

The Open Door Newsletter

November 2019



This Month's Fellowship Services

Fellowship Services are held at 10 a.m. on the Northland College Campus in the Alvord Theater of the Ponzio Center unless otherwise noted below. Find us on the web at www.chequamegonuuf.org

November 10—Speaker: Todd Rothe—*“The Spiritual Science of Agriculture and Regeneration”* With special music provided by the ParkinSong Singers

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote our Seven Principles. Not dogma or doctrine, these Principles instead reflect our values and serve as strong moral guides. Our Seventh Principle states “We affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. We believe that we should care for our planet earth.”

Speaker Todd Rothe will explore the birthplace of “regenerative agriculture” through the works of Rudolf Steiner—Austrian clairvoyant, philosopher, social reformer, and father of biodynamics. Steiner introduced biodynamics through a series of lectures he gave in 1924 in response to requests by farmers who had noticed degraded soil conditions and a deterioration in the health and quality of crops and livestock resulting from the use of chemical fertilizers following WWI. A central aspect of biodynamics is that the farm as a whole is seen as an organism and therefore should be largely a self-sustaining system. Join us as we learn more about protecting our planet earth. Plus, this service will feature special music provided by the ParkinSong Singers.



Todd Rothe is manager of the Hulings Rice Food Systems Center at Northland College and owner of River Road Farm in Marengo, WI. He and his wife Kelsey are CUUF members.

November 24—Speaker: David Saetre—*“Memory, Myth, and Meaning”*

Human beings are meaning-making creatures. We can't help ourselves—we want to find meaning in our experiences and memories. I suspect it is our way of answering the question, “Has my life mattered?” We ask the question differently depending on our age and circumstances, but we do ask. Philosophers have questioned the value of such questions, yet the questions do not go away. Times of change seem to heighten questions of meaning. The British scholar, Terry Eagleton, writes, “Once traditional beliefs begin to crumble in the face of historical crises, the meaning-of-life question tends to thrust itself to the fore.”

In this talk, the third in David's four-part series, he explores the way we construct meaning for ourselves out of our experiences and memories and how we collectively structure meaning through story and myth. The answers he suggests lead into the fourth and final message in December, “The Greatest Thing You'll Ever Know.”

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

CUUF Fall and Winter Service Schedule and Upcoming Events

November 3	The Other Sunday—Meet Our New Minister, Stacy Craig—Alvord Theater at 10 a.m.
November 3	Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 a.m.—Set your clocks back!
November 10	Fellowship Service—Speaker Todd Rothe, with music by the ParkinSong Singers
November 10	Green Sanctuary and Environmental Justice Meeting, 4:30 p.m.—Northland Campus
November 17	UU Women—Meet at Café Coco in Washburn at 10 a.m.
November 24	Fellowship Service—Speaker David Saetre: Memory, Myth, and Meaning
December 8	Fellowship Service—Speaker David Saetre: The Greatest Thing You’ll Ever Know
December 15	Fellowship Service—Holiday Service
January 12	To Be Determined
January 26	Fellowship Service—Speaker Kevin McMullin

Clock

by Linda Pastan

Sometimes it really upsets me—
the way the clock's hands keep moving,
even when I'm just sitting here
not doing anything at all,
not even thinking about anything
except, right now, about that clock
and how it can't keep its hands still.
Even in the dark I picture it, and all
its brother and sister clocks and watches,
even sundials, all those compulsive timepieces
whose only purpose seems to be
to hurry me out of this world.

—a (timely) submission by David Saetre

UU Women

UU Women will meet on Sunday, November 17 at 10 a.m. at Café Coco in Washburn. Questions? Please contact Jill at 715-373-5908.

Hospitality Schedule

Hospitality hosts for upcoming services are as follows:

	<u>Contact Person and Set Up</u>	<u>Snacks and Clean Up</u>	<u>Snacks and Clean Up</u>
November 10	Mary Rehwald 715-682-4662	Chris and Norm Engstrom 715-292-6448	Warren Kehn 715-681-0447
November 24	Kathy Tenney 715-685-2577	Todd & Kelsey Rothe 715-278-3383	Kristi Kiel 715-292-6219
December 8	Karen Ruedi Crowell 715-373-2524	Donn & Ann Christensen 715-373-5013	Marilyn Wilson 715-373-1001 Irene Blakely 715-373-2907
December 15	Holiday Service potluck to which everyone contributes.		

