

The Open Door Newsletter

February 2020



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

February 9—Speaker: Stacy Craig—*“Who is Spirit Sophia? Ancient Expressions of the Divine for Today's World”*

The Abrahamic religions, which include Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, have no female divinity. This is unique among world religions. Yet there is an evocative and explicitly female symbol for God in their sacred texts: Wisdom Sophia. Gnostic writings also include references to Sophia as Eternal Silence, which preceded the creation of the earth and universe. Who is Spirit Sophia? At this service, we will explore how historians and theologians are returning to ancient texts to understand our relationship with the divine and the earth as we seek to understand how to live into some of the pressing questions of our time.

Folk harpist Glenn Walker Johnson will provide special music at this service. Please join us!

February 23—Speaker: Mary Dougherty—*“Earn Your Name: Caring for the World Within Your Arm's Reach ”*

What does it mean to ‘earn your name’ in a culture that is becoming increasingly untethered and chaotic? How will you care for the world within your arm's reach? What echoes from your life will remain after you walk on from this place? These are the questions Mary Dougherty is exploring in 2020, and she'll share portions of the essay *A Counsel of Resistance and Delight in the Face of Fear* by Martin Shaw as the jumping off point for this discussion. These are big questions; however, if we do as Frederick Buechner suggests and find our vocation (or name) at “the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet,” we'll be on our way to finding some of the answers.

Mary Dougherty is a mother, author of the Lake Superior-based cookbook and memoir *Life in a Northern Town*, the creator of the Words for Water photography project, and a community organizer. She is the Executive Director of CORE Community Resources in Bayfield and the co-founder of Farms Not Factories, a grassroots group formed in response to a proposal for a 26,000-hog factory farm in the Chequamegon Bay watershed.

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

CUUF Winter and Spring Service Schedule and Upcoming Events

February 2	The Other Sunday—Candlemas: Exploring Celtic Traditions
February 9	Speaker: Stacy Craig— <i>Who is Spirit Sophia? Ancient Expressions of the Divine for Today's World</i>
February 16	UU Women meet at Café Coco at 10 a.m.
February 18	Wisconsin Spring Primary—Vote!
February 23	Speaker: Mary Dougherty— <i>Earn Your Name: Caring for the World Within Your Arm's Reach</i>
March 8	Speaker: Jodi Supanich—Buddhism
March 15	UU Women meet at Café Coco at 10 a.m.
March 22	Speaker: Stacy Craig—New Member Service
April 12	Speaker: Stacy Craig—Easter Service
April 19	UU Women meet at Café Coco at 10 a.m.
April 26	Youth Speakers—Earth Day Celebration
May 3	All-Music Service
May 10	UU Women meet at Café Coco at 10 a.m.
May 17	Speaker: Stacy Craig—Flower Ceremony, Child Dedication, and Graduate Recognition

The Other Sunday—Candlemas: Exploring Celtic Traditions

February 2 is a cross-quarter day, which means we are halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. Observing the cycles of the year has been an important social, cultural, and agricultural practice in both ancient and modern times. February 2 is known as Candlemas in the Celtic tradition, Imbolc in pagan and neopagan communities, and Groundhog Day in the United States. The Celtic tradition, including Celtic Christianity, continues to observe and celebrate the cycles of the year as important times to acknowledge transitions in the earth, in our own lives, and in our spiritual journey.

Join us on February 2 at 10 a.m. in the Alvord Theater of Northland's Ponzio Center for The Other Sunday lecture and discussion to learn about Candlemas and observing the cycles of the year. We will discuss ways to celebrate "February Eve" and acknowledge the gifts and challenges of the changing seasons. While we don't have Religious Education on The Other Sunday, this session will be a family-friendly event. Please contact Stacy Craig with questions at stacymariecraig@gmail.com.

Needed—Choir Director

Information gleaned from the recent CUUF survey indicates that CUUF members are interested in singing in and listening to a choir of our own members. We have the voices, but we need a leader. If you are willing and eager to direct a choir of enthusiastic singers, please contact Linda Calhan at music@chequamegonuuf.org or at 715-682-0446. The Music Committee will help organize four rehearsals and will assist with the choice of repertoire. Accompanist will be provided. Performance goal will be to perform at the All-Music Service on Sunday, May 3.

—Submitted by the Music Committee

Needed—Help with Sound System

CUUF Sunday services in the Alvord Theatre use Northland's built-in sound system. It works well, is easy to use, gives us the option of using wired or wireless microphones, and lets us make recordings that are clear and understandable.

The Fellowship needs more folks to get acquainted with how it works and how to set it up for a basic, one-microphone service. Find out where our sound equipment is stored, set it up, relax and enjoy the service, then put it away. That's it.

For more information, please contact Ed Calhan at elcalhan@centurytel.net or 715-682-0446.

From the Minister's Desk—The Art of Subtraction

Spring, summer, and fall I track the phenology of the seasons: the first trillium, first monarch, first strawberry. My winter journal is pretty blank except for pruning the apple and cherry trees, raspberries, and blueberries. I know from my winter walks that the birch trees are dropping their lower branches and the deer's fat reserves are dwindling. While it may be hard to see, there is change happening around us. This is a season of letting go.

