

The Open Door Newsletter

September 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

September 8— Speaker: David Saetre— “*The Promise and Peril of Religion*”

We begin our fall series of meditations with an exploration titled *The Promise and Peril of Religion*. The word “religion” comes from a Latin root word meaning “to connect”. When you add the prefix “re”, the meaning of religion might be best described as reconnecting—reconnecting with the sources of meaning and the foundations for our deepest values.

We also know, too well, the ways religions can foster narrow mindedness and hatred toward others. So, what is the place of religion and spirituality in contemporary society, in our world, and in our own lives? Let’s talk about it, beginning with our first fall service on September 8.

September 22—“*Annual Water Service*”—Northland College Campus Outdoor Fire Circle



The annual Water Service will be held on the Northland Campus on Sunday, September 22, at 10 a.m. We will gather at the Campus Fire Circle (weather permitting) to share our stories of fun and renewal related to the waters that we have connected with this summer. Please bring any water that you gathered from special places over the summer to pour into our bowl of collective memories. Don’t worry if you forget to bring some—we will have a pitcher of water to share. Doug Liphart and Beth Reed will lead this service and guest musician Andy Noyes will provide music. There will be no formal Religious Education as the children are welcome to participate in this intergenerational service. For preschool children, we will have an outdoor play area with a volunteer. There is some permanent seating (concrete benches) at the fire circle but you are encouraged to bring lawn chairs (and a blanket if it is chilly). If the weather is inclement we will meet in the Alvord Theater in the Ponzio Student Center.

Please join us for this reconnecting service.

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

September 8	Fellowship Service—Speaker David Saetre: The Promise and Peril of Religion
September 15	The Other Sunday—2nd floor commons of the Ponzio Center, 10 a.m.
September 22	Fellowship Service—Annual Water Service
September 29	UU Women at North Coast Coffee, Washburn, 10 a.m.
October 5-6	Invite to Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship in Thunder Bay, Ontario
October 13	Fellowship Service—Speaker David Saetre
October 13	Border Justice Event at United Presbyterian Congregational Church, 1:30-5:00 p.m.
October 27	Fellowship Service—Allhallowtide
November 10	Fellowship Service—Speaker Todd Rothe
November 24	Fellowship Service—Speaker David Saetre
December 8	Fellowship Service—Speaker David Saetre
December 15	Holiday Service

Fall Sermon Series

Joseph Sittler once described aging as a time for “summing up and letting go.” David’s fall series of talks will focus on four themes that have animated his thinking over a career of teaching and ministry. The talks include:

September: The Promise and Peril of Religion

October: Everything is Holy Now—Searching for the Sacred

November: Memory and Meaning

December: To Love and Be Loved

CUUF Office—Location and Hours

Don’t forget, we now have an office space and office hours! The CUUF office is located on the third floor of the Vaughn Library in Ashland—room 309. Adam, our still-pretty-new office administrator keeps not-always-but-usually office hours on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until noon. You are welcome to stop by during those hours, but please call ahead as Adam is not there every single Thursday. You can reach him on his cell phone at 651-303-6931. He loves visitors!

And, THANK YOU for the furniture donations! Thanks to Brad Lemire for the file cabinet and Karen Crowell for the bookcase! We are now fully furnished.

UU Women

Attention UU Women! We will be getting together for coffee and conversation at North Coast Coffee on Sunday, September 29, at 10 a.m. Please join us! UU Women is an informal get together that is open to anyone who identifies as a woman in a way that is significant to them.

Please note: There is no UU Men’s group activity scheduled for this month.

Garage Sale Success!

Our annual UU garage sale, which is usually held during the Ashland Citywide Sale in May, was very successful even though it had to be postponed a week due to heavy rain and winds. In fact, it brought in more than last year’s \$1,000. A big thank you to all who contributed items and/or worked before, during, or after the sale. Our children’s Religious Education program will benefit from the proceeds.

—Submitted by Karyn Watters

Editor’s Note: And thank you Karyn for generously letting us use your garage for the sale.

The Other Sunday—Covenants in Unitarian Perspective

Please join us for our next Other Sunday on September 15 at 10 a.m. in the Ponzio Center 2nd Floor Commons on the Northland Campus. David Saetre will be leading the discussion.

The Other Sunday occurs once each month as an informal gathering and discussion around a theme. The theme may include issues related to our Fellowship life, a contemporary social issue such as climate change and the environment, or personal faith explorations.

