

# *The Open Door Newsletter*

## *April 2020*



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

#### **April 12—Speaker: Stacy Craig—“A Natural Easter”**

Easter is often told as a supernatural story, where the fully human and fully divine anointed one, the Christ, is resurrected from death to guarantee eternal life to all humanity. What happens when we tell the Easter story as a natural story? We dig into the deep roots of ancient spring celebrations that celebrated the transformation of fallen leaves and plants into the humus of life-giving soil. We find the trajectory of hope in the world that happens when ordinary people take action to not let death have the final word or meaninglessness and despair the loudest cry in times of tragedy. Let us come together and share all of the natural wonder of Easter.

View the service at the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship You Tube Channel:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCY04EKR6mCa0SH5QipZiLNg/videos?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCY04EKR6mCa0SH5QipZiLNg/videos?view_as=subscriber)

***Please Note: Fellowship Services are currently being held online. For the April 12 service, follow the link provided in the above service description. Watch your email for information about where to join the April 26 service and also for links to service programs. Information will also be provided at our website: [www.chequamegonuuf.org](http://www.chequamegonuuf.org)***

#### **April 26—Youth-Led Earth Day Service**

Join us for a youth-led service to honor the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. The service will include letters to future generations to celebrate the wonder and awe of our natural world and lament about the need to respond now, with action, to the climate crisis. We come together to realize we are not alone in the work of earth justice and to acknowledge that it takes all of us to be part of the chorus that sustains the work.

Our three youth organizers are: Ella Syverson, a senior at Lake Superior High School, Chequamegon Hub lead for the Youth Climate Action Team, and Interim Outreach Coordinator of 350 Chequamegon Bay; Jenise Swartly, a CUUF Worship Committee member and Facilitator of Community Care Networks at CORE Community Resources; and Stella Banowetz, a senior at Lake Superior High School and member of the Youth Climate Action Team. Ella, Jenise, and Stella will be joined by CUUF youth to lead the service.

Watch your email for details about how to access this service online. Please join us!

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

## CUUF Spring Service Schedule and Upcoming Events

April 5	The Other Sunday (online)	Cancellations! Please note, there will be no UU Women's coffee group and no CUUF office hours until it is safe to once again gather in groups.
April 12	Speaker: Stacy Craig— <i>A Natural Easter</i> (online)	
April 26	Youth-Led Earth Day Service (online)	
May 3	All-Music Service	
May 16	The Great CUUF Garage Sale	
May 17	Speaker: Stacy Craig—Flower Ceremony, Child Dedication, and Graduate Recognition	

Did you miss our online service on March 22? You can find a recording at our CUUF YouTube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCY04EKR6mCa0SH5QipZiLNg?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCY04EKR6mCa0SH5QipZiLNg?view_as=subscriber)

## Chequamegon Bay Community Care

In times like these, I find myself returning to—or maybe desperately clinging to—forms of community that remind us of all that we are capable of when we are engaged in acts of love and care for each other. Over the past few years, the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship has provided me with a community to belong to. For those of you I have not had the privilege to meet, my name is Jenise Swartley. I serve on the CUUF Worship Committee, I am a recent alumna of Northland College, and I currently work at CORE Community Resources as a Facilitator of Community Care Networks.

In response to the emerging needs of our communities as we are affected by the spread of COVID-19, a group of organizers including me, Dani O'Brien, Ella Syverson, Eric Morud, Presley Nuutinen, and others have formed Chequamegon Bay Community Care. This care network is one way that we can return to community to fulfill our needs, to find a sense of meaning and common purpose, and to discover what is possible when we act collectively. While much is uncertain at this time, it is abundantly clear that we will continue to need each other throughout the days, months, and years ahead. Thank you for being a part of this community!

Chequamegon Bay Community Care is here to connect people who can offer support with those who need it throughout the Chequamegon Bay region. We are working in tandem with CORE Community Resources to coordinate volunteers and support requests. To request and/or offer support, visit us at [www.cheqbaycc.org/](http://www.cheqbaycc.org/) or call our support line at 716-262-9679.

We have more than 100 volunteers now offering...

- Pick-up and delivery of groceries, medications, mail, etc.
- Pet sitting and dog walking
- Social support (friendly phone conversations)
- Scheduling assistance (calling doctors and pharmacists)
- Technology assistance
- Homework help

We would greatly appreciate it if you could pass this information along to people you know who may need support—especially those who may not use the computer. Please reach out to us at [communitycare@cheqbaycc.org](mailto:communitycare@cheqbaycc.org) if you have any questions or suggestions. We wish you and yours the best during these challenging and uncertain times.