The Other Sunday—Meet and Greet Stacy Craig

Join us on Sunday, November 3, at 10 a.m. for our next Other Sunday as we take this opportunity to introduce our new minister, Stacy Craig! This meet and greet service will provide an opportunity for Stacy to talk about her life and her professional development and interest in ministry. She will also offer her vision for her work with the Fellowship.

During this meet and greet, Stacy will be joined by members of the Ministerial Search Committee and the Fellowship Board—there will be plenty of time for informal conversation. This is an opportunity for congregation members, friends, and visitors to meet Stacy in person. Stacy will begin her role as minister on January 1.



The Other Sunday will be held in the Alvord Theater of the Ponzio Center on the Northland Campus in Ashland. Child care and refreshments will be provided. See you there (and don't forget to set your clocks back).

From the Minister's Desk

Our Fellowship has made a wise and wonderful decision by calling Stacy Craig to serve as the new minister. Stacy has already begun preparing for the transition, engaging leadership and participating in worship planning. Stacy comes to us with a wealth of experience in leadership, religious and spiritual training, and knowledge of the region and our Fellowship. Personally, I couldn't be more delighted. I was Stacy's professor when she studied at Northland, I presided at Stacy and Alan's wedding, and I have followed her growth as a professional in higher education and then her graduate studies in seminary. She is a compassionate and skilled listener and brings joy and energy to those she serves. CUUF is in really good hands!

Knowing your selection has brought a measure of peace and satisfaction to my late days. I have been filled with a sense of gratitude as I think of our work together over the years. I began unofficially serving this Fellowship twenty years ago. Mary Rehwald and other leaders approached me and asked if I would offer the talk once a month, September through May. I could choose the topic based on my interests and research. But, of course I wanted to connect to your concerns and to the critical spiritual and moral issues of the times. So I set out to attempt just that, and here we are—twenty years later. I've grown gray, and the Fellowship has gone through significant changes over the years. Dear friends have moved on, some have died, and new friends have joined, adding their joys and concerns to our little community. I am grateful for it all. You have given me a great range of freedom to explore the matters of the heart, the terrain of the soul, and the compass of moral concern that we might bring to bear on our own lives and community. I find this in common with college teaching—that I have learned as much from you (maybe more) as you might have learned from me. And, the bonds of love and affection mean more to me than I can say.

The psychiatrist and writer Oliver Sachs penned a small volume of essays near the end of his life titled, "*Gratitude*." It is a sweet memoir in which he wrote, "Over the last few days, I have been able to see my life as from a great altitude, as a sort of landscape, and with a deepening sense of the connection of all its parts. . . . And I want and hope in the time that remains to deepen my friendships, to say farewell to those I love, to write more, to travel, to achieve new levels of understanding and insight." The essay, "My Own Life," was written shortly after Sachs had been diagnosed with terminal liver cancer. He concluded by writing, "My predominant feeling is one of gratitude. I have loved and been loved; I have been given much and I have given something in return. . . . Above all, I have been a sentient being, a thinking animal, on this beautiful planet, and that in itself has been an enormous privilege and adventure."

I am in good health (just to be clear here), and I look forward to my own time to travel, to spend more time with family and friends, to spend a bit of time in Madison and way more time with Janet. I have been encouraged to write, and I plan on pursuing "new levels of understanding and insight." Maybe time to rest. This is my long Sabbath and sabbatical. But, we have several more months together, and I look forward to the late fall and early winter with a sense of gratitude for that too.

—David

Moving Forward
by Rainer Maria Rilke
(translation by Minnesota poet Robert Bly)

The deep parts of my life pour onward,
As if the river shores were opening out.
It seems that I am ever more related to all things,
That I can see more deeply into paintings.
I feel closer to what language cannot reach.
With my senses, as with birds, I climb
Into the windy heavens, out of the oak.
And in each incomplete day my feeling sinks
Into the water, as if standing on fishes.

—Submitted by David Saetre

Nuestra Familia Latina

It was great to see so many CUUF faces at our immigration symposium on October 13th. The planning committee worked very hard on this, and it was with a great sense of fulfillment that we realized the greater community shares our deep concerns and commitment to be part of changing a horrific system.

A little news about our guest family:

Estrella is loving school. She seems happy and outgoing. I wonder how she manages, internally, the strife her parents have gone through (and will be going through for some time). This girl has coping strategies; that's all I know! Through it all, she knows she is loved deeply.

Luis and Judith have been busy these first few weeks with medical appointments, English classes led by Anne Chartier, and dealing with ongoing immigration issues. Luis has been working wonders in our yard. Judith would work wonders cleaning our house if only I would let her!

