



THE OPEN DOOR

**CHEQUAMEGAN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
FEBRUARY, 2009**

FEBRUARY SERVICES:

FEBRUARY 8, 10:00 A.M. IN THE PONZIO CENTER, NORTHLAND COLLEGE; SPEAKER, DAVID SAETRE, “POEMS AS PRAYERS—PRAYERS AS PRESENCE.”

In this talk I want to share a few favorite poems, and I want to explore the sense in which one can hear certain poems as prayers – the way in which some poetry functions similarly to prayers. The terrain of mystery is always holy ground, of course. Here we find a first clue to the idea of poems as prayers. But there’s more to it than that. In addition to acknowledging mystery and engaging the imagination, poetry often calls both writer and reader to practice a kind of “presence” to the world as we live in it. Poems require attentiveness to the moment and to things, dispositions akin to reverence. Poems ask us to observe, to listen, and to receive – movements close to contemplation and prayer. Finally, in the hearing, poems often offer up a kind of grace – the generosity of being in the world fully present. Finally, I hope this exploration will expand our understanding of “prayer” and free the word (and the action) from the confines of a narrow, dogmatic understanding.

JANUARY 25, 10:00 A.M. IN THE PONZIO CENTER, NORTHLAND COLLEGE; NEW MEMBER SERVICE. SPEAKER: TIM HIRSCH, “RITUALS.”

During this program I will encourage intentional examination of the rituals in our lives. In some cases rituals help us feel connected. They can enlarge us, help us feel in harmonious tune with the communities we engage. Some rituals even connect us to a cosmic spirit permitting us to feel a supporting harmonious spiritual power from the universe. Other times, rituals help subdue us, chaining us to rigid, outmoded ways of being. Rituals are about discovering connection, especially in times of transition, when the nature of our connection is about to change. Rituals help us feel connected to things larger than us-- an institution, a community of people, a lake or forest, a deity.

We will welcome all new members to the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship during the Sunday service. Anyone who wishes to become a member is invited to sign the membership book at this service. Please contact Karen Crowell if you are interested in becoming a new member. 373-2524 dancingmoon@centurytel.net.

Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Website: <http://www.chequamegonuuf.org>

CUUF BOARD:

Karen Ruedi Crowell, *President* 373-2524; dancingmoon01@centurytel.net

Henry Quinlan, *Vice President*, 685-0041; hkquinlan@centurytel.net

Ruth Oppedahl, *Secretary*, 373-0973, ruth@oppedahl.com

Irene Blakely, 373-2907, blakely@centurytel.net

Scott Burchill, *Communications/Webmaster*, 682-4681; scott.burchill@gmail.com

Warren Kehn and Kathy Logan 682-2256, logkeh@ncis.net

Matthew Wolter, *Fellowship Treasurer*; twinehill@cheqnet.net

UU WOMEN MEET

At our January gathering, we discovered that four out of the nine women present have birthdays in February! To celebrate those and the anticipated re-opening of Washburn's finest restaurant, we decided to plan for an evening of fun at the new Good Thyme, located north of Washburn at 77180 State Hiway 13. We'll meet there at 6:30 pm on Thursday, February 12.

Please contact me if you plan to come. We'll have a backup plan in case the restaurant doesn't open as scheduled. Jill Lorenz 715.373.5908 jlorenz@centurytel.net

NEW DISCUSSION GROUP TO MEET

Some of us have been Unitarians for decades; others for less than a year. We all have the challenge of describing and defining our faith, to ourselves as well as to others. Many of us also could say that our knowledge of Unitarian Universalist history is limited to what we have heard over the years during our UU services.

In response to this, about a dozen UU's have been organizing a study group. For our reading we have selected *Our Chosen Faith: An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism* by John A. Buehrens and Forrest Church, both UU ministers. Patty Porter was able to locate and duplicate a six-session program study guide for this book, which has been distributed to the group members. According to Patty, both the book and the study guide are available to read on-line. This could also be helpful for UU's who can't attend the group but are interested in pursuing study on their own.

The first session of the study group will meet at the Washburn Public Library on Tuesday, February 10 in the downstairs Wikdahl meeting room at 6:30 p.m. It may be that the group will split after that and have groups meeting monthly on different days in the Ashland and Washburn areas.

For more information, or to be placed on the contact list of group participants, contact Jan Perkins at 292-3542; or Patty Porter at 682-9015.

THANKS FROM KARLA, (WHO DESERVES COPIOUS THANKS HERSELF—ED.)

Thank you to all the people that help me with the hospitality portion of the service. I am truly grateful to all the people that bring the snacks, assist in setting up, and take down the table. I am so pleased that during those times I get busy with other fellowship business or just visit with fellow members/friends and I turn around, and the table has been cleared, dishes cleaned and put away. I am not sure who does this all the time, but I can surely tell you that it warms my heart to see this done. I truly enjoy doing the hospitality portion of the service, as it has helped me get to know each of you better. Plus, the kindness expressed by each of you by you helping me do what needs to be done for our fellowship in such a gracious manner makes me feel proud of being a member of this fellowship. I sincerely thank you,

The UU Book Store is going very well. The books are put out at every service for you to view and/or purchase. Several books were requested to be ordered as more than one person wanted certain books. The order for these books has been placed and should be here by our next service. Please feel to contact Cindy VanHorn or Karla Hasart if you have any suggestions on how to improve our UU Book Store. Thank you.

