

# *The Open Door Newsletter*

*February 2019*



## **This Month's Fellowship Services**

*Fellowship Services are held at 10 a.m. on the Northland College Campus, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Commons of the Ponzio Center unless otherwise noted below. Find us on the web at [www.chequamegonuuf.org](http://www.chequamegonuuf.org)*

### **February 10— Speaker: David Saetre—“*God the Problem Almighty*”**

In his 1882 work, *The Gay Science*, the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche famously wrote: "God is dead. God remains dead. And we have killed him." Almost 80 years later, *Time* magazine ran a cover with the question "Is God Dead?" The question posed by the popular magazine still perplexes religious thought today—how can a thoughtful modern person believe in an omniscient Deity? And a corollary question—what do we mean by the word and idea "God"? Although most of us don't sit around pondering such lofty questions, the question of God lurks around in the shadows, like an unacknowledged ghost, behind all spiritual and religious belief. David plans to tackle the question of God as the second topic in his series "Reconsidering Faith"; the series features the core inklings from his career of religious thought and ministry.

### **February 24—Speaker: Laurie Bushbaum—“*Infinite Sacraments and Priceless Works of Art*”**

Buddhist Teacher Thich Nhat Hanh tells us about the spiritual lessons of washing the dishes mindfully. Writer and farmer Wendell Berry says, “To be quiet in heart and in eye clear. What we need is here.” How do we make the everyday holy and sacred with what is here, at hand, around us each and every day? The classic definition of sacrament is an outward and visible sign of inward and spiritual grace.

The philosopher Suzanne Langer has defined art as “the process of creating perceptible forms expressive of human feeling, and that which gives form to inward experiences and makes them conceivable.”

I believe that these definitions of art and sacrament strike a similar chord, not by coincidence, but because they are saying the same thing but in different languages. Both are talking about relationship— relationship between the inner and outer worlds, between the seen and the unseen. Both art and sacrament are about the human need to discover, in our individual ways, our relationship to the holy and to the world. Art and sacrament are about our need to express these understandings in visible form.

Rev. Laurie Bushbaum has been an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister for 33 years. She has been an artist even longer, starting with mud-pies and doll clothes. Since then she has been juried into local and national shows and featured in *Art/Quilt* magazine. She loves the opportunities for creative and soulful play in ministry and in congregational life. Come and play with her.

**The Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship welcomes people of any age, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, language, ability, religion or cultural background.**

## CUUF 2019 Winter and Spring Service Schedule and Upcoming Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker/Topic</u>
February 3	The Other Sunday
February 10	Fellowship Service—David Saetre: God the Problem Almighty
February 17	UU Women—10 a.m. at Café Coco
February 17	UU Men—10 a.m. at Ashland Family Restaurant
February 24	Fellowship Service—Infinite Sacraments and Priceless Works of Art
March 3	The Other Sunday
March 10	Fellowship Service—David Saetre: Incarnation & Embodied Religion/New Member Welcome
March 24	Fellowship Service—Tim Doyle: Climate Change
April 7	Fellowship Service—John Bates
April 14	The Other Sunday
April 21	Fellowship Service—David Saetre: The Human Condition (Eastertide)
May 5	All Music Service
May 12	The Other Sunday
May 19	Fellowship Service—Flower Ceremony, Child Dedication, and Graduate Recognition

### Remarks from Past Fellowship Talks

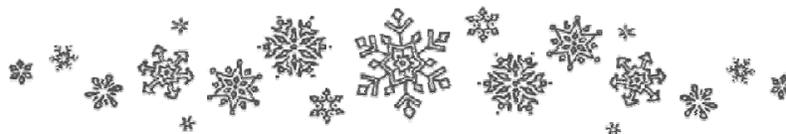
There have been several requests from CUUF folks for written transcripts of Sunday fellowship talks. While we have had audio versions of services available on our website for some time now, adding written transcripts seems like a good idea; having something to read feels faster and more accessible, especially if there is a particular passage you are wanting to review or ponder.

When it is feasible, we are going to start including transcripts of talks on our website. (We will be getting a new website in the next month or so, and we will not be posting transcripts until that happens). From time to time, I will also include excerpts here in our newsletter.

Here is an excerpt from David's January 13 talk, "The Accidental Unitarian: A Spiritual Autobiography", which was the first in his series "Reconsidering Faith".