The Other Sunday for September will focus on the concept of “covenants” and the reasons why the Unitarian Universalist Association encourages the use of covenants to describe right-relationships within our congregations and our personal lives.

Covenants have been a part of the UU lexicon from the beginning of the Unitarian movement in the 19th century. The idea descends from the early congregational, Christian roots of the UUA, and employs biblical associations in its contemporary application. Those associations trouble some friends and members as the word implies dogmas and obligations which are in opposition to the value we place on free thinking and moral independence. We heard similar objections to the idea of “covenanting” at our own Fellowship annual meeting this past spring.

The Other Sunday gives us a chance to address the current usage of the term and the reasons behind the UUA encouragement for congregations to adopt covenant statements as part of Fellowship life.

We welcome members and friends to this first Other Sunday discussion. Please note that we do not provide child care and we do not have our regular Religious Education program on these Sundays.

You're Invited—To Thunder Bay

Our fellowship received the following invitation from Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship in Thunder Bay, Canada. (Isn't it cute the way they spell Labor?)

We are very happy to invite the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalists to a joint congregational weekend in Thunder Bay on October 5th and 6th, in this our 60th anniversary year of celebrating Unitarian Universalism in Northwest Ontario.

Visitors are welcome to arrive mid-afternoon Saturday, meet their housing host, and share in a dinner and entertainment at the Fellowship in the evening. Sunday morning we'll gather for common worship while the afternoon includes activities at the Fellowship or sightseeing in the area.

We request that all visitors complete the following information form which can be found on our website, or by clicking here: [visitors form](#). Please ask visitors to complete this before Labour Day, Monday, September 2nd. We are happy to provide housing hospitality.

Additional information may be found by contacting the Fellowship's email lufship@tbaytel.net or our website at luf.ca.

We look forward to getting together with you.

Best Regards,
Fred Upshaw, 60th anniversary committee chair

Religious Education News

As we plan for the 2019-20 CUUF year, we would like to introduce ourselves as RE Co-Directors.

I am Deb Aaron, and I would like to welcome everyone who has children of any age to join our program during part of the UU Sunday services. I finally totally retired from my part-time position at Hurley School District after 45 years of working as a school psychologist in districts throughout Northern Wisconsin. This is my 9th year of working with CUUF RE, and I still enjoy the energy and joy of young people. I also enjoy reading, quilting, gardening and getting out to the woods, beaches and waters of Lake Superior.

My name is David Skogen and I am the new RE Co-Director. I graduated from Washburn High School, received my B.A. from Lawrence University, and a M.A. in Modern Religious Thought & Culture from the University of Iowa. I will be working closely with the high school and middle school students. I am looking forward to helping students find their voice and develop their personal credos. My hobbies include cooking, board games, card games, and weightlifting. I enjoy reading Kierkegaard and Aristotle. I also love all manner of sports and can often be found watching Milwaukee Bucks games.

We are both excited to be able to offer the Coming of Age class to students in grades 6-12; David will be the main facilitator. Deb will be mainly in charge of the younger children with the great help of Nicole Brew and Megan Perrine for preschool children. They are planning some new structured and more planned activities. We also plan to utilize a wonderful group of other volunteers. New curriculums will be initiated for the K-grade 2 and grade 3-5 groups.

You will see us after the service on September 8 so that we may talk about the program and invite volunteers to sign up to help the RE program. We will have registration for all children in the program. David has also put forms on Google Docs so parents and volunteers can complete forms there. Thanks to David's great computer skills we will be able to utilize the platforms for various forms and information.

Call for Photos—Water Images Wanted

CUUF is creating two informational posters about UU values and traditions. We plan to feature WATER in the posters, and hope the images will come from members of our Fellowship and from our own water-rich landscape.

Images may be of water alone, or water plus sky, or water plus rocks. We seek simple images of both still water and moving water. In fact, we plan to use one of each. The ideal images will not have high contrast as they will be used as a background behind text. Images may have a landscape or portrait orientation, though images will be cropped for use in portrait-shaped posters. Only photos taken in the local landscape will be considered. See the front page of this newsletter for an example.

Photos should be shot with a high-definition setting. Please leave photos raw; please do not alter the files before submitting images for consideration. The deadline for submissions is September 25th.