In community,  
Jenise Swartley

## April 5—The Other Sunday: Processing Transition and Sorrow in a Global Health Crisis

How are you? This most common question becomes one of the most critical when we are going through difficult times.

Join us on Sunday, April 5, from 10-10:40 a.m. for a Zoom web conference. We will share a short reading, discuss what is in our hearts and minds right now, and hold silence for joys and concerns. Here are instructions to join the conversation:

Computer or laptop: click this link at 10 a.m. to join: <https://zoom.us/j/4714361396>

Smart phone or tablet: download the free Zoom app first, then click on the link

By telephone: dial: 1-312-626-6799 US (Chicago)

Enter meeting ID: 471-436-1396

We recommend testing Zoom before the meeting to make sure your sound and camera are working. Visit <https://zoom.us/test>.

In closing, we know that there are a lot of challenges right now, yet we also know we are in this together. Let's keep in touch about how we can support each other.

## From the Minister's Desk—The Best Medicine

“I have no idea what's awaiting me, or what will happen when this all ends. For the moment I know this: there are sick people and they need curing.”

—Albert Camus, *The Plague*

The message at our March 22 online service was about balance. One of the additional ways I'm trying to find balance is to give my body, soul, and mind as much nourishment as possible to cope with the stress of a global health crisis. I am committed to getting good rest, walking every morning, and eating fresh fruits and vegetables. I have a good supply of echinacea tea and Emergen-C packets. Yet I realize there is a much stronger medicine in my midst.

One of my spiritual teachers recently asked me to name my medicine. Each of us has a unique gift, a balm for the world, and a healing power that only we can bring to our community. My medicine, I believe, is an inexhaustible spring of optimism. This isn't an optimism that chirps everything is great. It's the optimism that says we can be whole, despite the ways our lives are fractured and fragmented by loss and violence, the ways good dreams get shattered, and the constant rebuilding when things fall apart. Some experiences I've gone through robbed me of this medicine for a time, but it always came back to flow through me into others.

There is much healing needed in the world right now. We need to heal denial. We need to heal anxiety. We need to provide a healing balm to our healthcare workers in the form of medical supplies they need to stay protected. I dearly hope that by the time this article is published we will have found a solution for the shortage of masks for healthcare workers. Whatever medicine you bring to the world—humor, creativity, persuasive rhetoric, care for others—there is an open wound waiting to receive it.

At our services when we extinguish our chalice, we remind each other of the living light that we carry forward within us. Thomas Merton says it this way: “There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun.” This is a good time to take a moment to get in touch with the ways you bring healing to the world, and let it shine, shine, shine.

In care,  
Stacy Craig

## Donations Without The Basket

The Fellowship anticipates a significant drop in contributions due to member hardship and lack of service collections. CUUF expenses are approximately \$2,500 per month. If necessary, we will use CUUF reserves for minister and staff wages plus other necessary expenditures.

Our priority is to support each other and the wider community in every possible way. We will stay connected through on-line services, our newsletter, e-mail announcements, posters, and social media. Especially now, we are all on the Caring Committee, and we all share the responsibilities of Pastoral Care.

As your circumstances permit, here are four ways you can make “Donations Without The Basket”:

1. Mail a check directly to our Ashland post office box (address below).
2. If you use on-line bill paying at your bank or credit union, add the CUUF account number and mailing address to your payee list. You can then make a one-time donation or set up recurring payments and a check for the full amount will be mailed to the Fellowship.
3. You can make one-time or recurring Automated Clearing House (ACH) transfers from your account to the Fellowship’s Bremer Bank checking account (also called e-checks, Zelle, or peer-to-peer payments). Use the CUUF account and bank routing number below and the funds will be transferred directly, generally with no fee.
4. Use the Donate button on our website or after logging into your PayPal account. Payment may come from your PayPal balance, a credit card, or directly from your bank account. PayPal charges us the nonprofit rate of 2.9% plus \$0.30 per transaction and funds go directly into our PayPal account. The original contribution amount (before the PayPal fee) will be what the Fellowship records as your donation.

Here’s what you need to set things up:

### CUUF Checking Account

Bremer Bank  
31 West Bayfield St.  
Washburn, WI 54891  
CUUF Account # 953950  
Bank Routing # 096010415

### CUUF Mailing Address

PO Box 641  
Ashland WI 54806-0641

If you have questions or would like more information, please call me at 715-682-0446 or send an email to [treasurer@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:treasurer@chequamegonuuf.org).

Sincerely, Ed Calhan

## Religious Education News

We never know what the future may bring. This has been a truly unbelievable crisis for people all over the world. Some of us have to be extra vigilant about our health at this time.