As spirituality has grown in the past few decades, it has taken on what Franciscan Richard Rohr calls spiritual consumerism: learning more spiritual ideas, earning merit, attaining enlightenment, or having more will power. The message is you have to do more if you want to be involved with religion or spirituality. The German theologian and mystic Meister Eckhart wrote about spirituality being more about subtraction than addition. The spiritual art of subtraction, he says, is about letting go of a busy mind, about not living in the past or future, or in regret or fear.

When I started seminary, I was on a non-profit leadership track called Social Transformation. I was not planning to become a minister. Yet I was in a seminary, examining spiritual formation, reflecting on concepts like the beloved community, and learning the stories of the Hebrew Bible. Without realizing it, I began to change. I remember distinctly a conversation with a neighbor who was really stressed out. As I listened, I realized that at one time, I had had the same concerns. Somewhere along the path of being in caring communities, spending time reflecting on mystical and contemplative traditions, developing a mindfulness practice, and switching to a mindset of “to be is greater than to do”, my life had become simpler. It became simpler at a time when it was at its most complex as I worked full time, went to school full time, and went through some of the most difficult times in my personal life.

My story mirrors dozens that I have heard from other people, and follows what many religious thinkers have written about for centuries. At the March 22 service, we will celebrate new members joining the fellowship. Our fellowship relies on an engaged and active community to flourish, yet becoming a member is not just about doing something more. The first step, in my mind, is to be open to the possibility of letting some things go. This is the lesson of the season, and it is a gift that I have received and that I hope to share with others. The goal of our work together is that it is generative, or that it creates more than it depletes. This has been my experience working with CUUF in Religious Education and now in the role as minister.

Please reach out to me or Kristin and Henry Quinlan for more information on exploring if CUUF membership is right for you at this time. Hopefully by our March New Member Service, we'll either have enough snow that I can snowshoe over the garden fence, or less snow so I can open the gate to get to the fruit trees and bushes that need pruning.

—Stacy

Don't Forget—We Have an Office and Office Hours

We have an office on the third floor of the Vaughn Library in Ashland, room 309. Adam and Stacy meet there fairly regularly on Mondays from 4-5 p.m. If you have something you need to discuss with them, feel free to drop by. Of course, it might be best to contact Adam first to make sure the meeting is a go.

You can contact Adam at 651-303-6931.



Religious Education News

In celebration of St. Valentine, K-6 children will be doing a Valentine's craft during the February 9 Religious Education class.

Plans for a spring retreat for middle and high school youth are being explored. We hope that there will be some interest in an overnight gathering later in March or in early April.

If parents have any ideas for activities or books, feel free to contact Deb Aaron or David Skogen.



Treasurer's Report—Financial Status Update

As most of you know, contributions to the Fellowship last year were \$10,000 less than expenses. The shortfall was met with savings and reserves and the last of our Chalice Lighters grant, but it was clear this could only be a short-term solution. The CUUF Board response was to significantly reduce the current year's budget, focusing on our core activities of Sunday Services, Religious Education, Community Action, and Pastoral Care. In addition, all members and friends were encouraged to make a pledge of financial support for the 2019-20 service year and current contributors were asked to increase their donations by approximately 5%.

Now that we are halfway through this service year, here are some comparisons:

- The current year budget was reduced by 14%, from \$55,535 to \$47,536. In 2018-19, our budget was \$53,626.
- Pledged contributions to date are \$36,575 (77% of budget) compared to \$23,405 (44% of budget) at this time last year.
- We have received 57% of this year's pledged contributions to date, compared to receiving 64% of last year's pledged contributions at this time last year.

Total income to date is \$26,077 (55% of budget) compared to \$20,167 (38% of budget) at this time last year. Historically, about half of our yearly donations are received by the end of December. If this trend holds, our income will be approximately \$52,154 when this service year ends on June 31, 2020. This will give us a small surplus we can use to cover budget item overspending and restore some of the cuts made to our annual Northland College donation and our Unitarian Universalist Association Fair Share membership dues. If donations and pledged income do not continue at this higher rate for the next six months, the CUUF Board may need to further reduce spending.

We are off to a sound fiscal start for this year and the Fellowship is deeply grateful to all who have made new pledges and increased their contributions. If you have not yet pledged, please consider doing so, and if you can manage an additional donation it will be used thoughtfully and effectively to further the mission of the Fellowship.

If you have questions or would like additional information on CUUF finances, please talk to a board member or contact Ed Calhan at treasurer@chequamegonuuf.org or 715-682-0446.

—Ed Calhan, CUUF Treasurer

UU Women's Group

UU Women will meet at Café Coco on Sunday, February 16, at 10 a.m. Please join us for food, coffee, and casual conversation. UU Women's Group is open to anyone who identifies as a woman in a way that is significant to them. For more information, contact Jill at jilljlorenz@gmail.com.

UU Men's Group

UU Men's Group has not been meeting. If you miss this group, get in touch with Stacy to express your interest.



