

The Open Door Newsletter

September 2020



This Month's Fellowship Services

*Currently, all services are being held virtually or outdoors. Please read individual service descriptions for links to online services or locations of in-person services.
Updates may be found at www.chequamegonuuf.org.*

September 12 (Saturday)—“On-the-Water Service”—10 a.m., Long Lake Boat Landing Dock

Our first gathering of the year will be on the water and shores of Long Lake outside of Washburn, WI. As is our custom, we will share our stories of water from the summer as we come back together for our 2020-2021 service year. There are three ways to participate. One, bring a canoe, kayak, or paddleboard to Long Lake to float during the service. Two, bring a chair and participate from the shore. Three, view video and photos from Saturday and add your stories at our online service on Sunday, September 13. We ask that all who attend the On-the-Water Service wear a mask to help protect those who are vulnerable. There will be a microphone to amplify the service.

We will break from tradition and will not bring our own water as it could introduce new organisms into Long Lake. Instead, please bring your individual stories, and we will use water from the lake to add to the collective pitcher. Let us come back together in the best way we know how, with a little splash of fun, care for safety and wellness of all, and reverence for the waters of our home in the Northwoods.

Rain date is Saturday, September 19. For more information and directions, please see page 2 of this newsletter.

September 13—“Ingathering Service”—10 a.m. on Zoom

Like the rivers that flow into Lake Superior, our Annual Water Service calls us from several different watersheds to come together as one body of water. We begin our fall series with stories, meditations, and reflections on water. The oceans are believed to be where all life on earth emerged. In this creation story, water is the powerful and empowering source that brings new life and connects us as an interdependent web to the totality of life. Join us from the Cranberry, the White, the Sioux, the Bad, the Marengo, the Sand, the Bark, the Fish Creek, and all the watersheds of our fellowship to take time to share our stories of water and share reverence for the healing and creativity it brings.

See page 2 of this newsletter for access information for Zoom.

September 27—Speaker: Stacy Craig—“A Spiritual Sense of Place”—10 a.m. on Zoom

There are landscapes across the world that are believed to be thin places, liminal spaces where the veil thins between our empirical world and mystery. From the Hebrides to Madeline Island, experiences of insight, vibration, tranquility, trembling awe, visions, and many other phenomena have been reported across time and cultures at these geographical locations. Join us to explore sacred landscapes and the possibility of finding a spiritual sense of place through relationships with the land.

See page 2 of this newsletter for access information for Zoom.

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

CUUF Fall Service Schedule

September 12	On-the-Water Service, 10 a.m. at Long Lake Boat Landing Dock (note, this is a Saturday)
September 13	Ingathering Service, 10 a.m. on Zoom
September 14	CUUF Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom
September 19	Rain date for the On-the-Water Service
September 20	UU Women's Gathering, 10 a.m. on Zoom
September 27	Speaker: Stacy Craig— <i>A Spiritual Sense of Place</i> —10 a.m. on Zoom
October 4	Save the Date—Our service year's first "Other Sunday"

Please note—If you have an announcement that you would like included in any service, please submit your information to Stacy by the Friday before the service. Her email is minister@chequamegonuuf.org.

September 12 On-the-Water Service Information

Directions to Long Lake: Go west on Wannabo Road (just south of the City of Washburn). Turn right onto Forest Road 435. The service will be at the boat landing on the NW side of the lake.

Launching a boat: Please arrive between 9:00 a.m. and 9:50 a.m. to launch a boat. We will have a team assisting with unloading boats, in a socially distanced manner, at the boat landing. If you would prefer to do a self-launch, you can also park near the beach and launch from the fishing stairs. Once you are launched, we ask that you enjoy some socially distanced floating time while everyone arrives.

Participating from shore: There is room for about 20 distanced chairs on the shore. Arrive any time before 10 a.m. to locate a spot. Parking at the boat landing area will be closest. You can also park at the beach area and walk $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile along the trails to the boat landing.

Fee: CUUF will cover the Daily Use Fee for the service. There is no fee for you to attend.

Safety: We will have designated safety boaters on the water. There will be hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes, and extra masks at the boat launch.

