

The Open Door Newsletter

January 2019



This Month's Fellowship Services

Fellowship Services are held at 10 a.m. on the Northland College Campus, 2nd Floor Commons of the Ponzio Center unless otherwise noted below. Find us on the web at www.chequamegonuuf.org

January 13—Speaker: David Saetre—“*The Accidental Unitarian—A Spiritual Autobiography*”

David's talk traces significant turning points and ideas that have animated his religious journey, from early childhood Norwegian Lutheranism to his time as chaplain and professor of religion in the United Church of Christ at Northland College and his introduction to the Unitarian Universalist tradition through the Chequamegon Fellowship. The religious journal *Christian Century* used to run a series titled “How I've Changed My Mind.” “The Accidental Unitarian” is a similar exploration of the evolution and changes in religious thought that have characterized a life-long search for an honest and meaningful faith in a chaotic world. Where the old verities have died, what may take their place? “The Accidental Unitarian” is one person's response to the common challenge and the question of our age.

This talk also begins a series of talks as David begins his last year as our minister. Future talks: February, “God the Problem Almighty”; March, “Incarnation and Embodied Religion”; April, “The Human Condition.”

January 27—Speaker: Stacy Craig—“*A Black Theology of Liberation*”

The civil rights movement has been described as a religious movement just as much as a social movement. Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s leadership was rooted in personalist theory and his belief of the beloved community with human dignity for all. So what happened next? This service explores the significant next movement of theologian James Cone's work to develop a black theology of liberation as part of his response to King's death. Black theology addresses the scandal of particularity, the maldistribution of ethnic suffering in the black experience in America. This service will include a summary of black liberation theology and the profound claim made by Cone that God is black as well as his powerful interpretation that Christian theology affirms God is with and for the oppressed and against the oppressor. We will conclude with how black theology asks religious communities in America to critically reflect on the centrality of racism and social action in their vocation.

Stacy Craig is a student at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities where she is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree. She takes seriously the challenge from her professor that more white pastors and theologians must engage black theology in their work. In 2018, she interned with St. John's United Church of Christ and Spiritual Life Center on Madeline Island and previous to that she was the Co-Director of Religious Education for the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Currently she works as the Coordinator of Applied Learning at Northland College and makes time to regain balance by fly fishing once in a while.

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>
January 13	Fellowship Service—David Saetre: The Accidental Unitarian
January 20	UU Women / UU Men
January 27	Fellowship Service—Stacy Craig: A Black Theology of Liberation
February 3	The Other Sunday
February 10	Fellowship Service—David Saetre: God the Problem Almighty
February 24	Fellowship Service
March 3	The Other Sunday
March 10	Fellowship Service—David Saetre: Incarnation and Embodied Religion
March 24	Fellowship Service
April 7	Fellowship Service
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	Flower Ceremony, Child Dedication, and Graduate Recognition

From the Minister's Desk—A Greeting for the New Year

2019 presents challenges and opportunities for us in this new year. We begin a search for a new minister, we welcome a new administrative assistant, and we continue to grow our ministry and mission to one another and the greater Chequamegon Bay area. I cannot think of a time when we more needed a community to support one another in our joys and sorrow and a place to freely explore ideas to ground our search for meaning and develop an ethic for these days. I hope you will find ways to support our congregation this year with your own talents and gifts. We always need people to serve on committees and the board, to teach our youth, to offer ideas, and to support our common work financially. We need you, as we need each other.

Our national and civic life will prove challenging as well, I suspect. Our politics have become both ubiquitous and toxic. Usually sober (and conservative) public intellectuals have openly declared an approaching constitutional crisis, and the chaotic swirl of news offers daily assaults on democratic ideals. Our circumstances go well beyond the usual partisan politics. The stakes are high. I was watching an episode of Harry Potter the other day with grandkids, and I was struck by a quote from the wise wizard, Albus Dumbledore, “Dark times lie ahead of us and there will be a time when we must choose between what is easy and what is right.” How true.

