



Our reach should exceed our grasp.

REACH

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield
A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

October 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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October Services & Events

Sunday October 3 • 10 a.m. • “Soul of a Nation, Soul of a Movement” • Rev.

Kristin Maier It sometimes feels as if we are bombarded with voices and images that bring us to ask, “Is this our country? Is this our world?” How are we called to respond as human beings of love and integrity to what can seem like widespread hate and indifference? Join with us on Association Sunday in celebrating the ways in which being part of a larger religious movement helps us to answer and live into those questions. Rev. Kristin Maier will preach and a special collection will be taken to support the work of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Sunday October 10 • 10 a.m. • “Eco-Spirituality” • Roseann Giguere [Sisters

of St. Joseph, co-founder Center for Guidance] “Respect for the interdependent web of which we are a part” is a favorite principle of UUs, but a spiritual connection to Nature has become more important to many people, inspiring us to live more lightly on the earth. Sister Roseann will share her wisdom on this topic.

Sunday October 10 • After the Service • Highway Clean-up

The two mile stretch north- and south- bound I-35 between mile markers 71 and 73 - needs our help! After the service, we will be picking up trash on the freeway. With lots of helping hands (in gloves), we can make quicker work of the clean up.

Sunday October 17 • 10 a.m. • “Imagination and Fear” • Rev. Kristin Maier

Through story and sermon, Rev. Kristin Maier explores the role of the arts in imagining a new world and in making our way amidst a world filled with fear, both real and manufactured.

Sunday October 24 • 10 a.m. • “Homelessness in a Country of Abundance”

• Michael Behr [United Methodist Church, co-founder The Manger Inn]

Poverty is around us even in Northfield, though not always seen. What does it take to be moved to action? Hear the story of one group of local citizens who made a difference and ways we can respond to the challenge.

Sunday October 31 • 10 a.m. • “Dia de los Muertos - Day of the Dead” +

Fifth Sunday Potluck! Guest speaker from Mexico will share background and perspective on this unique celebration that blends humor and love to honor loved ones who have passed on. Our traditional 5th Sunday potluck will follow and Mexican/Day of the Dead theme is encouraged!

Hearts Wide Open

by Kristin Maeir

How did you find Unitarian Universalism? Were you born and raised in a family that always knew this kind of open, loving religious community? Or, did you find Unitarian Universalism later in life, perhaps through a friend. Do you recall the experience of visiting a new congregation for the first time?

I was reflecting on these questions recently after visiting a congregation while I was on vacation out-of-state. I had not attended as many services over the summer as I would have liked and I



was hungry for that quiet space, thoughtful words, and heartfelt song that would help me touch deeper truths. After the service, I realized I had also been expecting some sense of community. What I experienced is apparently typical in many congregations. Not a single person spoke to me unless I spoke to them first. Even then, the conversation seemed closed.

That experience reminded me of the first time I was a visitor at a Unitarian Universalist congregation. I had never heard of Unitarian Universalism – not outside of obscure references in history books – until friends at a college reunion suggested it to me. I had told them about my search for a religious community that didn't leave me feeling theologically claustrophobic. Two good friends said, "Kristin, you have to check out a Unitarian church. You would really like it."

Soon I was walking by myself into a large church in the Twin Cities. I still remember that feeling of having no idea what to expect. Luckily, I quickly found a church that felt just right. That's not to say that it was easy to be a newcomer. Even while I really enjoyed the services and appreciated the life of the community, I was still in that awkward position of being in but not yet part of a community.

There is nothing like getting involved in the life of a congregation for developing a sense of belonging. Within a few short years, I was rolling up my sleeves and working side by side with a number of fabulous people. In retrospect, I am deeply grateful that congregation was there when I needed it – that they had room for me and I was welcome.

Once I was deeply immersed in the congregation, however, I was somewhat suspicious about the concern I heard from lay leaders about growth. Were we trying to grow for the sake of growth? Was bigger better? I liked my congregation just as it was.

