

The Open Door Newsletter

Summer 2024



The fellowship services for summer

Please note that the services for summer will be held in-person only. There will not be an option to join online via Zoom until the services resume again the fall. Thank you.

Sunday, June 9—*Opening to Pure Consciousness through Zhineng Qigong*

Service Lay Leader: Tracey Snyder
In-person only at Bayview Beach at 10 a.m.
(on Highway 13 north of Washburn)

Zhineng Qigong is a self-healing method and spiritual practice which includes meditation, visualization, use of sound and slow movement to create a healthy energy flow throughout the body. This practice provides a foundation for a healthy mind, body and spirit.

CUUF member, Tracey Snyder, has been practicing and teaching Zhineng Qigong for several years. She became a certified teacher of Zhineng Qigong in 2016 and has been offering online and in-person classes since then. At this service, she will share how this practice provided healing and transformation in her life and will invite attendees to participate in this relaxing, healing practice working with the universal energy of life.

This service will take place under the pavilion at Bayview Beach north of Washburn with beautiful Lake Superior as the backdrop. Please dress for the weather, and bring a lawn chair (there are picnic tables). Bring your own warm drink and refreshments for beach fellowship after the service. In the case of lightning or extreme weather, an email will go out the evening before cancelling the service. Contact Stacy Craig at stacy@chequamegonuuf.org with any questions.

Sunday, July 14—*Annual Summer Picnic with Children's Chapel Service*

10 a.m. service, 10:45 a.m. Brunch Potluck Picnic
Memorial Park Pavilion in Washburn

This will be a unique service/summer potluck combination. At 10 a.m., we will gather for a short, multigenerational service co-led by Director of Religious Education, Andrea Ward, and Rev. Stacy Craig. After we extinguish the chalice, all are invited to stay for a time of food, fellowship and play for a brunch-style summer potluck picnic. Please bring a lawn chair, a dish to share, your own silverware and dishware, and dress for the weather.

(description of services for summer continued on page 2)

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

Services for summer (continued)

Sunday, Aug. 13—Annual Poetry Service with Concurrent Children’s Chapel Service

10 a.m., Memorial Park Pavilion in Washburn

I need the sea because it teaches me.
I don’t know if I learn music or awareness,
if it’s a single wave or its vast existence,
or only its harsh voice or its shining
suggestion of fishes and ships.
The fact is that until I fall asleep,
in some magnetic way I move in
the university of the waves.



Memorial Park in Washburn

—Excerpt from Pablo Neruda’s “The Sea”

Our final summer service will be the annual poetry service. At this service, the poems are the message. Everyone is welcome to bring a poem to share, written by themselves or someone else. What poems have guided you through joys or grief? What poem can you recite by heart, or remember exactly where you were the first time you heard it? Poetry is small enough to carry in your pocket, and large enough to hold the whole of our feelings, thoughts, and experiences. The service will be located at the picnic pavilion. While there is some seating available, we encourage you to bring a lawn chair, dress for the weather, and bring your own refreshments for the service.

Small Groups summer schedule

Soul Matters Adult Discussion Groups

The Soul Matters theme for June is “The Gift of Renewal”. Soul Matters takes a break for July and August, and will reconvene in September.

CUUF and KUUF Online Group: Monday, June 10 on Zoom, 7 p.m. EST/6 p.m. CST

CUUF In-person Group: Tuesday, June 11 at the Washburn Library, basement room, 4 - 5:30 p.m. CST

These groups are currently full, but registration to join a fall group will be open in August.

Please keep an eye out for future information. Please contact Minister Stacy Craig at minister@chequamegonuuf.org with any questions.

Reconnection Group: *Reconnection* will meet on Wednesdays June 5, July 10 and Aug. 14.

2024 CUUF Summer Book and Discussion Group

The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times by Jane Goodall

Every last Wednesday of the month from 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., either outdoors at the picnic shelter at Memorial Park in Washburn or, if raining, in the basement of the Washburn Library.

Wednesday, June 26: Read Section 1: What is Hope?

Opening Discussion: How do you understand hope at a personal and societal level?

Wednesday, July 31: Read Section II: Jane’s Four Reasons for Hope

Discussion: Would you agree/disagree with Jane’s reasons? What would you add? How do you remain inspired?

Wednesday, Aug. 28: Read Section III: Becoming a Messenger of Hope

Closing Discussion: How do you think Jane’s spiritual and religious experiences shaped her ideas of hope?