All of this is to suggest that the genuine expressions of love, even as we embrace our differences, have become the necessary characteristics of real community equal to the challenges of our times. I believe the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is such a community. So whatever shall come our way in this new year, may each of you find a measure of peace and the blessings of a loving community. “Happy New Year” doesn’t seem quite right, but a measure of peace and happiness may indeed be ours in all circumstances. May that be so.

—David

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

Our Other Sundays 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 acclaimed book is part of the nationwide Unitarian Universalist Association common read and is an anthology of work from activists and scholars related to the intersection of race, class, and the environmental crisis. Dates and chapter readings for the series are:

(continued on facing page):

Hospitality

Here is the hospitality schedule for the remainder of the service year. All of the spring services are included so that family members can look ahead to see when they are scheduled to help with hospitality. We do include all families to help with hospitality each year and ask them to switch days with other families if they are not able to attend on their scheduled Sunday.

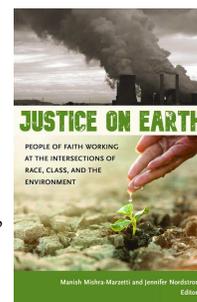
Our annual schedule is most likely missing some of our newer families. There are still openings in May where we need some volunteers. Please let us know if you are willing to help with one of those two May dates.

Thank you, Jim & Betsy

	<u>Contact Person and Set Up</u>	<u>Snacks and Clean Up</u>	<u>Snacks and Clean Up</u>
January 13	Kristin & Henry Quinlan 715-685-0041	Evan Flom 612-419-6730	Rick Dowd & Joni Chapman 715-685-0076
January 27	Jacki Rae-Ledin/Terry Ledin 715-373-0347	Kristen Christensen 715-373-5972	Jill Lorenz 715-373-5908
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	Devon Brock-Montgomery 608-695-2288
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
May 5	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
May 19	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

The Other Sunday—Winter Series (continued from facing page)

February 3	“Intersectionality, Faith, and Environmental Justice” and “Ecotheology”
March 3	“Cherishing Our World: Avoiding Despair” and “Becoming Resilient: Community Life for a New Age”
April 14	“Drawing on the Deep Waters: Contemplative Practice” and “Eating the Earth”
May 12	“Water Unites Us” and “Concluding Reflection”



The Other Sundays meet in the Ponzio Center, 2nd 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.

We have ordered copies of the book to borrow between services, and copies are available for purchase through any online bookseller. If you wish to purchase your own copy of the book, the editors are Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Jennifer Nordstrom (Skinner House Books, Boston, 2018).

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

We would like to extend our appreciation to all who helped make our holiday play, *The Quiltmaker's Gift*, a success. Thank you to Megan Perrine for dedicating many, many hours organizing, making masks, and, along with Hannah Sorenson, helping to write the play. Without Megan, there would be no pageant as we know it; we are so fortunate to be treated to these plays every year. Thank you to Hannah for sharing her skills as director. Thanks to Megan, Joni Chapman and Bob Aaron for their set-building skills. Additional contributions were made by Deb Aaron on costumes, Joni Chapman on music, and Kristi Kiel as children's music director. Thanks also go out to parents who helped with the production. The play was enjoyed by all!

Now that the holidays are over, RE will again hold regular classes during the CUUF services. There will be child care for 4 year olds and under, and classes for kindergarten-2nd grade, 3rd-5th grades, and middle school students. We will continue the curricula that were established last year. All children are welcome to learn and experience joy together!

Deb Aaron and Kelsey Rothe
RE Co-Directors





“By day the Quiltmaker sewed the beautiful quilts she would not sell, and at night the king took them down to the town. There he searched out the poor and downhearted, never happier than when he was giving something away.”

Discussion on Immigration Issue

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) condemns the Trump administration's appalling assault on vulnerable families seeking asylum in the United States. "The policy of

this administration to separate children from their parents at the border is immoral, inhumane and indefensible," says UUA president, the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray. "These families arrive desperate for safe haven, seeking asylum having fled violence and disruption in their own homeland—and instead of safety, they are further traumatized, victimized and criminalized at the hands of the U.S. government."