Within another year or two, I was took on more responsibility for the ongoing life of the church. As a board member making difficult decisions about budgets and pledge projections, I saw growth from a different perspective. It was abundantly clear, that any institution, no matter how beloved, would die a slow debilitating death without a steady influx of new individuals and families. This congregation I had come to love could only continue to be that community for me and everyone else if it was healthy.

Now in the role of the minister, I look out during worship services at each face before me. I wonder about how each of you are, really are. I notice the new faces and I wonder what longing brought each person. It is some longing within that draws any of us here on a Sunday morning.

I want to make sure that there is room here for all those that show up at our doors hungry for a community that cares about the world as deeply as they do. I want to make sure that my heart and our hearts are open enough to make space for that soul that shows up to hear an encouraging word and a word of truth about our responsibility to each other and our planet.

One of the things I love best about this congregation at UUFN is that I know you really do have room in your hearts for each person that comes through our door. I see it in the way that you greet each person with genuine warmth as they walk into our worship space and then greet them again during our welcome time. I see it in the way that so many of you make it a point to talk to everyone in the social hall after the service – newcomer, old friend, and even

the occasional out-of-state visitor. This is one of the many reasons why I am so pleased and proud to be serving UUFN.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

A Welcoming Congregation

by Bob Ciernia

For as far back as most of us can remember, our Order of Service has proudly stated that we are a Welcoming Congregation. The Bulletin has said it so long, in fact, that many of our long-time members may not have thought about it for years... and newcomers may not even know what it signifies. So, borrowing heavily from the UUA website (henceforth in *italics*), I'd like to remind you of what the designation is all about, where we officially stand as far as the UUA is concerned, and suggest where we might go from here.

First, a little history. *In 1987 the Unitarian Universalist Association established the Common Vision Planning Committee. This committee found many negative attitudes, deep prejudices, and profound ignorance about bisexual, gay, and lesbian people, which resulted in the exclusion of bisexual, gay, and lesbian people from their churches. As a result of these findings* (available in PDF format on the UUA website), *the delegates of the 1989 UUA General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to initiate the Welcoming Congregation program to educate its members.*

The Welcoming Congregation Program is a completely volunteer program for congregations that see a need to become more inclusive towards bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender people. It consists of a series of workshops developed by the UUA. The goal of the workshops is to reduce prejudice by increasing understanding and acceptance among people of different sexual orientations. Many



congregations offer the workshop series as an adult religious education curriculum open to all members and friends. In some congregations, the program is sponsored by a Welcoming Congregation Task Force/Committee created for just this purpose. In the opinion of the people who created the program, the workshops are best facilitated by those that have experienced the curriculum.

Aren't We Already a Welcoming Congregation?

While it's true that our By-Laws declare us to be a welcoming congregation, we are not officially recognized as such by the UUA. The UUA has a formal process it expects congregations to complete before being certified as Welcoming Congregations. We have never participated in the process and therefore have never been certified. As a Board, we are discussing whether the congregation would like to pursue that designation.

To make that commitment, we need to understand what it entails. First, it means four to six individuals need to step up and volunteer to act as the aforementioned Welcoming Congregation Task Force/Committee; this Committee would plan the workshops, facilitate some of them, and/or invite facilitators from nearby UU congregations to lead individual workshops; it would also document past Welcoming Congregation (WC) activities such as our Valentine's Day Standing on the Side of Love Dinners and the workshops themselves, among other activities, so that the UUA was satisfied we had addressed the requisite three areas: education, congregational life, and community outreach. Second, it means that a good majority of the congregation would need to make the commitment to participate in the series. (Note: Mairi Doerr, At-Large Board Member, has agreed to serve on the WC Committee as a liaison from the committee to the Board. Additionally, an anonymous donor has offered to buy the first 10 study Workbooks for the Workshops. Depending on the number of participants, more may be needed.)

About two-thirds of all UU churches have completed the WC process and are officially recognized by the UUA. The UUA believes that *recognition as a Welcoming Congregation allows us to open our church as safe space for bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender persons; to take positions*

on oppression in our larger communities; and to accomplish outreach.

Following is a list of local churches, the number in their congregations, and the date on which they received UUA certification. Many, if not all, would likely provide guidance should we decide to go down this road.