Is it possible to re-imagine the ancient stories as the literature, fiction and poetry of love, love lost, and redemptive restoration; to rescue the power of faith from the coffins of creedal formulae, canon law, and the tidy, self-contained and arid thought of Protestant theology? Is it possible to overturn the Protestant obsession over blood redemption and violent sacrifice; the endless despair of the doctrine of sin and the utterly corrupted view of human nature; the authoritarian oppression of Catholic hierarchies; the magical and infantile understanding of prayer? Could one recover or reconstruct, perhaps rehabilitate the great teachings on forgiveness; the possibility of redemption in the face of estrangement and loss in life; the reality of God as love?

These became the projects of a life's work, and account for my being here this very hour. To quote another poet, William Carlos Williams famously wrote, "It is difficult to get the news from poems yet men die miserably every day for lack of what is found there." We can say the same for religious thought and spiritual seeking.



## IN OUR FELLOWSHIP

### The Other Sunday—Winter Series—*Justice on Earth*

Our Other Sundays will resume on February 3. This winter will feature a series of studies from *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class and the Environment*. The book is this year's common read for the Unitarian Universalist Association. Our first gathering will focus on chapters one and three. Dates and chapter readings for the series are:

February 3: "Intersectionality, Faith, and Environmental Justice" & "Ecotheology"

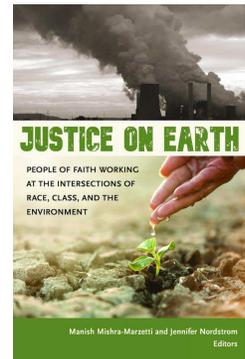
March 3: "Cherishing Our World: Avoiding Despair" & "Becoming Resilient: Community Life for a New Age"

April 14: "Drawing on the Deep Waters: Contemplative Practice" & "Eating the Earth"

May 12: "Water Unites Us" & "Concluding Reflection"

The Other Sundays meet in the Ponzio Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, our usual worship space. The meetings are informal and invite discussion of the topics. Although the winter series follows the topics presented in *Justice on Earth*, you do not need to read ahead to participate; David begins each session with a brief overview of the central ideas related to the topic of the day with group discussion following. Please know you are welcome to join in the conversation whether attending one or all of the meetings. All are welcome!

We have ordered copies of the book to loan between services; see Ed Calhan following any service or give David a call at 715-746-4100 to get your copy. Copies are also available for purchase through any online bookseller or the UUA website.



### Social Justice Work Takes on a New Theme

On Sunday, January 13, several of us met in the Northland College cafeteria to talk about what our fellowship could do to provide support to the refugees at our southern border. Diane Koosed was the person who called us together. She had heard different accounts of how many young people were farmed out to different families around the country. After the rise in negative public opinion about Trump condoning this separation, activists then learned that poor records had been kept of these separations. Diane brought up her deep concern about the number of children who were separated from their families. After Trump gave in and said they would stop separating families, the practice continued. Also there were already many kids separated from their families under Obama. New reports coming out recently show that the government doesn't know how many of these young people are currently in this country. It appears to be thousands more than previously thought.

Our group threw out a few ideas, one of which included seeing if our group or a small group of churches in the area could sponsor a family or something like that. We gave ourselves assignments to do before the next meeting. Mine are to research the Unitarian Universalist Association to see what social justice programs it is enacting. Another of my assignments is to contact Kathy Gang and see if the group she goes with to Honduras every year would want to link up with our willingness to welcome people from there.

We are just getting started. If you want to join us, we will be meeting for lunch after the regular fellowship services twice a month. We'll meet between 12:15 and 12:30 at the entrance of the Northland College cafeteria in the Ponzio Center and find a quiet table where we can sit and discuss what we want to do. If you want to eat, I can get everyone into the cafeteria with my meal card and ask that you reimburse me the cost of \$5.75; you can also meet with us without eating.

We hope others will join us on this new journey.

—Mary Rehwald, Chair, Social Action Committee

## IN OUR FELLOWSHIP (CONT.)

### Religious Education News

Please note—our pre-K kids will now meet in the large conference room on second floor, and middle school/high school students will meet on first floor in one of the open corner areas.

Also, please welcome Tommy Lewis. Tommy is a Northland college student who will be helping with our middle/high school classes throughout the spring.

### Save the Date—May All Music Service

The CUUF Music Committee is pleased to announce that Minnesota UU singer/songwriter Peter Mayer will be the guest musician at our annual Music Service on Sunday, May 5. Peter will also perform on Saturday, May 4, at 7 p.m. at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute on the Northland College campus. Thanks to a generous sponsorship, the concert will be a freewill performance.

Mark your calendars—you will not want to miss this very special music. More information will be included in the next newsletter.

