

The Open Door Newsletter October 2009

Time and Location of Services: Fellowship Services are at 10am on the Second Floor commons of the Ponzio Student Center on the Northland College Campus.

Fellowship Service-October 11th Speaker: David Saetre *Campus Minister/Assistant Prof of Religion*
“A House Divided: Health Care, Death Panels and the Role of Religion in Current Debates”

How did, “Yes we can” so quickly become, “No, you won’t?” How did the optimism springing forth from the election of 2008 stumble so quickly in the long summer of 2009? This has occurred, in part, because progressives and liberals have underestimated how ideologically divided America remains.

Paul Krugman, the Nobel Prize-winning economist, recently wrote about the success right-wing ideologues have had in mobilizing opposition to Obama's health care bill and other reforms proposed to create a more fair and just society. In Krugman's opinion, intellectually-discredited right-wing politics is far from dead. One of the great challenges of the current moment is to try to understand the conditions that allow it to continue to shape American politics and culture.

In our time together, I plan to revisit the religious divide that characterizes the American social landscape and has resulted in our political polarization. The divide today is ideological, not denominational. That phenomenon is unique in American history (as far as I can tell), and worth our attention. I will attempt to place UU beliefs and commitments in the mix of possible religious and moral responses to those who would undermine the social contract in the name of God.

Maybe the religious right has been correct all along – we're in the middle of a culture war! If that's true, religious progressives can at least insist that we recognize we are in a fight and that we fight fair. Should make for an interesting time together, eh! See you in October. David