Mankato, 118, June 2006

Unity, Saint Paul, 855, August 2007

Pilgrim House, Arden Hills, 84, July 2008

River Falls, 86, June 2009

Lake Fellowship, Shorewood, 35, August 2009

To conclude, the Board is looking for direction from the congregation. If there are 4 or 5 volunteers to take on the task of guiding this work, that is step one; please talk to me or another member of the Board if you would like to do this work. If you cannot be on the Committee, but would plan on participating at many or all of the workshops, that would be important information to have as well; please communicate that desire.

And, finally, if you just want to know more about the entire process, please go to the UUA website and then share your thoughts with me and the rest of the Board.

FROM THE SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

UUFN Policy Board “Bits”

These are some topics covered and decisions made at the September 13 meeting of the Policy Board:

The Sunday Services committee asked if a second collection “for a cause” could be taken occasionally in lieu of a speaker's fee. The board approved a policy stating “Second collections during Sunday services may be taken, but we would like the practice limited to just once per quarter. Organizations should be designated by the IRS as approved 501c3s, and the organization's values and mission must be consistent with those of the UUFN. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Policy Board.”

Most committees have held their first meeting and are gearing up to begin the year. Each month the board will meet with a committee chair. This month Lee Topp described the task of the Ministerial

Liaison, which is to serve as a communication link between the minister and the congregation if needed.

In planning activities at church, members are reminded that the building is not available to UUFN during these times:

- First Monday of every month beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- Every Tuesday beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- Special Masonic meetings “from time to time;” they will keep us informed.

Following her research on obtaining internet service to the UU building, Kristin Lucas reported that all options available at this time are over the amount budgeted at the annual meeting. The board decided to wait to see what options might come along. The internet will be used by children's religious education and occasionally for Sunday services.

The cost of church insurance has increased. It appears that we were charged for a proposed increase in coverage, an increase not initiated by UUFN. The board is in the process of checking it all out and will cancel those parts of the increased coverage it deems unnecessary.

The UU building was closed up during the summer and cleaned by UU members on September 18th. The Masons provided a new dehumidifier in late August.

If you have questions on the workings of UUFN, please feel free to contact one of these board members: Bob Ciernia, Pat Tullo, Mike Jonas, Mairi Doerr, and Janet McGrath.



Janet and Bill's backyard after the apocalyptic flood of 2010

Harvest Time

by Nancy Huppert

With the arrival of autumn, we at UUFN enjoy the return of two RE traditions; the Apple Crisp Fundraiser and The Harvest of Friends Sunday. Our youth and children will be preparing and selling apple crisp on Sunday, October 3rd so please plan to bring your appetite and enjoy this annual event. We will also make apple crisp that can be purchased to take-and-bake at home. On our final Sunday in October all youth and children are encouraged to invite a friend to join in our autumn-themed celebration filled games and activities that will take place downstairs during the worship service. This fun event is followed by a potluck lunch, so plan to bring a dish to pass. We are very grateful to Lois Burnes and Marcia Jacobs who will once again be hosting this activity for our youth and children.



Sunday, October 3

K-4 & Youth: Apple Crisp Fundraiser

Teacher: Nancy Huppert

Nursery: Will Marfleet

Sunday, October 10

K-4 Picture Book UU – Old Turtle

Teacher: Lois Burnes

Assistant: Mary Doerr **Nursery:** Ben Lucas

Youth Group: The Gospel According to the Simpsons

Sunday, October 17

K-4 Picture Book UU – To Everything There is a Season

Teacher: Nancy Huppert

Nursery: Olivia Paulsen

Youth Group: The Gospel According to the Simpsons

Sunday, October 24

K-4 Picture Book UU – Henry Builds a Cabin

Teacher: Bev Topp

Assistant: Lee Topp

Nursery: Theo Lucas

Youth Group: Attend worship service

Sunday, October 31

K-4 & Youth: Harvest of Friends

Teacher: Lois Burnes

Assistant: Marcia Jacobs

Nursery: Nick Marfleet

HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP, OCTOBER 10

Our Adoptee

by Natalie Marfleet

The two mile stretch of north and southbound I-35 between mile markers 71 and 73 needs our help! After the service on 10/10/10, we will be picking up trash on the freeway. With lots of helping hands (in gloves), we can make quicker work of the clean up.