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>
February 9	Jan Perkins 715-373-5585	Julia & Hans Veenendaal 715-373-0361	Madeline Lee 303-319-5338 Diane Koosed 503-799-1239
February 23	Karyn Watters & Lee Stadnyk 715-682-6589	Kelsey & Todd Rothe 715-278-3383	Lindy Howe 651-343-2124
March 8	Kim Suske 715-373-5931	Courtney Remacle 920-860-6234	Angela Stroud & Cynthia Belmont 715-682-9155
March 22	Erin & Will Schlager 612-741-7970	Monica Lee & Matt Horning 218-591-7007	Aistis Tumas & Megan Salmon-Tumas
April 12	Beth Reed & Doug Liphart 715-682-8385	Deb & Jeff Lewis 715-682-5686	Volunteer needed
April 26	Heidi & Jeff Ungrodt 715-682-0103	Jo & Mike Bailey 715-779-9712	Volunteer needed
May 3	Youth parents providing treats	Youth parents	Youth parents
May 17	Sue & Roger Aiken 715-779-3579	Adam Haecker 651-303-6031	Marilyn Einspanier 715-372-5103 George Bussey 203-536-6990

Circle Suppers

Here is the schedule for the Circle Suppers for February 29, 2020. Please note the date change for Group I. If you have any questions, please contact Lee Stadnyk at wrfarm@cheqnet.net or 715-765-4555. Please note: Hosts provide entrée, other dish is a suggestion.

<u>Group I Participants</u>	<u>Sunday, March 1</u>	<u>Please Bring</u>
Karen Crowell—host*		Entrée
Jo & Mike Bailey (gluten free)		Side
Bob & Deb Aaron (vegetarian)		Salad
Mary Rehwald		Dessert
Linda & Ed Calhan (vegetarian)		Side
Julia & Hans Veenendaal		Bread

*33675 Frostman Road, Washburn

<u>Group II Participants</u>	<u>Please Bring</u>
George/Dorota Bussey/Lewis Kubicek—hosts*	Entrée
Deb & Jeff Lewis (gluten free)	Side
Madeleine Lee	Salad
Jim & Betsy Matzinger	Bread
Emily Schlager & Brian Clements	Dessert

*46829 Benson Road, Ashland

<u>Group III Participants</u>	<u>Please Bring</u>
Stacy & Alan Craig—hosts*	Entrée
Lee Stadnyk	Bread
Karyn Watters	Dessert
Kristin & Henry Quinlan	Salad
Mark & Megan Perrine	Side

*58870 Noid Road, Mason



The next PFLAG meeting is Tuesday, March 31, at 6:30 p.m. at the Washburn Cultural Center.

March 31 is Trans Day of Visibility. Transgender people have always existed, albeit outside the focus of public attention. With the growth of transgender visibility, what does it mean to raise a transgender or gender-expansive child today? Let's dispel myths, ask questions, and learn more about how we can support the next generation of LGBTQ+ people!

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.

Support the BRICK Food Shelf Regularly!

Giving is a habit. Let's get into the habit of regular support of The BRICK Ministries food shelf in Ashland by bringing non-perishable items to every worship service. Let's make 2020 a year of giving! The USDA defines "food insecurity" as the lack of access (at times) to enough food for all household members. In 2017, an estimated 15 million households were food insecure. That's 40 million neighbors who go hungry in the richest nation. The need for nutritious food and household food security in the Chequamegon Bay region is higher than the national average. Let's do more to meet that need with regular giving. For more information or to volunteer, contact Melodie Phipps at melodiephipps@gmail.com. Thank you.

In Our Community—Lectures, Dancing, and Music

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute is hosting three lectures in collaboration with the National Park Service and the Friends of the Apostle Islands. All of the lectures begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute. The two remaining lectures are:

February 6: *Ojibwe Culture and Fire*, by Damon Gezhiibideg Panek.

February 27: *Vegetation Legacies and Change: A Half-century of Stewardship in the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore*, by Sarah Johnson.

There will be a First Friday Dance on February 7 from 7:30-10 p.m. at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute of the Northland Campus. Please note the time change—start time has been moved from 7 to 7:30 and there will no longer be children's dances first. Instead there will be easy dances at the start of the evening. Every dance is taught and called and no prior experience is necessary. You don't need to come with a partner. Dances will include mixers, reels, square dances, contras, and waltzes.

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. All are welcome for this free evening of dancing.

The Ashland Chamber Music Society will present: Bay Area Chamber Ensemble and Friends on Saturday, February 8, at 7:30 pm at the Presbyterian-Congregational Church in Ashland.

The Garland City Chamber Players perform regularly in the Chequamegon Bay area. Check out *Second Sundays at Saron*, held free every second Sunday of the month at Saron Lutheran Church in Ashland (February 9 at 4 p.m.); *Music at the Museum*, held at the Ashland Historic Museum, 216 Main Street West, also free and held every third Saturday of the month (February 15 at 3 p.m.); and, *Music in the Mezzanine*, held every last Sunday of the month at the Historic Ironwood Theater (February 23). For more info, follow the calendar link at <https://www.facebook.com/GarlandCityConsort/>

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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