

320 N.W. 3rd Street

Faribault, MN 55021

M-F 8:00am to 4:30pm

Anna Haubrich, Public Health Director, (507) 332-5911
(507) 332-5911

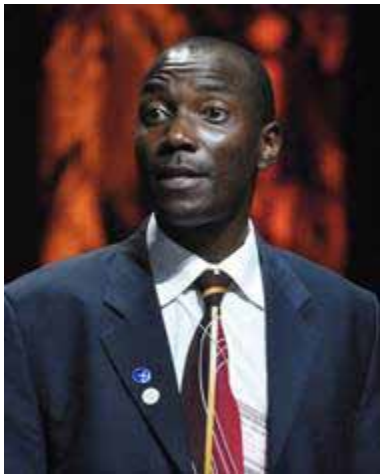
Gary Weiers, County Administrator, (507) 332-6121
(507) 332-6121-6121

www.co.rice.mn.us

Department Overview

The Social Service Department provides community supported social services and financial assistance for eligible people to promote their dignity and independence.

UGANDAN MINISTER TO SPEAK



DATE: DECEMBER 11, 2011

TIME: 7 PM

LOCATION: MINNESOTA VALLEY UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

10715 ZENITH AVENUE SOUTH,
BLOOMINGTON, MN 55431

Rev. Mark Kiyimba

Ugandan Unitarian Universalist minister Rev. Mark Kiyimba, will speak at the fellowship on December 11, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

Rev. Kiyimba is the founder of the UU church in Kampala Uganda. Following the passage of the ANTI-GAY legislation, at great personal risk, Rev. Kiyimba spoke out against this bill and mobilized Ugandans to support GLBT rights. This bill was spearheaded and funded by American Evangelists during an Anti Gay conference in 2009, led by Scott Lively.

Rev Kiyimba was exposed in the evangelical news and his life was threatened. The magazine Rolling Stone (no relation to the U.S. magazine) wrote an article entitled: "Hang them: They are After Our Kids". Rev. Kiyimba is now a refugee, touring the U.S. to spread his message.

Rev. Kiyimba will be speaking on December

11, 2011 at 7:00 pm. This program is sponsored by the Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and the Oak Grove Presbyterian Church in Bloomington. Both churches are Welcoming Churches, open and affirming to persons of all sexual orientations.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

KICKING THE TIRES OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM December 4th 11:15 am

What might it mean to become a member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield? Join our minister and our membership committee for a discussion about what joining this congregation might mean for you and your family. Bring your own perspectives, curiosity and questions. All are welcome. Childcare is available.



OUTSIDE THE BOX

BROUGHT TO YOU BY BOB CIERNIA

Percentage of the current U.S. debt that was accumulated during Republican presidential terms: 71

Portion of debt-ceiling elevations since 1960 that have been signed into law by Republican presidents: 2/3

Percentage of profits American corporations paid in taxes in 1961: 40.6 Today: 10.5

Portion of the increase in U.S. corporate profit margins since 2001 that has come from depressed wages: ¾

Percentage of Americans who say they did not have money to buy food at all times last year: 18.2

Percentage change in the median household wealth of white families since 2005: -16 Of Hispanic families: -66

Number of minors sent back to Mexico by U.S. immigration authorities in 2010: 20,438

Percentage who were sent unaccompanied by an adult: 57

Percentage of the world's population that could fit in Texas by living with the population density of New York City: 100

Estimated value of government subsidies that will go to the oil and gas industries between now and 2015: \$78,155,000,000

Chance that a person will remember something if he thinks he can look it up later: 1 in 5

If he thinks he cannot: 1 in 3

Percentage of U.S. college grades that are A's: 43

Number of states in which less than 20 percent of adults are obese: 0

Percentage of Americans who believe China has passed or will pass the United States as the world's leading superpower: 46

Percentage of Chinese who do: 63 Of French: 72

Percentage of Americans who say they would vote for a well-qualified homosexual candidate for president: 67

For a well-qualified atheist: 49

Percentage of Americans in a July poll who said they approve of God's job performance: 52

Estimated percentage of Americans aged 17 to 24 who are ineligible to join the military: 75

Respective rank of obesity, drug and alcohol problems, and low "aptitude" among the most common reasons for ineligibility: 1, 2, 3

Percentage change in the gap between the wages of U.S. men and women since 1998: +9

Harper's Magazine, October and November 2011

www.harpers.org

Percentage decrease in the median U.S. household income during the "Great Recession": 3.2

During the subsequent "recovery": 6.7

Portion of income growth since the end of the recession that has gone to corporate profits: 9/10

Percentage by which the average contracted project costs the government more than the equivalent government-run project: 83

Estimated percentage of U.S. public schools that will fail this year under the standards set by No Child Left Behind: 82

Rank of the U.S. Congress among world legislatures for gender parity: 89

Portion of the "Millennial Generation" that is "absolutely certain" God exists: 2/3

Rank of non-denominational Christianity among the fastest-growing religions in America during the past two decades: 2

Rank of "none": 1

Number of codes in the current nationwide system for describing medical services on insurance bills: 17,849

Number in the new federally mandated system: 141,058

Percentage of Icelanders who believe that the existence of elves is "probable" or "certain": 25

Number of "major threats" the Transportation Security Administration has detected in the decade since its creation: 0

Portion of adults under thirty who think Hollywood is a threat to their values: 1/3

Harper's Magazine, December 2011

www.harpers.org



BILL'S GUITAR



The Wayside Pulpit

*He who has a why to live for can
bear with almost any how.*

Nietzsche