Please submit images by e-mail to Copy That: PrintThat@CopyThatAshland.com. If your file is too large to e-mail contact Copy That by phone at 715-682-6567. Thank you!

Hospitality—Information and Schedule

Here is the fall CUUF Hospitality Schedule! Hospitality is a great reason to stick around and enjoy conversation after the service with fellow members.

Please note that each year we create a schedule with all CUUF families to help share in the hospitality duties. If you cannot be there on the Sunday you are scheduled, please contact someone else on the schedule to switch Sundays, and be sure to inform the contact person of the change.

Hospitality time is not meant to be a Sunday brunch. We provide coffee and juice and share food—baked treats, breads, fruits, vegetables, cheese, crackers, etc.

There has been a bit of a change this year as we will be purchasing coffee from Northland College's dining service; therefore, volunteers will no longer need to make the coffee, put out sugar/creamer, and clean the cups. A little refresher for those of us still on summer brain—the person assigned as contact person brings snacks and prepares the table. The other two assigned families bring snacks and assist with clean up. If you are unsure of what to do, please refer to the CUUF Hospitality Host Information Sheet on our website at www.chequamegonuuf.org.

Thank you!
Jim and Betsy Matzinger

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>
September 8	Linda & Ed Calhan 715-682-0446	Betsy & Jim Matzinger 847-651-6738	Christel Sketch/Zach Jurewicz 715-685-2733
September 22	Megan and Mark Perrine 715-781-4122	Donn & Ann Christensen 715-373-5013	Ashley Smith 715-209-8200
October 13	Nicole & Alan Brew 715-746-2224	Deb & Bob Aaron 715-373-0201	Karen Ruedi Crowell 715-373-2524
October 27	Jacki Rae-Ledin & Terry Ledin 715-373-0347	Jen and Jeff Banowetz 715-373-5025	Volunteer Needed
November 10	Mary Rehwald 715-682-4662	Chris and Norm Engstrom 715-292-6448	Warren Kehn 715-681-0447
November 24	Kathy & Kent Tenney 715-685-2577	Irene Blakely 715-373-2907	Kristi Kiel 715-292-6219
December 8	Julie Sorensen 715-209-4998	Brad Lemire 715-209-2510	Volunteer Needed

December 15 – Holiday Service potluck to which everyone contributes.

Congratulations to Jim and Betsy Matzinger

In August, CUUF members Betsy and Jim Matzinger were honored with the 2019 BRICK Builder Award, which recognizes their volunteer work and time spent serving customers and stocking shelves in the Ashland food pantry. Jim, who also picks up “rescued” foods from donor partners Super One, Kwik Trip, and Walmart, has just completed his term on the BRICK Board.

Betsy and Jim have set a high bar for engagement in local social justice. They are active with Faith in Action and take their walks with an added purpose to pick up trash and debris.

As CUUF Hospitality Captains, they organize our post-service hospitality table and obtain necessary supplies. Thank you, Betsy and Jim, for all you do for our community and for the CUUF.

—Submitted by Linda Calhan

From the Minister's Desk—Welcome Back

I have been thinking about transitions and change these late summer days. My son, Nick, married his sweetheart, Laura, the first Saturday in August, and I had the honor of presiding at their vows. As I watched Nick march up the center aisle to begin the ceremony, all beaming smiles of joy, I had flashes of the little tow-headed boy skipping toward the school bus 30 years ago for his first day of school. I barely contained the flood of emotion—that strange kind of sweet-sadness and tearful joy over all the days now gone alongside the billowing joy for happiness now. The song “Sunrise, Sunset” from *Fiddler on the Roof* came to mind in that moment. I could have sung it (but wisely didn’t).

Is this the girl I carried, is this the little boy at play?
I don’t remember growing older, when did they?

And,

Sunrise, Sunset
Swiftly fly the years.
One season following another
Laden with happiness and tears.

It probably seems corny, but you’ve had those moments too I suspect. It’s those moments when one’s life comes sharply into focus, including all the changes that define the contours of our lives.

Change, as Heraclitus said, is the only constant. And, change evokes a hint of grief as well as gratitude for what has been and is no more, even as change invites anticipation of what shall yet be.

