

Our reach should exceed our grasp.

REACH

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield
A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

May 2010



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

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May Services & Events

Sunday, May 2 • 10:30 a.m. • “Finding Wholeness” • Rev. Kristin Maier

Join us for an inter-generational service at the *Carleton College Chapel*. Bring your fresh cut flowers for the flower communion, a dish to pass for the after-service pot-luck, and feet ready to dance around the Maypole. Rev. Kristin Maier will tell a story and speak on “Finding Wholeness,” our choir will sing, the Carleton students will serenade us with a special song and a good time will be had by all! (Note the 10:30 am start.)

MEMBERSHIP FORUM
MAY 9TH 9:00 A.M.

Sunday, May 9 • 10 a.m. • “A Mother-Daughter Odyssey” • Lois Burnes

In June, 2009, Lois Burnes and daughter Jan Yung-Soon Burnes visited South Korea, the country of Jan's birth. They discovered many things about this beautiful country, surprises about Jan's early years, and strengthened the bond between a mother and her chosen child. Lois will share some of this journey on Mother's Day.

ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 16TH 11:30 A.M.

Sunday May 16 • 10 a.m. • “An Embodied Faith” • Rev. Kristin Maier

What would it mean for us to respect the inherent dignity and worth of every mind, body and soul – even our own? What would it look like to fully nurture all aspects of our own being and support others in doing the same?

Sunday, May 23 • 10 a.m. • Postponed Highway Clean-Up

Still in honor of Earth Day and to keep up with our 7th principle, not to mention our obligation to MNDOT, we will gather at church parking lot at 10am to receive instruction on crew assignments. Kids are not allowed on highway crew, but will be doing a supervised activity at church.

Sunday, May 30 • 10 a.m. • Memorial Day Bike Ride

Come for some fun exercise and picnic on a Sunday morning with our traditional spring bike ride. We'll meet at Riverside Park at the end of 8th Street, adjacent to Bill and Janet McGrath's house at 10 am, and ride the Mill Town trail down to Dundas, where we'll have a picnic brunch, play some Frisbee or ball, then ride back, (about 3 hours for ride and picnic). There will be a car taking coolers and food down to rendezvous. Also bike bumper stickers available for those who'd like to do a little church publicity with a rolling UU statement.

“Your Ministry”

Kristin Maier

It is hard to believe that it is already May, the last month of our church year. I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve as the minister here at UUFN this year. It has been a pleasure for me to have been a part of this warm and thriving community and to begin to get to know you as individuals and as a community.

Together you have created and sustained an impressive ministry this year. You fed each other's spirits through the services you have led, the music you have made, the art, the poetry, the jokes you've told, and warmth that you have expressed at every turn.



You fed hungry bodies at coffee hours, at the stewardship breakfast, at the GLBT dinner, and also through the meals you packed for Feed My Starving Children, donations to the Northfield food shelf, and the Crop Walk.

You cared for our environment through the highway clean-up and raised our awareness about ethical eating. You helped build a family a home through Habitat for Humanity. You took a visible stand in our community for equal rights for GLBT people.

You've welcomed countless visitors who came through our doors searching for a place where they might fit in. You've offered support to one another through the ups and downs of our human lives. Through it all, you have been faithful stewards of this religious community.

Perhaps what I am most impressed by is the spirit with which you have undertaken this ministry. It is so apparent that you, the membership at UUFN, care deeply about doing what you can to make this world a better place. You truly care that the strangers that walk through our doors feel welcome and safe. You truly care that each member and friend of the congregation is cared for and feels supported. You

truly care that you do what you can to make our world just a little bit more just and loving. UUFN is no a mega-church in size, but clearly a mega-church in heart and in living one's values.

When you support this congregation, by attending services, by signing up for a task or role, by pledging you financial support, by singing hymns and holding hands, by cheering each other on, you are supporting all of your collective work. No one person could have done all of that ministry alone. You did it together.

So yes, I do feel fortunate for the opportunity to serve UUFN as a minister, though I am clearly not the only minister here. You all are ministers to one another and to the broader community. It is an honor for me to stand with you. Thank you for that opportunity.

UUFN ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

- 1. UUFN 2010 Accomplishments** – Greg Marfleet
- 2. Approval of 2009 Annual Meeting Minutes** – Greg Marfleet
- 3. 2009-10 Treasurer's Report** – Mike Jonas
- 4. 2010-11 Annual Budget Presentation, Discussion and Vote** – Jonas and Marfleet
- 5. Approval of 2010-11 Policy Board Members** – Bob Ciernia
- 6. 2010-11 Committee Chairs (information Purposes Only)** – Natalie Marfleet

MAY 16TH 2010

Asking about the Present and Thinking about the Future

Greg Marfleet

In the past few weeks, based on the response of the congregation to the 2009-2010 Membership Survey, the Board conducted its review of Rev. Kristin Maier's performance. If you've been watching your email you may have come across a link to the results of the survey. I won't post the link in this column, since this will appear in the publicly-accessible website, but members who might have missed the email or who want to examine the report can contact me for the link.