We want to do our best to reduce our carbon footprint as much as possible while we work. We will supply (reused and reusable) sticks to stab at trash; we also have some experienced gloves to lend. Please bring water in a canteen or other reusable container, wear long sleeves and pants and socks (to diminish the number of creatures relocating from the wild, where they belong, to your house, where they don't belong), and bring a back pack or other such carrying device to keep a stash of trash bags. We also need drivers with patience (and / or a good book) to drop off the pick up team and be available in case we have any issues.

Thanks for planning ahead to help Mother Earth!

Don't forget to bring your own pan to the service on Sunday, October 3. Our RE participants will be making take-n-bake apple crisp, as well as serving up piping-hot apple crisp for coffee hour that day. Donations for the take-home crisps will be accepted - we have done this the past couple of years as a fundraiser for our RE program.



As part of the emphasis on reducing our carbon footprint, the Social Justice Committee would like to further challenge our congregation to take a few more steps on behalf of the planet. Many of these may already have been done in your household, but there's always room for more!

Walk, bike, or carpool to church and try to make it a more regular part of your routine.

Reduce your consumption of meat.

Plant a tree.

Make sure you are using energy efficient light bulbs wherever possible.

Use a clothesline instead of the dryer whenever possible.

Talk to neighbors, co-workers, relatives about what changes you're making and encourage them to take up the challenge, too.

Our actions will be part of many taking place around the world that day designed to send a clear message on climate solutions to our leaders "We're getting to work—what about you?"

A letter from Bill McKibben, noted author, environmentalist, activist. [Founder of the 350.org movement to cut carbon emissions to 350 parts per million through grassroots global awareness and action.](#)

Dear World,

It's been a tough year: in North America, oil gushing into the Gulf of Mexico; in Asia some of the highest temperatures ever recorded; in the Arctic, the fastest melting of sea ice ever seen; in Latin America, record rainfalls washing away whole mountainsides.

So we're having a party. Circle 10/10/10 on your calendar. That's the date. The place is wherever you live. And the point is to do something that will help deal with global warming in your city or community.

We're calling it a Global Work Party, with emphasis on both 'work' and 'party'. In Auckland, New

Zealand, they're having a giant bike fix-up day; in the Maldives, they're putting up solar panels on the President's office; in Kampala, Uganda, they'll be planting thousands of trees, and in Bolivia they're installing solar stoves for a massive carbon neutral picnic.

Since we've already worked hard to call, email, petition, and protest to get politicians to move, and they haven't moved fast enough, now it's time to show that we really do have the tools we need to get serious about the climate crisis.

On 10/10/10 we'll show that we the people can do this--but we need bold energy policies from our political leaders to do it on a scale that truly matters. The goal of the day is not to solve the climate crisis one project at a time, but to send a pointed political message: if we can get to work, you can get to work too--on the legislation and the treaties that will make all our work easier in the long run.

And don't worry about being alone at this party: there are already thousands of groups in 150+ countries around the world scheduled to do something great that day. We'll knit all these groups together with a powerful mosaic of photos, videos, and stories from around the world. You wouldn't want to miss it.

It's been a tough year—but it can be a beautiful day on the 10th Of October if we work together, and party together. And if we do it right, then we'll take a big step towards the kind of political solutions we desperately need.

Onwards!

Bill McKibben and the 350.org team

P.S.—At last year's Global Day of Action there were 5200 demonstrations in 181 countries - search for an event to join at www.350.org/map

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 HOST

Oct 13 - RE Apple Crisp Sunday

Oct 10 - Klaus & Susan Huehn

Oct 17 - Marcia Jacobs & Terry Stead

Oct 24 - Paula & Randy Kirkendall

Oct 31- Mera Colling and Mairi Doerr



GREETER LIST

October - Jeanne & Phil Agee

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.

