

## June 2021 Minister's Report

This month, I have been prioritizing reopening conversations, fall worship planning and decision-making and preparing for sabbatical. Reopening conversations have been ongoing among Worship Arts, RE, Membership, and among staff as well as within the board. One of the things that has come out of some of the conversations is a need for some aggregate information about our congregants' feelings about reopening, in particular among parents with unvaccinated children, as their needs also inform religious education in addition to worship. I have started to draft a "reopening readiness" survey to send out to the congregation, which I will share in this report as well. The goal of this survey is not to ask the members to weigh in on every decision, but to give leadership a general idea about preferences and attendance intentions and general feelings of what's needed for all to return safely.

Attached: RE Reopening Conversation Notes, Draft Congregational Survey, Fall 2021 Worship Calendar

### RE Townhall on Reopening in Fall of 2021

#### **Current thoughts:**

As long as those under 12 cannot be vaccinated, we will have masks on in the church building. Return planned mid-late August. Nothing decided for sure. Possibly having watch parties sooner. June BOT meeting will have more details. Will have one service to start in person and on Zoom.

#### **Cares:**

11 and under cannot be vaccinated at this time  
Requirements for vaccination will never be asked  
Masks will most likely be continued into the Fall, do not know for how long

#### **Concerns:**

What ages will be required to wear a mask? We are following CDC recommendations on ages (no babies in masks)  
What will happen if people don't follow the rule? Gay Lynn will ensure the RE program is following policy  
What is the plan for social distancing- 3 feet? 6 feet ?  
Need room occupancy for all rooms

#### **Other:**

Consider a survey for questions we don't have answers to  
RE registration will have statement about requiring a mask-  
community of love and support  
Who is ready to come back?  
Confident or concerned?

#### **Possibilities:**

Every level every Sunday?  
Bluetooth speaker on gazebo  
RE at separate time  
Family room with watch party ?  
Adult forum during RE time  
Consider changing rooms  
Room flexibility as needed  
Room 10/garden room and view service  
Sanctuary available  
RE online- Soulful Home  
Church of the larger fellowship RE offerings  
Tapestry of Faith links provided  
Service projects are difficult for families with multi age children  
Offsite in the park periodically, service project related  
Introduce the meditation garden  
Drumming or yoga  
RE only and church isn't open?

## Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Church: Reopening Readiness Survey

Hello members and friends. We are capturing this survey to understand our community's attitude toward group activities at Northwoods UU Church. This survey is anonymous and we encourage you to have your opinions heard by the Board of Trustees as they make decisions about in person gatherings. Please take this survey by Tuesday 6/15 (Deadline 5 pm Central). Please fill out for each adult friend/member (some members may each get their own survey and others may not - depending upon email on file).

\* Required

As we consider the possibility to return to in person services and activities in our building, which of the following approaches would you personally prefer for our church to take? (please select one) \*

- Resume in person service as soon as possible with Covid-19 restrictions
- Continue with only online streaming until more people are vaccinated
- Have a hybrid option of both streaming and in/person
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Once our church building reopens, what best describes your attitudes towards returning? \*

- I am ready to return as soon as possible with Covid-19 safeguards in place
- I plan to wait till more people are vaccinated and then I will return
- It will be quite some time before I am comfortable to return to in person church
- Not sure

Regarding indoor versus outdoor services and activities \*

- I am comfortable meeting indoors or outdoors, with COVID-19 safeguards in place
- I am only comfortable meeting outdoors
- I am not comfortable with indoor or outdoor gatherings at this point
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

So that we can understand risk factors of our church, into which category do you personally fall:

*NOTE: This question is optional We will never ask individuals to disclose their vaccination status when they come for Sunday morning programming, but it would help church leadership make decisions to gather (anonymously) a more accurate sense of the aggregate vaccination status of those 12 years or older in the congregation.*

- I have been vaccinated or have the Covid-19 antibodies
- I plan to be vaccinated soon
- I have not been vaccinated and probably will not be
- I prefer not to disclose this information
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Now thinking of other adults (18+) in your Household, into which category do they fall? \*

- All other adults have been vaccinated
- Some adults have been vaccinated and others have not
- Other adults have not been vaccinated
- No other adults in Household
- I prefer not to disclose this information

Do you have children 18 and under living at home? \*

- Yes
- No- Click "Next" below

For Households with children under 18 - Right now, and in the near future, COVID-19 vaccines are only available for certain ages of children. If you have children under 18 in your household, please indicate their current age groups, and plans for vaccination (if more than one child in an age group pick the answer that is most accurate)