How can we enact hope—through our beliefs or actions?

Please RSVP for this group by Monday, June 10 by emailing Rev. Stacy Craig at stacy@chequamegonuuf.org your interest and if you’d like to purchase your book through a bulk order at Honest Dog Books (20% discount). Your book would be available for pick-up by June 19.

From the Minister's Desk

Greetings,

UU Fellowships cycle with the seasons, meeting for an ingathering service in the fall called the Water Service and concluding with a Flower Service in the spring. What a tremendous year it has been!! So many have shared gratitude for the speakers and musicians who shared their carefully tended stories and truths, talents and inspiration. I've heard people share that they've seen my growth in ministry (thank you!! I feel it too). Thank you to all of the volunteers who make this fellowship run *vibrantly!*

During this summer, we meet for services only once a month and they are less formal outdoor services at public parks. This year, they will take place on the 2nd Sunday of each month. These are great places to introduce someone to CUUF. Much of the behind-the-scenes work is also done at this time, such as preparing programs and themes for the coming year and your Board works on aligning resources to the needs of the fellowship. We'll be sending monthly emails instead of weekly emails (plus service reminders on Sunday mornings), and your next newsletter will arrive in September. But remember, we're still here, working to provide the experience of sanctuary for one another, so we can provide it for the world.

—In community,
Rev. Stacy Craig

Where is your minister?

Open Office Hours: Rev. Stacy is available throughout the summer during open office hours and by appointment (Zoom, in-person, or at the office). Contact her by text or phone at 715-413-1593 to set up a time. Or, find her at the Vaughn Library, 3rd floor, office #309 on Wednesdays anytime from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. on June 12, June 26, July 10, July 17, July 31, Aug. 14, Aug. 21 and Aug. 28.

Out of office: Rev. Stacy will be unavailable during the following times:

June 17-21: Attending UU Ministry Days and General Assembly

June 22-24: Keweenaw UU Fellowship weekend immersion

July 3-4: Holiday

July 5-8: Keweenaw UU Fellowship weekend immersion

July 22-26: Reading and Writing Week

Aug. 2-8: Vacation

Aug. 16-19: Keweenaw UU Fellowship weekend immersion

Coming this Fall! Creating Theology Together

Starting in October, there will be a multi-part series for those who would like to build their own message or "I Believe" manifesto. The program will include story-based message development, reflection, and interpretation. Peer sharing and group workshopping will conclude the program, and if participants choose, they can share at a CUUF service. Please watch for more information and registration details in September. This has been a beloved program at many UU fellowships, and we're excited to offer it at CUUF!

—Rev. Stacy and the CUUF Worship Committee

Caring Corner

As we enter and move our services next to the waters of our beloved Lake Superior, the Caring Committee on behalf of the fellowship sends heartfelt wishes to:

All those in the Northland community who have been impacted by the cuts and changes that have been implemented. Know that we value your presence and contributions to our fellowship and care for you and your families. Our thoughts go to **Marina Lachecki** on her journey of healing, as she completed chemo and radiation therapy last month.

If you have a need, are experiencing a life-changing event of sorrow or joy or know someone who is, please contact Rev. Stacy. Her phone number is 715-765-4214 and her email address is minister@chequamegonuuf.org. She and the Caring Committee members can connect you to resources and organizations that provide support services.

The Caring Committee welcomes new members at any time. If you'd like to join us, contact Stacy or Sandy Brue.

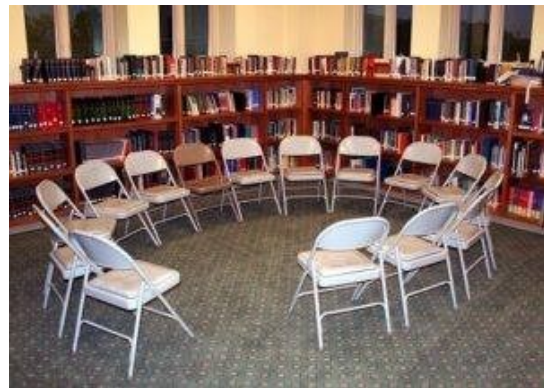
May these short months of summer bring you warmth to last through the year to come.