### Circle Supper Schedule for February

<u>Group I February 15</u>	<u>Please Bring</u>
Linda & Ed Calhan (V)—hosts*	Entrée/Bread
Jill Lorenz & Bill Corlett	Side
Donn & Ann Christensen	Salad
Mike & Jo Bailey	Dessert

\*1119 Ellis Avenue, Ashland

<u>Group II February 9</u>	<u>Please Bring</u>
Emily Schlager & Brian Clements—hosts*	Entrée
David Saetre	Bread
Jim & Betsy Matzinger	Salad
Kristin & Henry Quinlan	Dessert
Mark & Megan Perrin	Side

\*67240 Cross Road, Ashland

<u>Group III February 9</u>	<u>Please Bring</u>
Bob & Deb Aaron (V)—hosts*	Entrée
Julia & Hans Veenendaal	Dessert
Erin & William Schlager	Salad
Mary Rehwald	Side
Lee Stadnyk	Bread
Karyn Watters	Side

\*27480 Colberg Road, Washburn

<u>Circle Supper with Children February 9</u>	<u>Please Bring</u>
Monica Lee & Matt Horning—hosts*	Entrée
Christel Sketch & Zach Jurewicz	Check with host
Jennifer Peacock	Check with host
Ann & Brian Tochterman	Check with host

\*920 Chapple Avenue, Ashland  
218-591-7007

### Attention UU Women!

**UU Women** will meet on Sunday, February 17, at 10 a.m. at Café Coco. This monthly get together is a chance to get to know other women in our fellowship while enjoying good food and coffee. Please join us if you are interested—no obligations, no commitment, but lingering is encouraged!

UU Women is open to anyone who identifies as a woman in a way that is significant to them. Contact Jill with any questions at 715-373-5908 or [jill15908@gmail.com](mailto:jill15908@gmail.com).

### Attention UU Men!

Third Sunday Men's Group will be meeting for a casual breakfast and social time on Sunday, February 17, at 10 a.m. at Ashland Family Restaurant, 620 Lakeshore Drive E.

All are welcome to join us—meet people, make new friends, and help the fellowship live its mission of being a welcoming community. For questions or more information, email A.J. at [ajgalazen@hotmail.com](mailto:ajgalazen@hotmail.com).

## Hospitality

Here is the hospitality schedule for the remainder of the service year. We include all families to help with hospitality and ask that you switch days with another family if you are not able to attend on your scheduled Sunday.

Thank you, Jim & Betsy

	<u>Contact Person and Set Up</u>	<u>Snacks and Clean Up</u>	<u>Snacks and Clean Up</u>
February 10	Erin Tenney 715-209-2261	Julia/Hans Veenendal 715-373-0361	Todd & Kelsey Rothe 715-278-3383
February 24	Sue & Roger Aiken 715-779-3579	Diana & Dick Granger 715-373-1133	Betsy & Jim Matzinger 847-651-6738
March 10	Kim Suske 715-373-5931	Courtney Remacle 920-860-6234	Angela Stroud & Cynthia Belmont 715-682-9155
March 24	Erin & Will Schlager 612-741-7970	Heidi & Jeff Ungrodt 715-682-0103	Karyn Watters & Lee Stadnyk 715-682-6589
April 7	Beth Reed & Doug Liphart 715-682-8385	Deb & Jeff Lewis 715-682-5686	Warren Kehn 715-681-0447
April 21	George & Dorota Busséy 715-682-7943	Jo & Mike Bailey 715-779-9712	Aistis Tumas/Meghan Salmon-Tumas



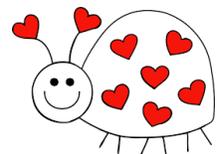
## The Great CUUF Garage Sale—Coming in May

Have you caught the decluttering bug? The KonMarie method of decluttering (by looking at your stuff and asking “does this bring me joy”) has been a hot topic lately (and apparently a boon for thrift stores!) And our own CUUF member Julie Sorensen (hi Julie!) wrote a helpful article on decluttering that appeared in the Chequamegon Food Co-op’s Winter 2018 issue of [Grapevine](#).

I was inspired to declutter this past summer after seeing news images of flooded houses with their floating contents. I imagined my own basement with several feet of water in it. I decided I didn’t want to wait for a possible flood to ruin everything—if I’m not using these things, perhaps someone else can. I started sorting and organizing with a goal of “getting rid of”. I dropped off several boxes of items at a thrift store, took things to Resource Reuse Store and gleefully handed over old winter coats and boots to a family with way more kids than I have. I sold books at a used book store—what the bookstore didn’t want went into the free basket at Washburn Library or found its way into the new Little Free Library at Jackie’s Field, a park in Washburn where my kids used to play when they were little.