The nature of feedback provided by the membership affirmed several important things. First, that the Congregation is very satisfied with the service and leadership we are receiving from Kristin. And second, that we demonstrate remarkable agreement about our future direction and priorities. The survey results indicate that our congregation was nearly unanimous in its desire to see Kristin in the pulpit more frequently.

On the topic of Sunday services and sermons, Kristin's ratings were overwhelmingly positive, with respondents giving extraordinarily high marks (over 90%) in the attributes of her services being engaging, intellectually stimulating, connecting to our lives, and helping us grow spiritually. She also achieved high marks for being responsive to the Congregation during "Continuing the Conversation" time. A key statistic: 96% of the responses reflected that Kristin's services make them want to come back.

Of course, being a minister at a small congregation (or any congregation for that matter) means more than just performance on Sunday. So our survey asked about a variety of other dimensions and we seem very happy with Kristin across this range of

ministerial roles. Reflecting the lay-led nature of our fellowship, just over half of the congregation reported dealing with Kristin on an administrative level. The survey shows that she has made valuable contributions, shares decision-making appropriately, is collaborative and encourages lay leadership. One hundred percent of the Congregation finds Kristin to be approachable, warm and welcoming.

Only 1/4 of our membership reported requesting and / or receiving pastoral care. This is to be expected. Pastoral outreach generally focuses on a small portion of the fellowship with particular and timely needs. All of the feedback from those who received care was positive. However, we should always be sensitive to the potential for any unmet need for pastoral support services. Our survey should have, but didn't, ask "were you in need of pastoral care but did not receive it?"

The results of the survey made the board's annual planning goals very clear. Our #1 goal is to have Kristin provide as many Sunday services as possible. 100% of the respondents listed this as our top priority. There was a bit less concurrence on what the membership thinks our Minister's second priority should be. Most of the current congregation thinks Kristin should be focused on increasing the amount of effort devoted to "community outreach and presence". 60% felt increased community presence should be the thing she emphasizes after Sunday services. This is consistent with a desire to grow the fellowship. However, growth was not a priority for everyone. Other, more inward-looking options focused on the current members, also received attention including "organizational leadership", "pastoral care/visitation" and "adult religious education".

Surveying the membership, and trying to get a sense of our collective desires and ambitions, is an important part of the duties of the board. Since our membership grows and changes every year, we need to continue this practice and subsequently make adjustments to ensure compatibility between the orientations of our members and the direction of the fellowship as an whole. On behalf of the board I want to thank everyone who participated this year and encourage you to continue to offer feedback to the current and future boards. On a related note,

you should keep eye out for a proposed budget in your email inbox shortly. Please plan to come to our May 9th membership forum if you have any input that you'd like to have considered before the annual meeting

FROM THE APRIL BOARD MEETING

UUFN Policy Board “Bits”

Here are notes from the latest meeting held on April 5. If you would like more information, please feel free to talk to a board member about any questions you might have.

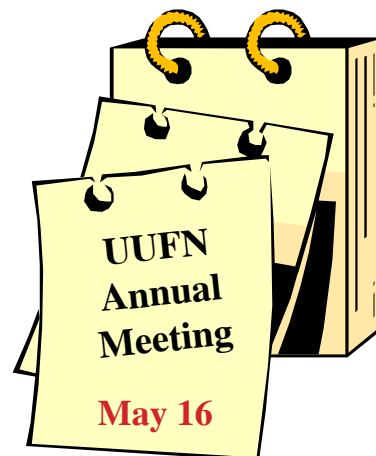
- **Treasurer’s Report:** Assuming all pledges come in, we’re looking good for the year. Because we’ve gained members over the year, we’ve had more collections than anticipated and that has helped offset some overages in our budget.
- The Minister provided detailed information on how her hours have been spent this year. The bulk of her time has been spent on sermon prep and Sunday services, as was expected and desired by both parties. However, the Board noted that Kristin has – with almost two months still to go this contractual year – already exceeded the number of hours we contracted to pay her. Although Kristin does not have a problem with this, the Board expressed its desire to both mind, and narrow, the gap. The Board hopes that the current Stewardship Drive will permit us to increase Kristin’s compensated time with us, primarily in terms of the number of Sunday services she leads; results of the canvass will be known by the end of the month and the Board will use that information to construct a Budget to be presented at the Annual Meeting on May 16.
- The Board is happy to note that Stewardship Breakfast held on March 21 was a great success. The congregation had a wonderful French toast breakfast and the Board is pleased with the response the canvass has already generated. Based on the results of the Membership Survey – foremost among which was the congregation’s desire for additional Sunday services offered by Kristin – the Board is hopeful that the pledge campaign will permit us to increase Kristin’s time with us.