Our greatest challenge is to find the legal help we need. If that happens, we'll all be able to calm down a bit, I believe. If not, I'm just not sure what happens at that point.

Our entire newly extended family is very grateful for the support we've gotten through the community: meals, donations for expenses, gift cards, clothes, school supplies, games and toys, translation (interpretation), and the most precious sense of support and bienvenidos imaginable.

—Submitted by Diane Koosed



Estrella says, “Gracias, Kim, for the Legos!”

Editor’s Note—If you would like to help, a Go Fund Me account and a Meal Train have been set up (links below). Or, people are welcome to send a check made out to CUUF with “Family” written on the memo line. Checks can be sent to:

CUUF, P.O. Box 641, Ashland, WI 54806.

Thank you.

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/48g218>

https://www.gofundme.com/f/xyygs9-diane?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet

Nosotros, las congregaciones miembros de la Asociación Unitaria Universalista, convenimos en afirmar y fomentar:

- El valor y la dignidad propia de cada persona;
- La justicia, equidad y compasión en las relaciones humanas;
- La aceptación del uno al otro y el estímulo al crecimiento espiritual en nuestras congregaciones;
- Una búsqueda libre y responsable por la verdad y el sentido;
- El derecho de la conciencia y el uso del proceso democrático dentro de nuestras congregaciones y en la sociedad en general;
- La meta de una comunidad mundial con paz, libertad y justicia para todos;
- El respeto por el tejido interdependiente de todo lo existente, del cual somos una parte.



Seventh Principle Column

Our Seventh Principle: “...We believe that we should care for our planet earth.”

Eighteen CUUF’ers gathered at our Other Sunday meeting at Northland College on October 6 to consider the meaning of Going Green. Our Minister, David Saetre, covered the basics of the Unitarian Universalist Green Sanctuary movement; an impassioned yet thoughtful and considerate discussion ensued.

Time passed quickly as the group touched on environmental issues related to plastics, youth engagement with the climate change issue, and the balance between political action and spiritual action as a fellowship engages in environmental issues. We can be pretty sure that many of us have yet more environmental issues to bring to the table. (I’m sure you’re thinking of a few right now.) We’ll need to reconvene because there just wasn’t enough time to cover all the bases, all of our concerns.

So we hope that more members will join the CUUF environmental (“Seventh Principle”) discussion. We hope that as we listen to one another on these issues we will find a path to bring value to our community. David Saetre has agreed to convene a further meeting on The Seventh Principle in November (ed. note—see article below). We may be taking small steps, but with time and purpose we can make a difference.

—Submitted by George Bussey



Green Sanctuary and Environmental Justice Meeting

Following a very engaging meeting in early October, the Social Justice committee, along with David Saetre, will meet again in November to explore environmental issues, climate change, and being a “green sanctuary” as part of our identity and mission. David has asked a group of Northland College students engaged with sustainable practices to join the conversation as well, and we invite other friends and members of our Fellowship to join the forum.

We will meet on Sunday, November 10, at 4:30 p.m. at Northland College (watch your emails for more specific location). We will also provide a pizza supper (part of our outreach to students!). David will convene and lead the discussion, but we look forward to a lively give and take. We also hope to outline a way forward for our Fellowship to continue a green initiative.

The meeting follows the morning worship service with speaker Todd Rothe addressing the topic of sustainable food and agriculture. Todd’s talk is the perfect companion to our broader conversations about our Seventh Principle, “Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.”

Religious Education News

With November come cool, short days with the last of summer’s bounty in the pantries and root cellars. We are slowing down but also getting ready for the holiday activities. We look forward to another holiday play for CUUF. The children will be busily working on the play every service Sunday until the holiday service on December 15.

Parents will want to help their children come to services for practices during RE time at each service until the holiday service. Attendance helps our wonderful kids become more comfortable with their performance and have a good time in front of all those people. We plan to have at least one or two additional practices to be held in the early evening as well as a pre-performance practice the day of the service.

Parents, please contact us if your child cannot attend any of the practices as we prepare the final parts and costumes. Also, parents please look for email updates in the coming weeks. If you have not registered your child, please see Deb Aaron at the next service so that we can update our information.

We are grateful for the enthusiasm of CUUF to support our children and youth in the religious education program. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact either of the co-directors.

—Submitted by Deb Aaron and David Skogen, RE co-directors

Stop in and try out one of these new dance classes!