Did you know that Goodwill in Ashland will accept and recycle old clothing that can no longer be worn? That’s right—they will keep it out of the landfill. (Marie Kondo says to throw all of this in the garbage—oh dear!) You can also donate clean, old snuggly clothes to Helping Paws Pet Rescue/Country Care Vet. Clinic in Washburn for use as animal bedding. They will also take worn towels and washcloths.

But still I have more STUFF. And lucky for me, the Great CUUF Garage Sale is coming in May. And get this—CUUFer Jan Perkins is willing to store items in her Washburn home for us if we want to declutter right now but don’t know where to put things! If you have items to store, just call and leave her message at 715-373-5585.



—Editor

## IN OUR COMMUNITY

### Death and Dying Class to begin February 12

David is offering a seven-week course on "Death and Dying" beginning Tuesday, February 12, at 6:30 p.m. at the Vaughn Library community room. The schedule of topics includes:

- February 12: Introduction to the Class: Reflections on Death, Dying and Grief
- February 19: Preparing for Death and the Death Process
- February 26: Religious Perspectives East and West, part 1
- March 5: Religious Perspectives East and West, part 2
- March 12: Grief and Bereavement
- March 19: Ethical Issues and the "Right to Die"
- March 26: Book Study and Conclusion: *The Death of Ivan Illyich*

Each class is meant to stand on its own, allowing participants to join the class sessions as they are able and depending on topic interest. There is no fee for the class, and the class is meant for anyone in the larger community. Please note, the first four sessions will be held at the Vaughn Library and the last three sessions will be held in Washburn (place to be announced).

Questions? Call David at 715-746-4100 or email him at [dwsaetre@gmail.com](mailto:dwsaetre@gmail.com).

PFLAG (Parents, Family, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)—Washburn reaches out to youth and adults throughout the Chequamegon Bay area. We are a local chapter of a national support, education, and advocacy organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered (GLBT) people, along with their families, friends, and allies. PFLAG is a non-profit organization and is not affiliated with any religious or political institutions.



We usually meet every other month—for dates and times, please check our website [www.pflagwashburn.org](http://www.pflagwashburn.org) or contact Nancy Hanson at 715-209-1100 or [nancyhanson1958@yahoo.com](mailto:nancyhanson1958@yahoo.com). Meetings are generally held on the 3rd floor of the Washburn Cultural Center located at 1 East Bayfield Street in Washburn unless otherwise noted.

Friday, March 22, 7-9 p.m., at Bayfield Library—In partnership with Bayfield Library, PFLAG will be hosting a movie night with a showing of “Love is Strange.” Alfred Molina and John Lithgow play Ben and George who, after nearly forty years together, get married. The event is free and open to the public.

Thursday, March 28, 6:30 p.m., at the Washburn Cultural Center—“Changing the Transgender Narrative” with Nick Eliot. Nick will share history, address some common misconceptions, and ask us to reevaluate how we frame the discussion around transgender issues to be less destructive for trans youth, teens, and adults.

Saturday, April 27, 7-9 p.m., at the Washburn Cultural Center—PFLAG Washburn celebrates its 10-year anniversary with a concert featuring singer/songwriter Sara Thomsen.

## HOPE in Honduras

CUUF member and local physician Kathy Gang is part of HOPE in Honduras, a non-profit group of health professionals and educators working to improve the health of families in rural Honduras. HOPE in Honduras has built a school and provided water filters for homes, and Kathy teaches a neonatal resuscitation program to midwives.

You can help! Kathy invites you to learn more at <http://www.hopeinhondurasinc.org> (use the entire address, including the http).

All of the money that is donated is spent in Honduras with no overhead; volunteers donate their time and pay their own travel expenses. Thank you for your support.

	The 2019 MidAmerica Regional Assembly is coming sooner than you think! This year, our RA will be held April 5-7 in St. Louis, Missouri, at the Marriott St Louis Airport Hotel.
	This year's theme is "Intersectionalities." Presentations and workshops will explore identities we encounter and embody, the challenges of social inequality, and tools and skills we need in order to work more effectively with one another, as well as the general "nuts and bolts" of congregational life, such as leadership, stewardship, membership, and religious education.
	Our Keynote Presenter will be UUA President, Rev. Susan Frederick Gray. Join us to explore, share, and worship with fellow Unitarian Universalists.

## Local Music, Theater, and More

StageNorth and The Groundlings present *Love Letters*, January 31-February 2 at 7:30 p.m. and February 3 at 2 p.m. at StageNorth in Washburn. Melissa and Andrew discuss their hopes and ambitions, dreams and disappointments, victories and defeats, all through letters that pass between them throughout their separated lives of 50 years.