Fellowship Service – October 25th

Speaker: Gail Green

~~~ A Recipe for Centered Living ~~~  
(garnish with A Daily Dose of Creative Expression)

#### I. Basic Ingredients:

- < one part immersion in nature: simmer for awhile.
- < one part creative expression: discover your unique voice

#### II. Directions

- < mix Ingredients

Results: an enduring formula for returning to centered living when life's circumstances throw an overdose of pepper in the pot.

There are many ways to 'meet' an experience in nature. A great potential outcome from being there is a heightened sense of renewal and open-mindedness. From this spirited place, add personal creative expression and we have a strategy to put energy-in-motion; e-motion. Drawing out and understanding internal feelings through artful expression gives us a mechanism to stand outside our experiences and view them with new perspective and clarity.

Gail is co-owner of Living Adventure Inc. in Red Cliff, WI. This adventure center specializes in sea kayaking trips on Lake Superior and around the World as well as offering outdoor-based experiences for personal and professional well being.

**Board Meeting Oct 21st:** Board Meeting - The next CUUF Board meeting is Wednesday, Oct 21 at 7:00pm at the Vauhgn Library in Ashland. All are welcome to attend.

### Expression of Gratitude

**Screen Dream Realized:** A special thanks to Peg Griese for donating the beautiful trifold screen for use behind the altar table. The partition makes a nice backdrop for the service that makes the space more our own. Peg, thanks so much for this gift!

### Caring Corner

**Congratulations to two newly married couples in our fellowship:**

Kelsie Myrvold and Todd Rothke!!

Patty Porter and Richard Dufek!!

**Concern and healing wishes go out to:**

Jim Paruk (Stefania Strzalkowska) for quick and complete healing from back surgery.

Ashley Lokken from injuries suffered in a falling accident.

If you know of someone who is ill, needs help, or has a great joy to celebrate, we offer support to members and friends of our fellowship. Jacki Rae-Ledin 373-0347 (antiquegardeninn@hotmail.com), Jan Perkins 373-5585 (perkworks@yahoo.com), Patty Dufek 682-9015 (pport57@charter.net)

### Fall Into Faith in Action – Leaf Raking Project

Faith In Action-Ashland County will be Raking the Town with its fall yard work effort. Ashland County senior citizens in need of help with seasonal chores can request volunteer assistance. Individuals, families, or community service groups who would like to take on a yard or two to rake can call Megan at the Ashland County Aging Unit (715) 682-4414 ext.3 or email fiavolunteer@ashlandaging.org .

### Circle Suppers

Food. Friends. What could be better? We are organizing CUUF Circle Suppers for this winter (maybe fall). This is a chance to get to know your fellow UUFers better. Each circle will be about 8 people and will meet once a month. Each household will host a meal--the fun and friends should fall into place. Please email Andrea at haugoam@hotmail.com if you want to join, are even entertaining the idea of being involved, or if you have questions. Thank you!

### I'd Never Eat a Beet

I'd never eat a beet, because I could not stand the taste,  
I'd rather nibble drinking straws, or fountain pens, or paste,  
I'd eat a window curtain and perhaps a roller skate, but a beet,  
You may be certain, would be wasted on my plate.  
I would sooner chew on candles or the laces from my shoes,  
Or a dozen suitcase handles,  
Were I ever forced to choose,  
I would eat a Ping-Pong paddle,

*This is by Jack Prelutsky from the book The New Kid on the Block  
A favorite of mine, since I love beets and my kids didn't! Jan Perkins*

I would eat a Ping-Pong ball,  
I might even eat a saddle, but a beet? No! Not at all.  
I would swallow talcum powder and my little rubber duck,  
I'd have doorknobs in my chowder,  
I would eat a hockey puck,  
I would eat my model rocket,  
And the socks right off my feet,  
I would even eat my pocket,  
But I'd never eat a beet!

### Cider Pressing Party – Sunday, Oct 18<sup>th</sup>

Start picking your apples and saving clean containers (plastic jugs and 2 liter pop bottles). A variety of apples, including wild, make really good cider. **Please, no apples that have made contact with mother earth.** Dry spots are OK, **but no soft, mushy spots.** We'll have some sandwich-makings and lots of fresh apple cider for you to drink and take home. Please come anytime between 1:00-4:00pm rain or shine. Our address is 116 Jones Rd, Washburn. Turn north on 13 at the intersection of 2&13 (W of Ashland). Go six miles. **Before you get to Washburn,** turn left onto Thompson Rd and go one block to Jones. Turn right onto Jones Rd. We are the first place on the left. Call Ruth Oppedahl 715-373-0973 if you have questions (after Oct 17 use the area code for local calls).

### **Habitat for Humanity – Saturday, Oct 31<sup>st</sup>**

Habitat is building a house in Ashland: 317 7<sup>th</sup> Ave East. Volunteers with experience in finishing work are needed. The group will probably be hanging doors, installing cabinets, light fixtures, trim, etc. The UU youth group will be preparing and serving lunch. There are craftsmen on premise who will be directing the work, but volunteer **skilled workers are needed – partial or whole day**. If you have these talents please contact Marilyn at 715-372-4299. Walk-in volunteers are welcome Mon & Wed evenings and Sat during the day. <http://www.cheqbayareahabitat.org/calendar.html>.

### **Mexican Fiesta Feast – Fundraiser for Faith in Action – Thursday, Nov 5<sup>th</sup>**

Chequamegon UU members have been a great supporters of Faith In Action's Mexican Fiesta Feast each year. Tickets are on sale now for the dinner that will be held on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-7:00 at the Ashland Senior Center at 400 Chapple Avenue. The meal: a bean enchilada, beef taco, cornbread, and homemade dessert-yumm!!! \$8 for adults, \$3 for ages 3- 12, under 3 eat free. Take-outs available.