I think of this as parents ready children for a new year of school and as educators make their teaching plans. Northland College students have arrived by now and some are off to their outdoor orientation adventures, while faculty members gather again from their summer research and renewal. I think of this as we begin a new season of celebration as a Fellowship, bearing one another’s joys and concerns amidst the inevitable changes that come to our lives and to our community. Changes and transitions chart the course of every life. The fall of the year particularly calls our attention to change and to all the emotions and thoughts that accompany transitions.

We welcome change as a friend. Change offers the opportunity for growth and for finding new paths to explore and adventures ahead. We also welcome change as the occasion for sorrow. I have taught the subject of grief and loss for many years now, and I have come to know how essential it is to acknowledge the reality of grief when loss occasions change. We said good-bye to one of our Fellowship stalwarts this past July, Mike Crowell. Mike and Karen have been such constants for this little church through the years. Those changes are hard. Other friends face challenging changes in health or in circumstances that occasion difficult choices. Let us be mindful of them, supporting and assisting as we are able. And let us encourage one another so that no one has to face their days ahead alone.

At Mike’s memorial service we read from his favorite novel, *Moby Dick*. The narrator of that classic, Ishmael, survived the madness of Captain Ahab, the uncontrollable power and mystery of the great, white whale, and the terror of the Pequod’s shipwreck. He lived to tell the story. Maybe telling the stories of our own voyages and searches is the way we too temper the seas of our lives, shipwrecks and all. We cannot avoid the tempests and storms and unpredictable powers that toss us about in our little boats, but we can live to tell the stories. We can also listen to other’s discoveries and so find solidarity with one another in the journeys of our time on earth.

I believe that’s what our Fellowship is for—to learn from the deep wells and stories of the world’s wisdom traditions; to hear from the artists and philosophers who have tried to wring a sense of meaning from their observations; to listen to the earth and earth’s creatures as we travel daily ‘round the sun; to listen carefully to each other with respect; and to listen to our own lives. So we gather again, with all our joys and concerns and with the courage and love that sustain us through the changes and transitions of our lives.

Call for Poems

Our August gathering at Memorial Park featured poetry and many, many folks from our fellowship brought along their favorite poems to read. Afterwards someone suggested that I print a list of the poems and their authors in an upcoming newsletter so that folks can go back and reread them if they'd like to. So! If you read a poem at our August gathering, please send me the title and author. And if you read a poem and it's not too long, feel free to email the entire poem to me and I'll see if it will fit in the next newsletter.

I'll start us off with a poem that was read by Mike Storms. Thanks Mike!

To live content with small means,
to seek elegance rather than luxury, and
refinement rather than fashion;
to be worthy not popular, and
wealthy not rich;
To study hard, think quietly, talk gently, act frankly;
to listen to stars and birds, to babes and sages
with open heart;
to bear all cheerfully, do all bravely,
await occasion, hurry never.
In fewer words, to let the spiritual, unbidden and unconscious
grow up through the common.
May this be our life's symphony.
—Anonymous

Unitarian Universalism's Six Sources of Inspiration and Spiritual Growth

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven 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 six sources our congregations affirm and promote:

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;

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;

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

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

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;

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.

Rev. Kathleen Rolenz said, “Throughout history, we have moved to the rhythms of mystery and wonder, prophecy, wisdom, teachings from ancient and modern sources, and nature herself.”

Seventh Principle Column

We've tried a Go Green Column in the past... let's try a Seventh Principle Column! We would love to hear from an ever-changing set of member writers with articles addressing our Seventh Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Here is an article from George Bussey to get us started.

MY VIEW ON THE CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUE

by George Bussey

I presented the following points to the Price Country Board of Supervisors at their August meeting. If we all take just little steps, perhaps we will move forward.

PRIORITIES:

Health care is important, but it's not a major problem for everyone. Many of us are doing just fine. Racial issues are not a problem for everyone. Over or under regulation is not a problem for everyone. Immigration issues are not a problem for everyone. Law enforcement issues, like all of these issues, are important, but are not a problem for every individual.

BUT EVERY ONE OF US IS SUBJECT TO THE MULTIPLE THREATS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

So unless I'm almost dead, and leaving no one behind, it's time to act.

AFFORDABILITY:

Too many of us just don't have the money to buy an e-car, install solar panels, or put in heat pumps.

Affordability is a key issue in our battle with climate change.

Therefore it will take collective effort.

That means that our governmental bodies must act.

That means that our governmental bodies must act.