Access information for Zoom meetings for September 2020

In-Gathering Service, Sunday, September 13 at 10 a.m.—Join Zoom Meeting by video:

<https://zoom.us/j/99884149302?pwd=dXZreHZnWUVac3lvbWlsZ0JXNTFWZz09>

Meeting ID: 998 8414 9302—Passcode: CUUF

Or, join by phone: 312-626-6799—Meeting ID: 998 8414 9302—Passcode: 516750

CUUF Board Meeting, Monday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m.—Join Zoom Meeting by video:

<https://zoom.us/j/95508043486?pwd=Y3hyV2RLYzZIZ0QwSkUrYi9GUHJaUT09>

Meeting ID: 955 0804 3486—Passcode: CUUF

Or, join by phone: 312-626-6799—Meeting ID: 955 0804 3486—Passcode: 442222

UU Women's Gathering, Sunday, September 20 at 10 a.m.—Join Zoom Meeting by video:

<https://zoom.us/j/94910308547?pwd=eklzd1BldU1VOXVZUktNSU9hak12UT09>

Meeting ID: 949 1030 8547—Passcode: CUUF

Or, join by phone: 312-626-6799—Meeting ID: 949 1030 8547—Passcode: 428541

CUUF Sunday Service, September 27 at 10 a.m.—Join Zoom Meeting by video:

<https://zoom.us/j/91754281454?pwd=Y1Fkbk5iM05pUmlBT0U1M2FKVjJHUT09>

Meeting ID: 917 5428 1454—Passcode: CUUF

Or, join by phone: 312-626-6799—Meeting ID: 917 5428 1454—Passcode: 466021

From the Minister's Desk

—All Plans Subject to Reality: CUUF Worship for the 2020-2021 Service Year

Welcome to the 2020 fall series of the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship! Like all organizations, we reviewed several scenarios for how we could come together this fall. I want to take a moment to outline our plans for worship and programming, knowing that all plans right now are subject to reality!

This year we will have a hybrid of online, intergenerational worship services along with several in-person, outdoor, socially distanced rituals and experiences for our special services. With this combination, we care for our most vulnerable by minimizing exposure while focusing on accessibility to our services. I hope this combination will encourage strong participation and identity with CUUF across lifespans during these physically distanced times.

The first example of this hybrid model is in September. We will have both an in-person, outdoor “On the Water” service on Long Lake outside of Washburn as well as an online Water Service which will be live and interactive on Zoom video conferencing. We are planning a similar combination for our All Hallowtide Service, Holiday Service, and Flower Service. Whether in person or online, we will focus on providing safe access and engaging messages across lifespans. Your feedback and participation (which is part of our democratic structure) are so very welcome this season as we consider multiple points of view on how COVID-19 is affecting us all differently.

In addition to the hybrid worship services and rituals, we will also offer small group programming and gatherings either online or socially distanced. These include:

The Other Sunday—Held online the first Sunday of each month, we will have different speakers and presenters on current events, issues, or topics with discussion to follow.

UU Women—Held online on the third Sunday of every month (unless there is a service conflict), this is a time for informal conversation, check-ins, and mutual sharing and support.

Grief Group—In collaboration with Jan Wise, we will offer an in-person grief group to help process transitions and loss once it is safe to gather in person. If anyone would like to process loss and grief individually, or is seeking spiritual direction, Jan Wise offers one-on-one socially distanced sessions on her porch. Call or email Jan to set up a time. Cost for sessions is freewill contribution.

Anti-Racism Study Group—CUUF plans to host a study group that will start in October. In addition, we are coordinating with area faith communities who are also offering online anti-racism book clubs, movie discussions, and training. These will be hosted by a particular church or fellowship, but open to all. We will include information about these opportunities in our newsletter and emails.

UU Spirituality Course—Beginning in January, we will offer a 6-week online course to help deepen our understanding and identity of UU history, thought, practice, principles, and sources.

Outdoor Gatherings—Some people have asked about having outdoor gatherings such as a walk, hike, yard games, campfire, or other socially distanced activities. We welcome these suggestions and invite anyone to offer an activity, and we will help communicate and publicize the opportunity to everyone in CUUF.