There is a silent auction too. Can you donate a homemade item? Do you have a talent or a service you can donate? For example, a "snow shovel your driveway" gift certificate. Please bid on items; remember that Christmas is coming. This great evening benefits a great cause. **Faith In Action** supports older people in aging in place-staying in their own home, living independently. Tickets available at the Ashland County Aging Unit at 400 Chapple (715) 682-4414 ext 3 or ask Megan Perrine at a service in October.

### **Have You Considered Including Making a Bequest to CUUF?**

*"Life is a gift, and if we agree to accept it, we must contribute in return. When we fail to contribute, we fail to adequately answer why we are here. I believe we are here to do good"* Albert Einstein

There are a variety of ways to make planned gifts and leave a legacy for the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Among them:

A WILL – You can designate a specific sum of money, the residual (or what is not specified for other use), or a percentage of your total estate in support for a specific program.

LIFE INSURANCE – You can assign all or a portion of the benefits from an existing or new insurance policy to the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Planned Giving is good stewardship. For more information contact Ruth Oppedahl at 715-373-0973.

### **Newsletter Submissions:**

If you have submissions for the newsletter please send them to the following address by Wednesday October 28<sup>th</sup>: [uunews@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:uunews@chequamegonuuf.org).

Using this email address will ensure that articles arrive at the newsletter coordinator's email address. The idea is to have an address that will remain the same as newsletter editors come and go (oh no!) over the years. Thanks to Scott Burchill and Ruth Oppedahl for implementing this system.

**After Service Snack Host/Hostess Schedule:** (Please note if you are on the list!) **October 11<sup>th</sup>:** Irene Blakely, Mary Bondeson, Mark and Brenda Brouder and Kent and Kathy Tenny. **October 25<sup>th</sup>:** Scott Burchill, Don and Kristen Christensen and Susan Ulberg. **1<sup>st</sup> Service in Nov:** Michael and Karen Crowell, Richard Dowd and Paul and Cindy Van Horn. **2<sup>nd</sup> Service in Nov:** Marilyn Einspanier, AJ Galazen/Matthew Wolter and Kathy Gang. Call **Karla Hassart** if you have questions 715-682-4012.

## **Religious Education Programming**

This year our religious education program is experimenting with new curricula. The UUA has developed a series of resources for all ages that encourage UU identity and spiritual growth, available online for congregations and individuals to access. We are using two of these curricula in our RE program this year.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will use the Faithful Journeys curriculum. This program will explore how Unitarian Universalism translates into life choices and everyday actions. “In each session, they hear historic or contemporary examples of Unitarian Universalist faith in action. Through sessions structured around the Unitarian Universalist Principles, Faithful Journeys demonstrates that our Principles are not a dogma, but a credo that individuals can affirm with many kinds of action. Over the course of the program, children discover a unity of faith in the many different ways Unitarian Universalists, including themselves, can act on our beliefs.” Cindy Van Horn is lead teacher for this class.

The Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class is using the Wonderful Welcome curriculum. Wonderful Welcome encourages exploration of how and why we are willing to welcome others into our lives. “We welcome not only strangers, but family, our peers, our neighbors and even entities that are not people such as our animal friends and nature itself.” Mary Gonderzik is acting as lead teacher for this group.

Also new to our Fellowship this year is the introduction of the Coming of Age curriculum for our 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. We will be exploring what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist, and examining our own personal beliefs through a series of classes, community service and a retreat. We will also work with mentors from our UU Fellowship community to help guide our adolescents through this important process. Kristin Quinlan is leading this class.

If you are interested in participating further in our religious education program, we welcome you! Contact any of the lead teachers listed above. Also, check out the [uua.org](http://www.uua.org) website (web address below) to take a closer look at the curricula we will be using. There are also programs for UUs of all ages – check it out!

Descriptions of Tapestry of Faith curricula taken from [uua.org](http://www.uua.org) website:  
<http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/index.shtml>

**The Chequamegon Bay area Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Thrives.** *By Mary Wichita* Recently a PFLAG chapter in Washburn (serving the entire Chequamegon Bay area) was initiated. I want to share what an amazing experience this has been.

PFLAG’s vision statement is “We, the parents, families and friends of GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender) persons celebrate diversity and envision a society that embraces everyone, including those of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities.” Its purpose is to provide support, education, and advocacy. **Monthly meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month at the Washburn Library.**