Parents may want to go to [uua.org/bookstore](http://uua.org/bookstore) where you will find a selection of books to browse that may be an addition to your child’s education on Unitarian Universalist concepts and beliefs. Another website that may be helpful for you is [questformeaning.org/programs/familyquest](http://questformeaning.org/programs/familyquest). There are activities, blogs etc. geared to families with children.

Due to the virus, we have decided to indefinitely postpone the retreat planned for our middle and high school students. We welcome suggestions for possible future activities. While Deb feels less competent in computer skills, David has good knowledge of them and maybe we can do something online in the future.

We hope to devise an online survey for parents sometime in the near future. This survey will help us plan for programming for the next CUUF year.

We had hoped to have an Easter egg hunt to raise some funds for the CHA. We have a small amount of money that was donated at the March 8 service. We will decide what will happen with that in the near future.

Stay well, and we hope this will be a time of closeness and growth within your family.

Deb Aaron and David Skogan, Religious Education co-directors

## Safer at Home: A Conversation With Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes

Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes held a phone call with Wisconsin faith leaders to clarify the Safer At Home Emergency Order and its impact on churches and fellowships. He first clarified that the order is set to expire at 8 a.m. on Friday, April 24. This date can be amended based on what happens with the spread of COVID-19 in the state, but while it is in effect, gatherings of any kind (except for essential businesses) are limited to ten people or fewer. In response to this, we are planning for online services for our April 12 and April 26 services.

The point of this order is to slow the spread of this virus, and to make it effective, we really, really encourage you to stay home during this time. Only go to the store or other places for critical needs. Walking and playing outdoors is absolutely recommended! It's important to know that people do not need any special papers or permission to go out, and that essential businesses do not need special permission to stay operating. However, there is a \$250 fine for not complying with this order, and this is in place so that this important time of social distancing is enforceable.

One of the difficult implications of this rule is for weddings and funerals. Many people are rescheduling spring weddings, but funerals are more difficult. I mention this not to increase anxiety about loss but because I want people to be aware of this reality. Even the most sacred of our gatherings need to be done with care for each other's wellbeing.

Lt. Governor Barnes also prepared us for the likelihood of seeing an increase in positive cases of COVID-19 in Wisconsin, and this is primarily due to increased testing being available. If you see increases in the next week, the goal is not to panic, but to be grateful because finding out who is testing positive is a good thing so that they don't spread it to others.

Food banks, disability services, and related public services that churches and faith-based organizations manage are still allowed to fully operate. Many community support programs which serve people who are homeless had to close, and the state has allocated funding to support options for food and shelter. Many church groups have asked about how to provide food to their community, and the organization Feeding Wisconsin has provided a training program about how to do this safely at <https://feedingwi.org/programs/trainings/>

One of the questions one participant asked was about their community members who wintered in one area and were planning to return to Wisconsin for the spring and summer. The state cannot restrict interstate travel, but they recommend that anyone moving from one area to another self-quarantine for 14 days.

The call was a great chance to get updates and ask questions, and we are committed to passing these on to you.

—Stacy

## Call for CUUF Musicians, Story Tellers, Dancers, and Other Talented Folks!

Jan Lee will be our guest musician for the CUUF All-Music Service on Sunday, May 3, at 10 a.m. in the Alvord Theatre on the Northland College campus. Many of us know Jan through her leadership and performances with StageNorth Theatre and as a singer/songwriter for Big Top Chautauqua shows.

An important part of the All-Music Service includes participation from the membership of our Fellowship. Please consider sharing your talent with us—this service features more than just music! For more information about participating, or if you need a pep talk and encouragement, please contact a member of the CUUF Music Committee:

Linda Calhan [music@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:music@chequamegonuuf.org)  
Megan Perrine [markperrine54@gmail.com](mailto:markperrine54@gmail.com)

Karyn Watters [karynwatters@gmail.com](mailto:karynwatters@gmail.com)  
Kristin Quinlan [krstnquinlan@gmail.com](mailto:krstnquinlan@gmail.com)

## Poetry Pages

### Pandemic

—by Lynn Ungar

What if you thought of it  
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—  
the most sacred of times?  
Cease from travel.  
Cease from buying and selling.  
Give up, just for now,  
on trying to make the world  
different than it is.  
Sing. Pray. Touch only those  
to whom you commit your life.  
Center down.

And when your body has become still,  
reach out with your heart.  
Know that we are connected  
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.  
(You could hardly deny it now.)  
Know that our lives  
are in one another's hands.  
(Surely, that has come clear.)  
Do not reach out your hands.  
Reach out your heart.  
Reach out your words.  
Reach out all the tendrils  
of compassion that move, invisibly,  
where we cannot touch.  
Promise this world your love--  
for better or for worse,  
in sickness and in health,  
so long as we all shall live.