—Lindy Howe, Caring Committee



UU Women

UU Women is a group that meets once a month for conversation and support. We welcome anyone who identifies as a woman in a way that is meaningful to them. During the summer, we will meet on Sunday, June 23, Sunday, July 21, and Sunday, Aug. 18. We'll meet at the Washburn Library at 10 a.m. Outdoors if the weather allows. Consider bringing a chair. If you'd like to receive reminders and updates about UUW activities, text your email address to Jill at 715-292-9163.



Science group

The science group will meet on Sunday, June 23, Sunday, July 21, and Sunday, Aug. 18 at 10 a.m. at The Sandbar in Ashland. To date, the group has talked about fusion energy, entanglement (something Einstein called "spooky action at a distance"), Schroedinger's cat, and gravitational time dilation and speed time dilation. The group hopes to tour the Ashland power plant for one of its meetings. All are welcome.

For more information, please contact Mike Bunch at 715-209-5383.

Harry Diesburg recognized as graduate at service on May 19

CUUF wishes to congratulate Harry Diesburg, who graduated from Ashland High School this spring. He is planning to attend college next year at Gustavus Adolphus in St. Peter, Minnesota. Harry participated in Religious Education and starred in several holiday plays. We wish him well on his journey. Harry was recognized at the Sunday service on May 19, although he couldn't be in attendance. Angela Stroud accepted a gift for Harry from the fellowship on his behalf.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

It's been a wonderful year in RE! Between the holiday pageant, OWL, Building Bridges, and our regular Sunday RE classes, we had more than 40 children participate in our regular programs this year. This was made possible by the generous contributions of time and energy made by nearly 30 volunteers! Whether helping to create sets for the pageant, jumping in at the last minute to sub for an absent teacher, or showing up each Sunday to guide a group through lessons in spiritual development, each of our volunteers plays an integral role in providing a safe, welcoming, enriching, and fun space for our RE participants to learn and grow together in community. **Deep gratitude to all our RE volunteers!**

As families take some time to recharge this summer, please take note of the child-focused elements of the CUUF summer calendar. The **July 14** service will be a Children's Chapel, designed to appeal to all ages, with the annual picnic to follow. On **Aug. 11**, we will offer a separate Children's Chapel that will run concurrently to the All-Poetry Service. Stay tuned toward the end of the summer for 2024-25 RE program registration and new opportunities for volunteer participation. Thank you!

—Andrea Ward, Director of Religious Education

I am reaching out with some updates regarding our 8th-9th grade Our Whole Lives curriculum through the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (CUUF). We are excited to be offering this program starting in September on Sunday evenings in Ashland. **Please save the date for our mandatory parent/student orientation on the evening of Sunday, Sept. 8**, approximately 4:30 - 7 p.m. This meeting is required for everyone to attend as it provides important information about the curriculum, resources, and program logistics! As we get closer, we will be able to provide more specifics (location), but I wanted to reach out with a date so that you could mark your calendars with as much notice as possible!

The tentative plan is still to meet Sunday evenings with the first official workshop on Sunday, Sept. 15th from 5:30 - 7 p.m. **Please reach out if anything has changed for your family and your child is no longer able/interested in participating!** Additionally, we still have a few spaces left, so if you know of other youth in the area who fall into this age-range, please feel free to share my contact info with them! I can be reached via call or text at 715-209-8200.

I look forward to getting to know your families and sharing this wonderful curriculum!

Warmly,

—Ashley Smith, Coordinator of Our Whole Lives

Child dedication ceremony held at service on May 19

Five children from CUUF were formally recognized during the "Ceremony of Dedication" at the worship service on May 19. They include Karsten and Phoebe Levi, Beau and Lucia Tenney, and Otto Ullman. The ceremony was an opportunity for the community to bless the children and celebrate the blessing of the gift of life. It also was a time to acknowledge that through the eyes of children we will see more clearly the sacredness in one another. Stacy handed out a rose to each child, which was meant to be a symbol of unfolding life—and all its strength, grace and beauty. Stacy also gave each child a certificate to commemorate the day.

Annual meeting held on Sunday, May 5

The fellowship's annual meeting was held on Sunday, May 5, in-person and online on Zoom directly following the worship service. The meeting was an opportunity to review the achievements and concerns of this year, elect new board members, set achievable priorities for next year, and approve the 2024-2025 budget.