- Natalie and Bob volunteered to write the RE Survey. Members are encouraged to respond promptly when it arrives so that their opinions can be used by the Board to construct the Budget that will be presented at the Annual Meeting on May 16.
- Next Membership Forum will be at 9am before church on Sunday, May 9. The Board will present a preliminary Budget and invite Members to review and comment on the proposal.
- The Nominations Committee (Natalie, Bob, Kristin Lucas) has commenced its work. Members are invited to nominate or self-nominate for the open seats on the Board. If you know a Member who would make a good President, Vice-President, or Secretary, please let the Committee know.
- The Board was delighted to hear that Emma will be attending the upcoming Prairie Star District Annual Meeting (April 23-25 in Davenport IA). The Board was also pleased to learn that several members have reported they will be attending General Assembly in Minneapolis in June. The Board approved supporting both the Minister and Director of Religious Education to either of these denominational gatherings and also reminds members it’s not too late to apply for a UUFN scholarship to attend GA.

Next meeting May 10, 7pm at the Marfleet home

ed. note - The Policy Board consists of Greg Marfleet, Natalie Marfleet, Mike Jonas, and Bob Ciernia (see the Reach masthead for contact information).

Mark your calendar



Busy and Successful Year

Nancy Huppert

It's been a busy and successful year for RE at the fellowship. During the April 25th Sunday service, our young people went head-to-head with the adults playing World Religions Jeopardy. Both teams performed impressively answering questions such as:

In 1819, this Unitarian minister preached an important sermon that outlined the foundations of liberal religion, including:

The importance of reason in understanding the Bible, and

The importance of human nature in discovering religious truth.

The Question: Who is William Ellery Channing?
and

Muslims are required to perform these five actions as part of their obligation to God. They include the profession of faith, ritual prayer, giving alms to the needy, fasting during Ramadan, and making the pilgrimage to Mecca.

The Question: What are The Five Pillars of Islam?

Through the combined efforts of RE Committee members, parents, and supportive adults, we've offered consistent, meaningful programming and care for our children and their families during this past year. I am grateful for the ongoing encouragement I've received in my role as Director of Religious Education and the commitment that has been shown to supporting the families and children who attend our fellowship. As always, please be in touch with any ideas or concerns you have as we continue to strengthen and advance our inter-generational connections.

Sunday, May 2

Service at Skinner Memorial Chapel – No RE



Sunday, May 9

World Religions – Autumn Kirkendall

Sunday, May 16

End-of-Year Celebration

This morning our youth and children will take a walk down to Way Park for some kickball and goodies to celebrate the end to a successful year. Come dressed for the weather. With the permission of parents, the nursery children will join us at the park where care will be provided.

Sunday, May 23

Highway Clean-up – NO RE

Sunday, May 30

Picnic and Bike-Ride – NO RE

MAY 23 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

Highway Clean-Up Wisdom

Natalie Marfleet

- 1) Wear comfortable shoes, work gloves, a hat and wear layers. If it is sunny, you might want to bring or wear sunscreen. Long sleeves and pants are appropriate.
- 2) Bring water (or whatever else you want to drink) and a snack if you are so inclined. We will NOT have Coffee Hour at the Fellowship. A backpack is a good idea as well, as you can stash your food, extra clothing and empty trash bags inside.
- 3) Meet at UUFN at 10:00 am. Once we determine how many participants we will have, we will strategize our clean up.
- 4) Trash bags, bright vests and some poles with nails at the end to stab trash will be provided.
- 5) There will be NURSERY CARE but no other RE that day. Expect to be gone until 1:30 or so, with travel to and from the highway. Trash clean-up participants must be 18 years or older, due to it being an interstate highway. If you have smaller kids and would like to participate in the clean-up, maybe a play date would be appropriate :)

Please let me know if you have any other questions or concerns. You can call me on my cell at 612-987-0426 if you would like, or you can e-mail. We look for a great UUFN turnout!

Announcing MidWest Leadership School for Youth!