Our UU principles and sources help guide our search for meaning and truth. Let us come back together, reconnect, and call upon them now to help guide us during this difficult and powerful season. This is the season of our presidential election, when we may see the best and worst of each other. All will have to work hard to see the perspectives of other people while also calling out those things that are wrong because they threaten another's wellbeing. This is the season of yellow, the fields and gardens giving a burst of warmth as the days begin to shorten. We reconnect as we enter the season of the harvest. Whatever weight or worry you may be carrying about this upcoming season, you do not have to carry it alone. Whatever delight or celebration you carry, we share this with you. I'm looking forward to reconnecting this fall.

In peace,
Stacy Craig

In Appreciation

As Deb Aaron steps down from her position as Religious Education Director, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to Deb for her eight years of service and dedication to our children and families. Deb's unwavering kindness, patience, and energy have provided a safe and joyful space for our children to grow and learn together. Deb created solid and meaningful RE programming that will continue to benefit CUUF for years to come.

Thank You Deb! We wish you all the best!



August Poetry Service

If you missed the August Poetry Service, you can view it on YouTube. Since people shared personal information and original poetry, the service is not posted publicly, and can only be viewed through this link:

<https://youtu.be/vW1PHGoeIHQ>.

UU Women's Group

The CUUF Women's Group will have casual conversation virtually on Sunday, September 20, 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. For more information, please contact Jill Lorenz at 715-292-9163. Please access the group (video) by Zoom—information on page 2 of this newsletter.

UU the Vote!

CUUF has been contacted by Nora Rasman who heads up Wisconsin's branch of UU the Vote. This is the Unitarian Universalist Association's voting campaign "engaging in voter registration, confronting voter suppression, and building GOTV (get out the vote) plans to win in 2020." Nora has invited us to put our UU principles into action by becoming involved in this campaign. Stacy Craig will be our contact person for this. If you would like to know more about how you can UU the Vote, please contact her at stacymariecraig@gmail.com as soon as possible—time is of the essence!

News from the League of Women Voters

Please make plans to safely vote in the November 3 election and to help others do the same. Go to [MyVote.wi.gov](https://www.myvote.wi.gov) for all things election related. Help is there—all the way from the early steps of making sure you're registered to the final steps of following your absentee ballot online once it has been returned, making sure it reaches its destination.

Absentee ballots will be mailed out on September 17. Before returning your ballot, remember to sign the envelope in front of a witness. Your witness must also sign and include his or her address. Please remind others of these essential steps! If you decide to mail in your ballot, be sure to do it as soon as you can. You can also return your ballot in person. In Ashland, there will soon be a secured ballot box, accessible by a slot in the front door of City Hall. Or you can use the bill-pay drop box on Main Street in front of City Hall.

On August 26, the League led our Chequamegon Bay communities as we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution. You may have heard the ringing of 19 church bells at noon, or seen a festive car parade (in Ashland, led by Mayor Deb Lewis). The Centennial celebrations help us focus on all that we've accomplished and also on all that still needs to be done. We know that women of color were a vital part of the 70-year struggle that culminated in the 19th Amendment, and yet they did not benefit as white women did. The struggle continues.

In praise of the bold, outspoken, and frequently overlooked Native women who fought for the vote, read [Grandma Cele, the Unknown Ojibwe Suffragette](https://bit.ly/317ZgHV), a story about Cecelia Rabideaux at the indigenous news site *Indian Country Today* (<https://bit.ly/317ZgHV>). Cecelia Rabideaux's great niece, Lynn Bigboy of the Bad River reservation, is the current president-elect of the League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties.

—submitted by Diane Koosed

Contact Information Form—Please fill out and return by September 30

Reminder: We are in the process of updating our contact information and other records for our CUUF database, Congregation Builder. Please print and fill out the contact form via the following link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1A2cljG_gbJqnrXxMe69-2r05G5gvKkQ/view?usp=sharing and return as a hard copy to Adam Haecker, CUUF Fellowship Assistant, P.O. Box 641, Ashland, WI 54806; or as an attachment via email to Adam at cuufad@gmail.com by **Sept. 30**. You also can fill out the contact form from this hard copy of the newsletter (if applicable) and mail it to Adam. Please print legibly or type if possible. Contact Adam at 651-303-6931 with questions. Thank you in advance for taking the time!