Achievements during the 2023-2024 service year offer much to celebrate! The continued growth of the Religious Education (RE) program is so evident each time we sing the children to their classes. The UU Women's group held its second annual retreat. The Soul Matters group continually experiences full enrollment. And there are many more rewarding and vibrant activities offered to, and by, the congregation. However, as I write this article, the future of Northland College is unknown. 20% of our fellowship members are directly linked to that future, both financially and professionally. Many of our RE participants are from families with one or more parents employed by the college.

If you'd like to review the committee reports from the annual meeting, please follow this link:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dM_KBvCYIGAE4SoH0yzsUzYtMo1VY00e?usp=sharing

If you'd like to see the full list of volunteers during the 2023-24 service year, please follow this link:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aGHymeaRrPM55YFEe4VSEgQeCYIQLLVf/view?usp=sharing>

If you'd like to see the full list of donors during the 2023-24 service year, please follow this link:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-0Q4dBx4mzkwMm0I29g0fWV3xYvJgd7I/view?usp=sharing>



CUUF Chalice Circle

We are pleased to introduce you to our Chalice Circle; a growing list of individuals who have included CUUF in their estate plans.

Lois Albrecht
Edward Calhan
Linda Borglum Calhan
Karen Ruedi Crowell
Jill Lorenz
Ruth Oppedahl
Mary Rehwald

For information on how you can make a future gift to benefit CUUF, go to <https://www.chequamegonuuf.org/donate-2/> The webpage includes a "how to" handout you can share with your advisor. There is also an online form to notify us that you have added CUUF to your estate plans, so we can recognize you (or you can choose to be anonymous). If you prefer to receive this information by mail, contact Lois Albrecht at bayfieldlois@gmail.com or Ruth Oppedahl at ruth@oppedahl.com These gifts can be life-changing for our fellowship!

Lois Albrecht Edward W Calhan Ruth Oppedahl George Bussey

CUUF to have display at Bay Days on Main in Ashland

Do you have some unwanted items that others could use? If so, CUUF has a spot reserved at Bay Days on Main in Ashland in July, where you can display and potentially sell your items. More specifically, CUUF is registered with the Arts & Crafts & Flea Market, where tables and chairs will be available for us to use. It will be held on July 19 from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. and July 20 from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. For more information, please contact Mike Bunch at 715-209-5383 or via email message at mbunchxyz@gmail.com

UUA General Assembly

UUA General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where the UUA conducts business, explores the theological underpinnings of the UU faith, and leans fully into its mission and principles. The 63rd General Assembly will be held online only this year from Thursday, June 20 to Sunday, June 23. The theme is titled “Love Unites, Stories Ignite”. In a world filled with division and challenges, this theme is a powerful reminder of the core principles that unite us as Unitarian Universalists. “Love Unites, Stories Ignite” celebrates the profound effect of love as a binding force that transcends boundaries and fosters connections within our faith community and beyond.



Are you interested in learning more about the national Unitarian Universalist organization? Would you like to represent the CUUF and have input at the national level? If yes, we have quite an opportunity for you!

The UUA General Assembly will be held virtually this year from June 20-23. The CUUF has two delegate positions available; two voting positions that can attend any and all sessions.

Please contact Board President Beth Lowthian if you are interested in signing up as a delegate.

For more specific information about General Assembly, please contact generalassembly@uua.org

PFLAG to hold PRIDE parade on June 30



LGBTQ+ folks, friends, and family will gather at Memorial Park in Washburn on June 30 for a 5 p.m. Pride celebration service. All are welcome as we celebrate the gifts of queer people to the church and the world, and raise up the hope of equality for all. Liturgy will include phrases such as “I am queerfully and wonderfully made!” One of the songs will be, “We Are All One,” with permission from singer songwriter Sara Thomsen.

The goal of this service is to declare with joy that we are so much stronger as a nation when we look for common ground than when we quibble about division. Bring a lawn chair for the 5 p.m. worship, and a dish to pass, beverage, and an attitude of joy for the potluck following the service.

Participating clergy include: Connie Monson from Bethesda and Immanuel Lutheran churches, Mark Ricker from Christ Episcopal Church, Lawrence Lee from Bayfield Presbyterian Church, Kristin Boland from Messiah Lutheran in Washburn, Rachel Sieja from Good Shepherd Lutheran, Stacy Craig from Ashland’s Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and Teena Racheli from Washburn United Methodist Church. For more information, contact Nancy Hanson at 715-209-1100.

Chequamegon Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship
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