You are invited to participate in one of our new Rhythms and Moves classes! These new dance classes are designed for adults with movement challenges (such as Parkinson's and others). Come and discover the joy of movement as an integral part of health in mind and body.

Rhythms and Moves classes are modeled on brain-compatible dance education (Seattle) and on the New York-based Mark Morris Dance Group. Local instructors are Chequamegon Bay area dance instructors who have extensive experience in the field of dance as well as training in dance movement for people living with mobility challenges.

Class times and locations are as follows:

Ashland: Mondays from 10:00-11:15 a.m. (October 28 and November 4, 11, and 18)
at Bohemian Hall, 319 11th Avenue East, and
Thursdays from 12:30-1:45 p.m. (October 31 and November 7, 14, and 21)
at the Enrichment Center, 400 Chapple Avenue.

Bayfield: Mondays from 10-11:15 a.m. (November 4, 11, and 18)
at Bethesda Lutheran Church, 109 6th Street.

Cable and Hayward: Classes coming soon. For information contact Sarah at 715-794-2548.

Washburn: Thursdays from 9:30-10:40 a.m. (November 7, 14, and 21)
at the Washburn Meditation Center, 325 Washington Avenue.

No previous dance experience needed. Friends, family, and care partners are also welcome to join. Come, experience the freedom of moving to music.

To register or request more information, contact Rebecca Nelson at 715-681-0006 or email rhythms.moves@gmail.com. These classes are **free** thanks to a generous grant from Memorial Medical Center.

PFLAG

Rabbi David Steinberg of Temple Israel, Duluth, will be coming to Washburn on Thursday, November 21, to talk with us about full LGBTQ inclusion within the Jewish community. All are welcome to attend this event which will be held at the Washburn Cultural Center at 6:30 p.m.



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.

In Our Community—Music, Dancing, and Theater

There will be a First Friday Dance on November 1 from 7-10 p.m. at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute of the Northland Campus. First Friday Dances, a long-standing tradition at Northland, are offered by the Northland College Student Association for the Ashland community. Come and square dance the night away with a live band and a caller. Beginner and kids' dances will be at 7 p.m. and adult dances begin at 8 p.m.

The Chequamegon Symphony Orchestra will kick off its new season on Saturday, November 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the Alvord Theater at Northland College. From their website: "This season's concerts will give us the opportunity to feature the recipients of the 2019 CSO Young Musician Award. Cellist Taylor Vyskocil will perform *Kol Nidre* by Max Bruch at our fall concert on Saturday November 2, 2019. The *Kol Nidre* is the holiest prayer in the Jewish celebration of Yom Kippur. As a piece of atonement, it will contrast with the rest of the program's repertoire of music inspired by love (gained and lost)."

Romeo and Juliet Overture-Fantasy - P.I. Tchaikovsky
The Bartered Bride - Bedrich Smetana
The Black Swan - Bright Shen
Symphony No. 5, "Adagietto" - Gustav Mahler
Kol Nidrei - Max Bruch, featuring Taylor Vyskocil, cello

Chequamegon Theater Association in Ashland presents *Willy Wonka!* Join Charlie Bucket on his wild adventure in Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory in this delicious musical for the whole family. Show dates and times are October 25-27 and October 31-November 3 with evening shows at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. And, as usual, you just might see some familiar CUUF faces in the cast.

On Monday, November 4, the Northland Symphonic Band will present a concert of places—*By the River's Bend, Viva Mexico!, Cumberland Falls Overture, Africa* as performed by Toto, and *Our Own Red, White and Blue*. Also featured will be sophomore oboist Katrina Zimmer in "Danse Bacchanale" from *Samson and Dalila*. The concert will be from 7-8 p.m. in the Alvord Theater of the Ponzio Center.

Annie Humphrey CD Release Concert and Film Presentation—November 23

Annie Humphrey, 2018 Native American Music Awards Artist of the Year, Leech Lake singer/songwriter, environmental justice activist, and friend of the Ashland and Bad River communities, returns for a special concert and film presentation on Saturday, November 23, at 4 p.m. at the Alvord Theater on the Northland College Campus.

Annie will be celebrating the release of her new CD *Eat What You Kill* and sharing the film *No Day is Wasted*. The event will also feature local singer/songwriter Yazmin Bowers who has joined with Annie in prior visits to Ashland.

Suggested donation is \$20. All are welcome, so come regardless of what you are able to give at the door. If you need more information or are interested in contributing prior to the event, please contact Joel at Salmagundi at 715-979-7000 or salmagundi705@gmail.com.

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 ~

**CUUF
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