Name(s): _____

Primary mailing address:

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Home phone number: (____) _____ Cell phone number: (____) _____ (for who?)

Second cell phone number: (____) _____ (for who?)

Email address: _____ (for who?)

Second email address: _____ (for who?)

Are there any children whose information you'd like us to update for our records (names, gender, and ages)?

Do you have a winter address that is different from the primary mailing address? If so,

Winter mailing address: (indicate dates, e.g. November through April): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Form continued on back.

CONTACT INFORMATION FORM (page 2)

Do you have a former address listed with us that we can delete from our records? If so,

Former mailing address:

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Are there other details about any of your contact information that you need us to know?

Do you know others who have moved, are no longer with CUUF, or should be contacted?

Are you currently receiving our monthly newsletter The Open Door? Yes No

If yes, in what format? Email Hard copy Both

Please indicate how you want to receive it going forward Email Hard copy Both

If no, do you want to receive it? Yes No. Format? Email Hard copy Both

Do you receive our weekly eBlast? Yes No

Do you want to continue to receive our weekly eBlasts? Yes No

How are you doing?

What concerns and/or thoughts do you have these days in general or with CUUF?

How many years have you been involved with CUUF in any capacity? _____ year(s)

Would you like to be involved in our services, serve on a committee, become a board member, and/or help out in other volunteer capacities?

End of form. Thank you again!

Highlights of PFLAG Parking Lot Event on August 27 at the Washburn Elementary School Parking Lot are recorded! Three Person-of-the-Year awards were presented to area high schools' Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) advisors: Greta Blancarte (Ashland), Cathy Smith (Bayfield) and Sarah Haughn (Washburn). These leaders explained how GSA functioned during the 2019-2020 school year, and they discussed changes made for the upcoming school year due to the added challenge of COVID-19. Colin Hinson spoke about a student's perspective on trans history. Through these four speakers, listeners were empowered to carry out PFLAG's commitment to create a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed. Video recordings of the four speakers will be on pflagwashburn.org and Facebook soon. For more information, contact chapter leader Nancy Hanson at 715-209-1100.



Book Studies Hosted by Local Congregations

Bethesda Lutheran Church, Bayfield

Book Study on *White Fragility*, beginning September 10 at 10:30 a.m.

In *White Fragility: Why it's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*, author Robin DiAngelo deftly illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility and "allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to 'bad people.'" Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotion such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. In this in-depth exploration, DiAngelo examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively.

Mary Meierotto will be hosting this study via Zoom with participants from Bayfield Presbyterian, Bethesda ELCA, Christ Church Episcopal, St. John's United Church of Christ, and anyone else who wishes to join. Books are available at Bethesda at no charge for you to pick up now. The meeting can be accessed on Zoom via the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85139052851?pwd=NUdTUmxLaHVpdU9kWFdOa2p4M0piZz09>

Meeting ID: 851 3905 2851, Passcode: 467574; or by phone: 312-626-6799.

For more information, contact Mary at 715-779-5611.

St. John's United Church of Christ, Madeline Island

St. John's Social Justice Book Club: *How to Be an Antiracist*, September 2 and 16 at 5 p.m.

St. John's Social Justice Book Club met in July and August beginning with a discussion of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's book *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*. The group has branched out from there and is reading Dr. Kendi's book *How to Be an Antiracist* as well as focusing on some specific issues.

Meetings will continue September 2 and September 16 on Zoom via the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86087583300> Meeting ID: 860 8758 3300.

Meeting participants will also listen to (and/or read the transcript of) the first episode of [Nice White Parents](#), which is a new podcast from Serial Productions of the New York Times and hosted by Chana Joffe-Walt, producer of *This American Life*. (Here is the [transcript](#) if you would rather read it.) Looking ahead, we agreed to look at [this article](#) from the New Yorker about Isabel Wilkerson's new book *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, as well as this [interview with Terry Gross](#).

For more information, please contact Joe Scarry at 715-747-3903. For updates on evolving discussion topics, visit St. John's website at stjohnsmadelineisland.org. Relevant Zoom links can be found on their events calendar. Current plan is for a (Zoom) meeting the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5 p.m.

Chequamegon Unitarian
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