BEAUTIFUL WEATHER FOR CROP HUNGER WALK

UUFN members Bev and Lee Topp, Suzannah Ciernia, Hortense MacLeod, Chris Broughten and Sophie joined with members of other Northfield churches to sing in the community choir, carry our banner on the CROP Hunger Walk, and raise awareness and money in the fight against poverty and injustice around the block and around the world. 25% of monies raised will go to local programs and 75% to international programs.

Note: due to our late start this church year, donations from UUFN for the CROP Hunger Walk will be accepted through the end of October. Please consider asking friends, neighbors, or relatives for a small donation towards this worthy cause on behalf of our church. It's a great way to open up a conversation about community outreach, UUFN, and who we are. More information about CROP can be found at <http://www.churchworldservice.org/>



Numbers that Count

Percentage of this year's federal budget deficit attributable to Bush-era tax cuts and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan: 38

Net change in the amount of money kept in U.S. stock-based mutual funds since 2007: -\$249,400,000,000

Percentage of all revenue earned by S&P 500 companies last year that came from outside the United States: 47

Percentage of all U.S. railway freight cars that are currently in storage: 23

Date on which the Oakland Police stopped responding to burglaries not in progress due to a budget shortfall: 8/2/10

Chance that a U.S. worker plans to change jobs when the recession ends: 1 in 3

Percentage of Afghans in a July survey who said they believed NATO forces were in Afghanistan to rebuild the country: 1

Percentage who said NATO was there to destroy Islam: 9

Number of Aerial Achievement Medals awarded by the Air Force to drone operators since January 2009: 3,497

Number awarded to pilots of manned aircraft during that time: 1,408

Minimum number of people prosecuted so far by the Obama Administration for leaking classified documents: 4

Number prosecuted under the Bush administration: 0

Number of instances in which the New York Times characterized the practice of waterboarding as torture before 2004: 44

Number of times that it has since then: 2

Chance that an American adult is either incarcerated, on probation, or on parole: 1 in 31

Number of the world's ten largest banks that were Chinese-owned in 2000 and 2010, respectively: 0, 4

Percentage change in sales of birth control for women in the United States since 2007: +13

Percentage of Americans who say they would have cosmetic surgery if they could afford it: 69

Percentage increase in the number of U.S. buttock-augmentation surgeries performed since 2008: 37

Harper's Magazine, October 2010
www.harpers.org

Interesting Facts about Water

Humans need five to 13 gallons of clean water a day for basic needs.

Ninety percent of the ice on Earth is in the Antarctic.

Water managers in 36 states expect shortages by 2013.

As of 2009, 832 dams had been removed from U.S. rivers.

84 percent of North America's surface fresh water is in the Great Lakes.

One quart of used motor oil can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water.

Putting water in plastic bottles and shipping it just 125 miles uses 1,100 times more energy than producing tap water.

A 1 percent increase in organic matter allows soil to hold 16,000 more gallons of water per acre.

30 percent of U.S. groundwater used for crop irrigation comes from the Ogallala aquifer, which runs under parts of eight states.

New York City uses about 30 percent less water than it did in 1979, although its population has grown by 1 million.

Each day, a U.S. household uses about 400 gallons of water. You can save more than that by skipping one quarter-pound hamburger.

In Arizona, uncovered swimming pools lose 4 to 6 feet of water a year to evaporation. There are 300,000 pools in Phoenix.

It takes 40 gallons of water to make 16 ounces of beer.

How much water does it take to make 1 pound of:

Hamburger	2,029 gallons
Chicken	469 gallons
Apples	72 gallons
Tomatoes	16 gallons
Bread	171 gallons
Cheese	600 gallons

Switching from a top-loading to a front-loading washing machine saves the average four-person home about 140 gallons a week; a low-flow toilet cuts 288 gallons a week; a water-efficient showerhead, 78 gallons

Yes! Magazine, Summer 2010
www.yesmagazine.org

The Wayside Pulpit

The only problem facing you in life is your belief in separation from the Source. Solve that one, and all others will vanish.

Nana Veary, Hawaiian spiritual elder