Sherry Warren

Midwest Leadership School for Youth is a week long intensive experience designed to engage participants in all aspects of leadership in a Unitarian Universalist faith community. For the second year we are pleased to offer Midwest Leadership School for Youth (ages 14-18) in tandem with our Adult School. It will challenge and train Unitarian Universalist youth in three areas: Leadership Skills, Worship, and Religious Values & Heritage.

This Leadership School is an intentional community and learning experience. It equips young UU's with a foundation that deepens their religious development and expands their ability to contribute, both in their UU community and beyond.

Students should be motivated to learn and engage. They should be able to manage their time and needs in an environment that includes long days filled with group and individual learning opportunities along with theological reflection. Youth entering grades 9-12 may attend; youth grades 10 - 11 are especially encouraged. Congregations sending adult students would especially benefit from sending youth!

Registration fees are \$475 per youth and there is no additional "congregational fee". Cost includes housing, food, and materials. Some scholarships will be available from your district office (contact Sherry Warren at swarren@psduua.org). Registration Information can be found at: Registration Materials Registration Deadline is JUNE 1, 2010 and a 50% Deposit due upon acceptance of registration. Balance of school due in full June 15, 2010

For more information contact Sherry Warren at swarren@psduua.org

Check out a video from last MWLS for Y 2009 on youtube!

Sponsored by Central Midwest, Heartland & Prairie Star Districts of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Camp UniStar Update

Camp UniStar Newsletter Online!

The Camp UniStar Newsletter and Brochure are now online at <http://www.campunistar.org>! View the annual newsletter, with articles about the new camp director, Long Range Planning, Work Week, Bill Holm, UniStar's upcoming anniversary, Volunteer opportunities, and a great recipe for Cheesy Baked Ziti!

Attend Camp UniStar in 2010

Space is still available in some weeks, and volunteer opportunities can earn you a discount on camp fees.

June 5-12: Work Week & Uni-tecture (Special 2010 Program)

20+ spots available

Work Week is a UniStar tradition, when campers old and new ready camp for summer. This year, Work Week will have two programs.

* Each morning we will work on small maintenance projects, led by Adam Pieri-Johnson.

* The afternoons will be devoted to a workshop led by Dale Mulfinger, author of Cabinology and architect with SALA. Dale and SALA staff will be helping UniStar develop a long-range plan for UniStar's campus.

There is no program for children or youth, but young workers are welcome. Fees are reduced for Work Week, and participants may also apply for a regular Program week.

July 3-July 10: Science & Religion: 2 Ways of Seeing the World

About 10 spots available

Aug. 21-Aug. 28: You, Me, & Us: Intimate Relationships

About 10 spots available

Aug. 28-Sept. 4: Comedy & Humor

20+ spots available

Remaining weeks are full, as of April 20, but cancellations do occur, so please check with the Registrar if interested

See full program descriptions at <http://www.campunistar.org/program/>

Registration forms and fee information are available at <http://www.campunistar.org/registration/>

If you have questions about UniStar, please contact the Registrar, Chris Bremer, at registrar@campunistar.org or 952-926-8542.

Volunteer Opportunities at Camp UniStar!

Camp UniStar is looking for a few people to volunteer during each week this summer. Most weeks have openings for Maintenance, Dish Room/Generalist, and Saturday Staff Assistant Volunteers, and a few still have a need for a Cook/Baker Volunteer. For position descriptions and detailed information about fee reduction in return for volunteer service, please go to <http://www.campunistar.org/volunteers/>.

Another Option

For a camp in Nebraska, check out Camp StarTrail, a multigenerational camp experience celebrating Unitarian Universalism, located in the beautiful rolling hills of the Platte River Valley, and taking place August 1-6, 2010. Camp capacity - 250 enthusiastic Unitarian Universalists of all ages! Offering a full program, morning to night, or the opportunity to sit and relax and enjoy the surroundings. See <http://www.psdoua.org/CampStarTrail2010>.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

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!

Whatever type of food you'd like to bring will be appreciated. The average number attending has been 35 adults and 10 children.

Feel free to exchange with someone else if another date works better for you and please let Kate Southwick know about the changes at kate-kok2001@yahoo.com or 507-645-8790

Thanks to everyone!