Those who are fleeing violence and seeking safety for themselves or their families should find support and reassurance at the U.S. border, not the criminalization and separation of their communities.

As people whose religious tradition calls us to seek justice, we will continue to side with those most in need and most vulnerable, building on our decades of commitment to support the dignity of immigrants and displaced people. Through our [Love Resists campaign](#), we will continue to help those seeking sanctuary and safety. We will also continue to follow the lead of organizers and organizations most impacted by these immoral immigration policies.

"Every human being has a right to flee from danger," says Rev. Frederick-Gray. "Every parent has a fundamental right to seek safety and survival for their children. Migration is not a crime. Being a refugee is not a crime. Certainly, I would do whatever was needed to protect my child and my family—wouldn't you?" For more information, visit the UUA website.

Separation of immigrant children from their parents at the border is an issue that is "doing me in." I'd like to get together with others; we can help each other understand the facts, and figure out action to take towards ending this horrendous situation. If interested, please contact me, Diane Koosed at koolake@comcast.net or 503-702-9283.

Circle Suppers

Here is the schedule for the Circle Suppers for January 19, 2019. If you have any questions, please contact Lee Stadnyk at wrfarm@cheqnet.net or 715-765-4555.

<u>Group I Participants</u>	<u>Please Bring</u>
Karyn Watters—host*	Entrée
David Saetre	Salad
Bob & Deb Aaron	Side Dish
Kristin & Henry Quinlan	Side Dish
Mark & Megan Perrine	Dessert
Lee Stadnyk	Bread

*901 9th Ave. West, Ashland

<u>Group II Participants</u>	<u>Please Bring</u>
Donn & Ann Christensen—host*	Entrée/Dessert?
Julia & Hans Veenendal	Bread
Jim & Betsy Matzinger	Side Dish
Mary Rehwald	Salad

*812 Bratley Drive, Washburn

<u>Group III Participants</u>	<u>Please Bring</u>
Mike & Jo Bailey—host*	Entree
Jill Lorenz & Bill Corlett	Salad
Erin & William Schlager	Side
Linda & Ed Calhan (V)	Bread

*321150 Whiting Rd., Bayfield

Alternates:

Christel Sketch & Zach Jurewicz 715-685-2733,
Melodie Phipps 406-890-5250

Attention UU Women!

UU Women will meet on Sunday, January 20, 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 jill5908@gmail.com

Attention UU Men!

All are welcome to join us for a casual social gathering on Sunday, January 20, at 10 a.m. on the second floor of the Ponzio Center. Meet people, make new friends, and help the fellowship live its mission of being a welcoming community.

IN OUR COMMUNITY



Ashland Chamber Music Society presents *Zeitgeist*, with Kevin Kling, Saturday, January 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the United Presbyterian-Congregational Church in Ashland. The Minneapolis-based group, *Zeitgeist*, returns to the Chequamegon Bay area with local storyteller Kevin Kling. They will be performing their wonderful, popular collaboration, *For the Birds*.

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.

Join PFLAG to hear Rob Karwath present “Speak Your Peace: The Civility Project—Building Civic Engagement Through Respectful Discourse”. Rob will be speaking on Thursday, January 17, at 6:30 p.m. at the Washburn Cultural Center.

Rob Karwath, president and CEO of North Coast Communications, works with the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation to promote The Nine Tools of Civility. He speaks around the country to help city councils, churches, and other groups that want respectful civic engagement. As former executive editor of the Duluth News Tribune, Karwath reported about Duluth's journey from uncivil to civil through use of these nine tools. Karwath moved from observer to promoter of the nine tools because he has seen first hand how something that sounds so simple continues to transform people and communities when they commit to their use.



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 or contact Nancy Hanson at 715-209-1100 or 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.

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
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