Chequamegon Theater Association in Ashland presents "Play On!" a play within a play, at the Rhinehart Theater, 210 5th Ave. East. Performances are February 1-3 and 7-10, with evening shows at 7:30 and Sunday matinees at 2.

Join the Ashland Chamber Music Society on Saturday, February 23, at 7:30 p.m., at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Ashland, for "All Things New". From their website: "The world is unsettled. But through sorrow, strife, and turmoil, God assures us that he will make all things new. Join the Twin Ports Choral Project, with special guest conductor Dr. David Chin, as they explore this promise through works by Ēriks Ešēnvalds, Sven-David Sandstrom, Eric Whitacre and many more."

There is lots happening on the Northland Campus in February—too much for me to print here! Check out their lectures, discussions, music, workshops, and demonstrations (what exactly is skjorning?) at <https://www.northland.edu/calendar/2019-02/>.

### CHEQUAMEGON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP MISSION STATEMENT

**We are a welcoming spiritual community that nurtures lifelong journeys of mind and spirit  
in the liberal tradition.**

~ Founded, February 22, 1998 ~

Chequamegon Unitarian  
Universalist Fellowship  
P.O. Box 641  
Ashland, WI 54806

**Contact  
Information**

**CHEQUAMEGON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**

PO Box 641, Ashland, WI 54806

Fellowship Website: [www.chequamegonuuf.org](http://www.chequamegonuuf.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Chequamegonuuf](http://www.facebook.com/Chequamegonuuf)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/chequuf>



**Administrator/ Board Members/ Reverend**

Hans Veenendaal, Office Administrator,  
(715) 373-0361 [cuufad@gmail.com](mailto:cuufad@gmail.com)  
Courtney Remacle, Co-President, (920) 860-6234  
[president1@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:president1@chequamegonuuf.org)  
Zach Jurewicz, Co-President, (715) 685-2733  
[president2@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:president2@chequamegonuuf.org)  
Ed Calhan, Treasurer, (715) 682-0446  
[treasurer@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:treasurer@chequamegonuuf.org)  
Evan Flom, Secretary, (612) 419-6730  
[secretary@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:secretary@chequamegonuuf.org)  
Mike Bunch, Board Member, (715) 373-5232  
[bdmember1@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:bdmember1@chequamegonuuf.org)  
Steve Kassof, Board Member, (715) 292-3082  
[bdmember2@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:bdmember2@chequamegonuuf.org)  
Mary Rehwald, Board Member, (715) 682-4662  
[bdmember3@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:bdmember3@chequamegonuuf.org)  
Lee Stadnyk, Board Member, (715) 765-4555  
[bdmember4@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:bdmember4@chequamegonuuf.org)  
Heidi Ungrodt, Board Member, (715) 682-0103  
[bdmember5@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:bdmember5@chequamegonuuf.org)  
David Saetre, Reverend  
(715) 746-4100 (home/primary)  
(715) 209-1706 (cell)  
[dwsaetre@gmail.com](mailto:dwsaetre@gmail.com)

**CUUF Committee Contacts**

*Caring Committee*, Courtney Remacle, (920) 860-6234  
[caring@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:caring@chequamegonuuf.org)  
*Facebook*, Marilyn Einspanier, (715) 372-5103  
*Finance/Pledges*, Ed Calhan, (715) 682-0446  
[treasurer@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:treasurer@chequamegonuuf.org)  
*Hospitality*, Betsy and Jim Matzinger, (847) 651-6738  
[hospitality@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:hospitality@chequamegonuuf.org)  
*Membership*, Kristin and Henry Quinlan, (715) 685-0041  
[membership@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:membership@chequamegonuuf.org)  
*Music Committee*, Linda Calhan, (715) 682-0446  
[music@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:music@chequamegonuuf.org)  
*Newsletter Editor*, Kim Suske, (715) 373-5931  
[uunews@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:uunews@chequamegonuuf.org)  
*Personnel*, Courtney Remacle (920) 860-6234  
[staff@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:staff@chequamegonuuf.org)  
*Religious Education Co-directors*,  
Deb Aaron (715) 373-0201 [re1@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:re1@chequamegonuuf.org)  
Kelsey Rothe, (715) 278-3383 [re2@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:re2@chequamegonuuf.org)  
*Social Justice*, Mary Rehwald, (715) 682-4662  
[mary\\_rehwald@gmail.com](mailto:mary_rehwald@gmail.com)  
*Worship Planning*, [worship@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:worship@chequamegonuuf.org)  
Hans Veenendaal (715)373-0361/Megan Perrine (715)781-4123  
*Webmaster*, Dorota Bussey, (203) 536-9765  
[uonline@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:uonline@chequamegonuuf.org)