NON-PARTISANSHIP:

We cannot afford political divisions on this issue. We are definitely all in this together.

There IS a powerful contribution that absolutely everyone and every governmental body can afford and prioritize. Be an example.

BE AN EXAMPLE: for our communities, for our children, for our grandchildren. BE AN EXAMPLE.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Save the Date—Border Justice Event—October 13

What began as a small group of people searching for a path of action in response to injustice at our southern border has, through greater community involvement, become the Chequamegon Border Justice Coalition. We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting a community education and engagement event about border justice at the United Presbyterian Congregational Church on Sunday, October 13, from 1:30-5:00 p.m.

The goal of the event is to broaden our base, identify directions for action, and bring people together to identify resources and skills in pursuing these actions. Our keynote speaker is Nate Roter from RAICES, the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services located in Texas. Current plans for breakout sessions, subject to change, (45 minutes each, offered twice) on the topics of Sponsorship, Advocacy, First Person Accounts, Effective Giving, and Direct Action.

More details will be coming soon. We hope you'll save the date and help us spread the word. Contact David Saetre or Diane Koosed at koolake@gmail.com for more information.

—Submitted by Diane Koosed



MORE... IN OUR COMMUNITY

Our Whole Lives

Our Whole Lives (5th and 6th Grades): Gathering Interest

How can we raise our families in a culture that is deeply conflicted about sexuality? How can we help our children develop strong values in a world that seems to be saturated with mixed messages and misinformation about sexuality and these values?

We are seeking interested parents and caregivers to offer Our Whole Lives, a faith-based sexuality course, to 5th and 6th graders this fall. We need a minimum of twelve children to be able to offer the course; it will be limited to twenty participants.

As parents/caregivers of a 5th or 6th grader, you will first be invited to attend a parents' meeting to learn more about the program and discern whether or not your child(ren) would participate. The date for this meeting will be set once it is confirmed there is enough interest in the course. The parents' meeting is for parents/caregivers only; childcare will be provided as needed.

Contact Katherine Swanson by phone/text 715.292.0269 or e-mail olsonk89@gmail.com to reserve your space or with questions. Respond no later than Friday, September 20.

Course will meet October through December in the youth room of the Presbyterian-Congregational Church in Ashland. The exact dates and time of the course will be determined after the parents' meeting.

We hope you can join us!

Workshop for Caregivers



Caregivers are AMAZING people and Faith In Action has an upcoming workshop to help care givers get the support they need. The Tools for Caregivers workshop will meet every Thursday for six weeks starting on September 19. Class meets from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Enrichment Center, 400 Chapple Avenue, Ashland.

Class is free with workbooks and snacks provided. For more information or to enroll, contact the Ashland County Aging Unit at 715-682-4414.

Please pass the word on to friends. Faith In Action may be able to find some respite care for your loved one while you come to the weekly meeting.

Are you a Caregiver?

Self-identification as a caregiver is an essential first step towards overcoming the overwhelming responsibilities your role entails. Are you caring for a loved one who belongs to one of the categories below?

- People with disabilities
- People with mental illness
- People who are chronically ill (e.g. diabetes, renal failure)
- Older persons who have difficulty coping with daily living
- People who are terminally ill or suffering from life limiting illnesses

If your answer is 'Yes' to any of the above, that makes you a caregiver.

Caregiving involves time, commitment and sacrifice. While the role as a caregiver seems intimidating, you are not alone and there is always help and support available to walk you through the journey.



Join PFLAG on Thursday, September 19, at 6:30 p.m. at the Washburn Cultural Center to learn more about the Equality Act. Guest speaker Glenn Carlson will lead a discussion to help us understand why this piece of legislation is important and what opponents are saying. Glenn will help us develop a caring strategy when we encounter those who are opposed to the Equality Act

Glenn is a former Executive Director of Fair Wisconsin, the state's LGBTQ advocacy group. He currently serves on the Bayfield School Board and the Town of La Pointe Board. He and his husband Michael live year-round on Madeline Island where they own and operate a small business.

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.

The Ashland Chamber Music Society will start the new concert season with Om Shalom Trio playing on Friday, September 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian-Congregational Church in Ashland.



Om Shalom Trio is a group of award-winning World Music artists. They draw on rhythmic and melodic aspects from their Far Eastern and Middle Eastern roots to create a fusion of Indian Classical and Jewish Folk.



**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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