Sunday Social Hour Host

May 2 No hosts - potluck

May 9 Jeanne & Phil Agee

May 16 Terry Stead & Bobbi Baker

May 23 No hosts - highway clean-up

May 30 No hosts - highway clean-up

GREETER LIST

May - Lois Burnes & Nan Just

(Greeter needed May 9)



POETRY CORNER

Blackbirds

Julie Cadwallader Staub

I am 52 years old, and have spent
truly the better part
of my life out-of-doors
but yesterday I heard a new sound above my head
a rustling, ruffling quietness in the spring air
and when I turned my face upward
I saw a flock of blackbirds
rounding a curve I didn't know was there
and the sound was simply all those wings
just feathers against air, against gravity
and such a beautiful winning
the whole flock taking a long, wide turn
as if of one body and one mind.
How do they do that?
Oh if we lived only in human society
with its cruelty and fear
its apathy and exhaustion
what a puny existence that would be
but instead we live and move and have our being
here, in this curving and soaring world
so that when, every now and then, mercy and tenderness
triumph in our lives
and when, even more rarely, we manage to unite and
move together
toward a common good,
and can think to ourselves:
ah yes, this is how it's meant to be.

Breakfast at the Ole Cafe 9:00 a.m. on...

Third Saturday of each month

May 15

A chance to chat in an informal setting.

Let's coffee!!! Breakfast until 11:00 a.m.

arranged by Beth Robb

Numbers that Count

97.5% of the water on Earth is salty

Nearly 70% of the world's fresh water is locked in ice

Most of the rest is in aquifers that we're draining much more quickly than the natural recharge rate

Two-thirds of our water is used to grow food

With 83 more million people each year, water demand will keep going up unless we change how we use it

Americans use about 100 gallons of water at home each day

Millions of the world's poorest subsist on fewer than five gallons

46% of people on earth do not have water piped to their homes

Women in developing countries walk an average of 3.7 miles to get water

In 15 years, 1.8 billion people will live in regions of severe water scarcity

One out of eight people lacks access to clean water today

3.3 million die from water-related health problems each year

Washing hands with soap can reduce diarrheal disease by 45%

An eradication campaign that includes a simple water filter has cut the number of guinea worm cases by 99.9% since 1986

The weight of China's Three Gorges Reservoir will tilt the Earth's axis by nearly an inch

The longest water tunnel, supplying New York City, is 85 miles and leaks up to 35 million gallons a day

U.S. vacationers rank going to the beach or a lake as their favorite outdoor activity

More Americans fish than play golf or tennis

In Florida, 3,000 gallons are used to water the grass for each golf game played

U.S. swimming pools lose 150 billion gallons to evaporation every year

National Geographic, April 2010
<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com>

The Wayside Pulpit

Some people when we talk about compassion and love, think it is a religious matter. Compassion is the universal religion.

the Dalai Lama

The UN suggests that each person needs 20-50 litres of safe freshwater a day to ensure their basic needs for drinking, cooking and cleaning. (ed. 1 gallon = about 4 liters)

Globally, diarrhoea is the leading cause of illness and death, and 88 per cent of diarrhoeal deaths are due to a lack of access to sanitation facilities, together with inadequate availability of water for hygiene and unsafe drinking water.

Today 2.5 billion people, including almost one billion children, live without even basic sanitation. Every 20 seconds, a child dies as a result of poor sanitation. That's 1.5 million preventable deaths each year.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, treating diarrhoea consumes 12 percent of the health budget. On a typical day, more than half the hospital beds are occupied by patients suffering from fecal-related disease.

Every day, 2 million tons of human waste are disposed of in water courses.

In developing countries, 70 percent of industrial wastes are dumped untreated into waters where they pollute the usable water supply.

Contribution of the food sector to the production of organic water pollutants:

- High income countries: 40 percent
- Low-income countries: 54 percent

Projected increases in fertilizer use for food production and in wastewater effluents over the next three decades suggest there will be a 10-20 per cent global increase in river nitrogen flows to coastal ecosystems.

Half of the world's wetlands have been lost since 1900.

The daily drinking water requirement per person is 2-4 litres, but it takes 2000 to 5000 litres of water to produce one person's daily food.

It takes 1000-3000 litres of water to produce just one kilo of rice and 13,000 to 15,000 litres to produce one kilo of grain-fed beef.

In 2007, the estimated number of undernourished people worldwide was 923 million.

Over the period to 2050 the world's water will have to support the agricultural systems that will feed and create livelihoods for an additional 2.7 billion people.

The extent of land under irrigation in the world is 277 million hectares, about 20 percent of all cropland. Rainfed agriculture is practiced on the remaining 80 percent of the arable land.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicts yields from rain-dependent agriculture could be down by 50 percent by 2020.

Due to climate change, Himalayan snow and ice, which provide vast amounts of water for agriculture in Asia, are expected to decline by 20 percent by 2030.

Irrigation increases yields of most crops by 100 to 400 percent, and irrigated agriculture currently contributes to 40 percent of the world's food production.

Poor drainage and irrigation practices have led to waterlogging and salinization of approximately 10 percent of the world's irrigated lands.