Glenn Carlson, the Executive Director of Fair Wisconsin, Inc. joined us one evening and talked about this statewide organization dedicated to advancing and protecting the civil rights of GLBT people. Local spiritual leaders spoke about PFLAG’s strategic goal of working toward full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons within their chosen communities of faith. Other evenings have included: One inspiring speaker described her transgender journey from male to female, helping everyone there understand why she made this decision. Another evening a panel, that included parents, a young gay man and a high school youth who has transitioned to male, answered questions and inspired the sharing of stories and discussions with and between meeting participants. An end of the summer picnic brought together local PFLAG members to enjoy each other’s friendship.

**The next meeting will be held Tuesday, October 27, 7 pm**, Washburn Public Library, 307 Washington Ave. The topic is Personal Safety & GLBT. The speaker is retired administrative supervisor for Colorado State University Campus Security, John Higney. PFLAG, Washburn is **sponsoring an exhibit at the Washburn Cultural Center in November**, called Celebrating Diversity. **The opening is November 5, and includes a concert by Sara Thomsen at, 7:30 pm (\$15 advance, \$20 at the door).**

For local PFLAG information, including Nov 5<sup>th</sup> tickets, contact Nancy Hanson 715-209-1100 or 715-373-0894; Dianne Judd 715-779-0173 ([dljudd@bayoak.com](mailto:dljudd@bayoak.com)); Yvette Fleming 715-742-3427; or Bill Luckenbill 715-373-0936. To learn more about the organization at the national level visit [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org).

**From the Prairie Star District Newsletter:**

It's September, and by now, the people in our congregations are gathering for Sunday services. In our newsletter, you'll find information about what's happening in our District -- reports about recent events, news about congregations, and a heads-up on workshops that will be helpful to your congregation. Read it and enjoy! We always appreciate your comments and suggestions for the newsletter. Click on the "email the editor" link in the menu on the left to send us a message. *This issue of the PSD Newsletter, and previous issues, can be read at <http://www.psduua.org/Newsletter>.*

**UUA Advocacy and Witness - National Equality March:** The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations is a proud sponsor of the National Equality March & Rally that will take place in Washington, D.C. on October 11. People from all of our nation's 435 Congressional Districts will converge on Washington with one simple demand: Full equality for BGLT people in all matters governed by law in all 50 states. The Rev. Peter Morales, newly elected President of the UUA, will preach at All Soul's Church, Unitarian that morning and lead the UUA's delegation to the Rally. Please join us!  
**Congregational Advocacy & Witness** 25 Beacon St | Boston, MA 02108 | Phone 617.948.4656  
**Washington Office for Advocacy** 1100 G Street NW, Suite 800 | Washington DC, 20005 | Phone: 202.393.2255

**October UU Calendar**

| Sunday                                                                                     | Monday | Tuesday                                   | Wednesday                                    | Thursday                                                                                                                                 | Friday | Saturday                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                            |        |                                           |                                              | 1                                                                                                                                        | 2      | 3                                              |
| 4                                                                                          | 5      | 6                                         | 7                                            | 8                                                                                                                                        | 9      | 10                                             |
| 11<br>David Saetre<br>Ponzio Center<br>10am Service<br><br>Equality March<br>Washington DC | 12     | 13                                        | 14                                           | 15                                                                                                                                       | 16     | 17                                             |
| 18<br>Cider Pressing<br>Oppedahl home<br>1-4pm                                             | 19     | 20                                        | 21<br>Board Meeting<br>Vaughn Library<br>7pm | 22                                                                                                                                       | 23     | 24                                             |
| 25<br>Gail Green<br>Ponzio Center<br>10 am Service                                         | 26     | 27<br>PFLAG<br>Washburn<br>Library<br>7pm | 28                                           | 29                                                                                                                                       | 30     | 31<br>Habitat for<br>Humanity<br>Volunteer Day |
| Nov 1                                                                                      | Nov 2  | Nov 3                                     | Nov 4                                        | Nov 5<br>Mexican Fiesta<br>Ashland Senior<br>Center 4-7pm<br><br>PFLAG Exhibit<br>Opening at<br>Washburn Cul<br>Center w/<br>Concert 7pm |        |                                                |