—Submitted by Diane Koosed

### Hold the Note

—by Ella Syverson

When the water needed protecting, I was there  
When the forest was under threat, I spoke for the trees  
When the air was at risk, I used every breath to protest

And sometimes it didn't work  
Sometimes the pipeline was built  
And the oil was spilt  
And the water polluted with plastic and poison  
And the air filled with smoke  
From the fires started by Exxon and Enbridge  
So thick that your eyes burned  
And you can't breathe the air  
For it tastes of despair  
And you can't hold the weight of the world

So my burning eyes wept  
Hopeless, worried, and spent  
For the world that I see in collapse  
That's when you, bright eyed and full of fire  
Began to sing a song

The same song I sang when I protected the water  
And spoke for the trees  
And used my breath for protest  
And now I hear that it was never my voice alone  
Because it takes a choir to sustain a note  
It takes a choir to maintain hope  
And many voices to change the world

When we sing together  
Sing a song of peace and justice  
A song of love and nature  
A song that says earth is sacred and water is life  
A song that says we are united and we will fight  
When we sing together  
It is not me who protects the water, it is we  
It is not me who speaks for the trees, it is we  
It is not me who rises in protest, it is we  
And when one voice falters or loses hope  
Another will be there to hold the note

### The Days of Quarantine

—by Glenn Caslick

No shaken hand,  
No gathered crowd,  
A frown to those who cough aloud.  
No public place is seen as clean,  
So come the days of quarantine.

Beyond the masks and sanitizer,  
Day by day a small bit wiser.  
No cure in hoarding toilet papyrus,  
Onward spreads Corona virus.

Wash your hands, then wash again.  
Stand 3 feet from foe and 6 from friend.  
Work from home, or stay away,  
Guard your health and life this way.  
Around the globe a troubled scene,  
So come the days of quarantine.

—submitted by Linda Calhan

## Lockdown

—by Brother Richard Hendrick,  
a Capuchin Franciscan living in Ireland

Yes there is fear.  
Yes there is isolation.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
Yes there is sickness.  
Yes there is even death.  
But,  
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise  
You can hear the birds again.  
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet  
The sky is no longer thick with fumes  
But blue and grey and clear.  
They say that in the streets of Assisi  
People are singing to each other  
across the empty squares,  
keeping their windows open  
so that those who are alone  
may hear the sounds of family around them.  
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland  
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.  
Today a young woman I know  
is busy spreading fliers with her number  
through the neighbourhood  
So that the elders may have someone to call on.  
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples  
are preparing to welcome  
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary  
All over the world people are slowing down and  
reflecting

All over the world people are looking at their  
neighbours in a new way  
All over the world people are waking up to a new  
reality  
To how big we really are.  
To how little control we really have.  
To what really matters.  
To Love.  
So we pray and we remember that  
Yes there is fear.  
But there does not have to be hate.  
Yes there is isolation.  
But there does not have to be loneliness.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
But there does not have to be meanness.  
Yes there is sickness.  
But there does not have to be disease of the soul.  
Yes there is even death.  
But there can always be a rebirth of love.  
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.  
Today, breathe.  
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic  
The birds are singing again  
The sky is clearing,  
Spring is coming,  
And we are always encompassed by Love.  
Open the windows of your soul  
And though you may not be able  
to touch across the empty square,  
Sing.

—submitted by Megan Perrine

## Dance Idea for At Home

To help keep people dancing at home, The Dance for PD organization in New York has made their archive of streamed classes available online. This free web site provides a way to move to music while you are at home during the pandemic: <https://danceforparkinsons.org/dance-at-home>. This is a good alternative for any of us elders not being able to move to music with a group during the pandemic.

—submitted by Mary Rehwald

## PFLAG Update

Hello to all from the Washburn Chapter of PFLAG. In keeping with the guidelines of the CDC and PFLAG National, we are suspending public meetings until further notice.

If you need to talk with someone about any PFLAG-related issue, please find a list of contact info for supporting organizations on our website: [pflagwashburn.org](http://pflagwashburn.org). You can also reach out on our Facebook page as the need arises for you. A PFLAG board member is the Facebook private page administrator.

Nancy Hanson (715) 209-1100 is the chapter leader. Feel free to contact us through phone or Facebook. Social distancing is not the same as social isolation; therefore, let's make at least one or two phone calls per week checking in with someone who might be feeling particularly alone right now. "Hey, how are you doing?" can mean a lot. Then save some time to listen. Our phone calls can be life giving! The best to you all.

Sincerely, Nancy Hanson and the board members of PFLAG Washburn

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