Vaccinated / Will be vaccinated Soon / Will not be vaccinated / I do not have kids in this age group

## FALL 2021 WORSHIP CALENDAR

Ages Newborn - 12  
Ages 12-15  
Ages 16-18  
Ages Newborn - 12  
Ages 12-15  
Ages 16-18

For those with children in the Religious Education program, we would like to get a sense for your children returning to Religious Education

- I would like for my children to return to religious education with Covid Precautions (masks required in building, other precautions still being worked out, hence the survey)
- I would not feel comfortable having my kids attend RE with Covid restrictions
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### SUNDAY PROGRAMMING

Sunday morning programming is an all ages event, and a public event. As such, congregants attending Sunday morning programming will be required to wear masks while in the building. In addition, we are considering other measures to increase the comfort and safety of all. Knowing that each household will vary, and people's feelings of safety in a public gathering of many people is different depending on their context, we ask you to please rank how your household perceives the following safety measures under consideration:

Essential / Very Important / Somewhat important / Acceptable / Unnecessary

- No reused paper items (hymnals)
- Enhanced cleaning/disinfecting measures
- No passing the plate/ communal contact items
- 6 feet social distancing between households
- 3 feet social distancing between households
- No physical contact with others
- No congregational singing
- No food or drink in the building
- Performers and speakers remain masked at all times
- Capacity limits in sanctuary (possibly requiring registration)

#### ***At end of survey:***

Do you have additional thoughts or considerations regarding these Sunday programming?

\_\_\_\_\_

What other comments would you like the Board of Trustees to know (please share thoughts - The Board needs your input) \*

\_\_\_\_\_

As part of our transition to multiplatform worship, we are considering different configurations for Sunday morning programming. Please indicate ranked preference for a few different programming configurations:

- RE hour for all ages (children, adult, and youth) followed by worship service
- Worship service followed by RE hour for all ages (children, adult, and youth)
- Worship for children and youth during services, Adult Forum and other programming following service
- Adult Forum and other programming first, followed by worship with children and youth RE during service

Which block of programming time on Sunday mornings would best suit your household:

- 9:00-11:30
- 9:30-12:00
- 10:00-12:30

Date	IG?	Series or Theme	Topic/Notes	Speaker	Notes/Events
August 8			Into the Neutral Zone Redux	Rev. Sarah	
August 15			Based on "After the Fall" by Dan Santat	Rev. Sarah	
August 22	Y	INGATHERING	Water Communion	Rev. Sarah	
August 29		Leadership Sunday	Blessing of Leaders, Commissioning of Teachers, Reflections from Lay Leaders	Curated Reflections	
September 5					
September 12			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">           NEW IN SEPT: One Sunday/mo aligned with Soulful Home:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September: Possibility</li> <li>• October: Relationship</li> <li>• November: History</li> </ul> </div>		
September 19					
September 26		GUEST			Rev. Sarah out-retreat
October 3					
October 10					
October 17		GUEST (interfaith?)		Rev. Sarah out-retreat	
October 24			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">           11 Sundays "Ordinary Time"           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rev. Sarah: 6 Sources</li> <li>• Curated Reflections: 3 (2 Sources each, one/month)</li> <li>• Guests: 2</li> </ul> </div>		
October 31	Y	Ancestors			Rev. Sarah
November 7					
November 14					
November 21					
November 28	Y	FESTIVAL SEASON!	Post-Thanksgiving		PUT UP TREE
December 5	Y		Winter Solstice (Peter Mayer?) Ornament stations? After svc- potluck decorate tree, hang greens	Rev. Sarah	HANGING O' THE GREENS POTLUCK
December 12	Y		RE Holiday Sunday	Rev. Sarah	
December 19			Something Seasonal/Festive- Reflections? Spirit Play Story TFAA	Rev. Sarah	RE HOLIDAY PARTY (REC)
December 24	Y		CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	Rev. Sarah	
December 26	Y		PJ Potluck Story- A Light in Every Corner (or @eve?) Craft: votives/lanterns?	Rev. Sarah out	
January 2	Y		Burning Bowl	Rev. Sarah	

OUR SIX SOURCES: Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote 7 Principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides. We live out these Principles within a "living tradition" of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience. These are the sources our congregations affirm and promote:

(September) Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;

(September) Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;

(October) Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;

(October) Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

(November) Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;

(November) Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;