Thank you to Kristin Quinlan for taking the R.E. teenagers to Minneapolis, MN for the Youth CON Convention. Each of the teens had a lot of fun, met fellow UU teenagers, and had an opportunity to learn about various topics in breakout sessions. Kristen is a great leader for our teens! She took the time to look for a different way to engage our teens, and she did! The teens are still talking about how fun this event was and are hoping to go to the next Youth CON Convention. It is truly exciting to see our UU teens excited about their fellowship and wanting to learn together. Thanks so much Kristin for your time, effort, and patience in providing this opportunity for our teenagers!

Karla Hasart

OUR BLUE BOAT HOME: LIVING THE SEVENTH PRINCIPLE

The Seventh Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. 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.

The PSD Annual Conference is a weekend of workshops, worship and fellowship in April of each year. We are fortunate indeed this year to have the 2000 PSD Conference so close to home: Duluth, MN! It is hosted by the UU Congregation of Duluth on April 3-5, 2009.

I attended the conference in St. Paul, MN, several years ago, and it was phenomenal! I learned about UU in all the different workshops; and also to network with other UU's.

A group of us in the Chequamegon UU plan to attend! Please see the website for the Prairie Star District UUA for more information; and if you are interested in attending, contact Jan Perkins at 292-3542; perkworks9@yahoo.com.

Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Ashland, Wisconsin
Membership Form

Name: _____ Phone number: _____

Address: _____

City, Zip _____ Email: _____

General Membership: Any person 16 years of age or older who concurs with the UUA principles and covenant and signs the membership book becomes a general member of the fellowship. Bylaws 2/22/03. All members receive the The Open Door NUUF monthly newsletter.

_____ I am interested in becoming a general member.

Voting Membership: A general member who makes a contribution of record becomes eligible to vote. Bylaws 2/22/03. An annual meeting is scheduled each spring to vote on board members and other issues that are brought forth.

_____ I am interested in becoming a voting member.

Fellowship Groups and Organization:

_____ **Archival work:** take pictures, keep track of fellowship history, sound recordings, etc.

_____ **Adult discussion and study groups.** (Topic generated.)

_____ **Bookstore**

_____ **Caring** (care for members in need)

_____ **Religious Education** for children and youth

_____ **Sunday Worship Services**

(We are a lay led congregation with services coordinated by members.)

_____ **Speaker resource network**

_____ **Stewardship and Pledge drive and Fundraisers**

_____ **Music:** accompaniment, performance, or direction

_____ **Hospitality** (Sunday coffee hour, potlucks, picnics, campouts ...)

_____ **Welcome and Membership** (greet visitors, get to know members, circle suppers)

_____ **Social Justice and Community Action** (living our principles in community service and community justice work)

_____ **Rites of Passage** (child dedications, memorial services, weddings, etc.)

_____ **Technical Services:** PA system, etc.

_____ **Public Relations:** Announcements in newspaper etc.

_____ **Newsletter Editor:** contributions, editing, etc.

_____ **E-communications:** web site development, email communications, etc.

_____ **Other interests and skills (Finances? Carpentry? Graphic design? Teaching? Etc.):**

Please give or send this form to: President or Membership Chair, Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, P. O. Box 641, Ashland, WI 54806

CUUF Calendar

(Note: Scott posts all events on the website. Send events to scott.burchill@gmail.com.)

January

January 29 Sing-a-long Christensens 7:00 p.m.

February **Membership Month**

February 3 Worship Committee meeting, 9:00 a.m., Ponzio Center
February 5 Integrating New Members: PSD Online Workshop. Register online
February 8 Sunday Worship Service
February 12 UU Women

February 10 Board meeting 6:30 p.m.
February 10 New Book Discussion Group, 6:30 p.m., Washburn Library
February 10 Integrating New Members: PSD Online Workshop. Register online
February 22 Sunday Worship Service: **New Member Welcome**
February 26 Deadline for March Open Door newsletter submissions

March

March 6 Deadline PSD conference registration (\$130); \$150 after March 6.
Financial assistance available.
Contact Jan Perkins, perkworks9@yahoo.com.
March 8 Sunday Worship Service
March 12 UU Women
March 22 Sunday Worship Service

April **Annual Meetings Month**

April 3 – 5 PSD Annual Conference Duluth, MN !!!!
Theme: Living the Seventh Principle
Conference reading: Blessed Unrest By Paul Hawken
www.psdoua.org for information.
Also register with Jan Perkins, perkworks9@yahoo.com.
April 12 Easter
April 26 Sunday Worship Service
Annual Membership Business Meeting after service
Election of New Board Members

May

May 10 All Music Service
May 31 Flower Service and
Tenative: Child Dedication Ceremony