



The Open Door Newsletter

January 2011

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 – January 9th

Speaker: David Saetre

"Epiphanies: Wise Men and Dharma Bums"

The word "epiphany" means a sudden manifestation or realization of some deep truth. The word derives from an ancient Greek term, epiphaneia, ("manifestation, striking appearance") to describe the sudden comprehension of the essence or meaning of something. My Greek dictionary suggests that an epiphany expresses the experience of "discovering the last piece that completes a puzzle", often including philosophical and religious importance. The search for wisdom and understanding includes the heart's desire for that experience of the numinous by which one discovers a deep and abiding truth.

The term is not exclusively a religious term. Archimedes famously cried, "Eureka!", when he discovered the mathematical formula for determining the volume of an object. Einstein, especially in his later writings, likened his life's work to a series of epiphanies about the mysterious, unseen forces that move and shape the universe. But, the term also has a significant religious history and meaning. The Christian tradition in Europe called the season after Christmas, "Epiphany", beginning with the ancient story of the Magis' journey to Bethlehem. According to that legend, these seers and sages from the East finally found what they were looking for in the Christ Child - the sense that God was among us. So, the Christian tradition assigned a season for those stories of discovery and illumination. As the cold winter months slowly gave way to longer days and the return of new life in springtime, the stories of winter belonged to epiphanies.

The theme for our first service of the New Year picks up on our age-old longing for inspiration and meaning that lasts beyond the tragedies and impermanence of life - those moments of realization called epiphanies. From the tales of the ancient Wise Men to the Beat-generation writer Jack Kerouac, we will explore our own search for those moments where the pieces of the puzzle seem to fit together.

David Saetre Campus Minister/Assistant Professor of Religion

"The prevailing wisdom of the day is that religion and spirituality are a way to feel good, but the search for religion is the search for truth"

Fellowship Service – January 23rd

Speaker: Kent Seldal

The Meaning of Short-term Missions: Haiti

My name is Kent Seldal and I've been the chaplain at Memorial Medical Center for the last 19 years. I live up in the woods on Hungry Hill with my wife and Sunny and Chester, our two Golden Retrievers. I grew up in the Seattle area, moved to St. Louis for seminary and have been a Midwesterner ever since.

In February, I got an email from a friend who works with Mission to the World, the international outreach arm of the Presbyterian Church in America. She was putting together a medical team to go to Haiti in the wake of the January earthquake and asked if I was interested. From that point, the momentum built quickly. In March I found myself on the ground in Haiti. When I visit with you, I'll bring some pictures of the situation we found there and the work we did. I don't come as an expert on this sort of thing as this was my first medical mission experience. But, I can share with you some of the impact it had on me and we can talk about the meaning of short-term missions like this, both for the receiving country and the participants. I'll try to keep the presentation brief so we can have some time for interaction. I'm looking forward to seeing you...

UU Principles: There are seven principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Caring Corner

Our deepest condolences go out to the family of Rosie Delmain. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Please also keep the Hancock family, who recently lost their home in a fire, in your thoughts.

If you know of people in need of our thoughts and prayers or people who have specific needs please contact Jacki Rae-Ledin at 373-0347 or antiquegardeninn@hotmail.com. If you are interested in serving on the caring committee, please contact Jacki.

Podcasts: In Case You Missed It

The latest fellowship service presentation is available on itunes:

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/chequamegon-unitarian-universalist/id392546299>. You can listen or subscribe. You will also find the podcasts of all services on the CUUF website: <http://chequamegonuu.podbean.com>.

After Service Snack Host/Hostess Schedule:

January 9 th	Granger, Christensen, Crowell, Gonderzik
January 23 rd	Mergendahl, Quinlan, Perkins, Bewley
February 13 th	Tenney, Van Horn, Bussey, Dufek
February 27 th	Bavlnka, Bergerud, Christensen, Blakely

Please call Patty Dufek if you have questions: 682-9015 Or 715-292-1676

Have You Considered Making a Planned Gift to CUUF? *Submitted by Ruth Oppedahl*
"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 or bequeaths to the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Please consider designating a specific sum or percentage of your estate or life insurance policy to CUUF. Or, perhaps you are able to offer a planned gift while you are living. Contributions may be set aside for specific purposes, with recognition or anonymously. Please discuss any ideas you may have with a board member.

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

Warm-hearted Volunteers Needed

Faith In Action-Ashland County has a waiting list of seniors in need of a volunteer to help with their snow removal. Warm-hearted volunteers with shovels, plows, or snowblowers are urgently needed. This is a great way to get some fresh air, and exercise and provide a very valuable service to an elderly neighbor. Volunteers are matched up with one household to assist throughout the season. Get involved -sign up today! For information about volunteering or requesting the help of a volunteer, call 715-782-4414 x 3. Applications are online at www.ashlandaging.org .

Thanks to Brenda – CUUF Administrator

Brenda Brouder has been doing a great job as our administrator. Please note that Brenda prefers being contacted regarding CUUF business at the following email address: cuufad@gmail.com.

Unitarian Universalist Association Events:

Prairie Star District

One-day anniversary celebration of Camp Unistar: Camp UniStar is a Unitarian Universalist camp for families, individuals, and youth located on Star Island in Cass Lake, Minnesota. UniStar is owned by the Prairie Star District of the UUA. 2011 marks Camp UniStar's fiftieth year! Join us in the celebration on: **Saturday March 12th, 2011 First Universalist Church, 3400 Dupont Ave S., Minneapolis.**

Camp Unistar Summer programs: UniStar offers 13 weeks of awesome experiences, with about 65 people attending from Saturday to Saturday. In 2011 there will be Work Week (June 4-11), two Youth Weeks (June 11-18; June 18-25) and ten Family Weeks for families and adults of all ages (every week from June 25 through September 3). Each Family Week has a theme with a daily two hour morning program. Programs may include topics such as sailing, dance, yoga, science, religion, current events, nature, and crafts. Campers may choose to stay in the lodge or cabins, or tent right next to the lakeshore.

The lake encourages water activities (swimming, kayaking and sailing); the forest trails attract hikers; sunrises and sunsets invite meditation. Each year campers tell us they return for the peace, quiet, and serenity of this island retreat with no roads or commercial enterprises, as well as fun times with friends old and new. Star Island even has its own lake, Lake Windigo. Information about 2011 summer programs and the annual Camper Reunion party (newcomers are welcome!) is available at <http://www.campunistar.org>.

UU websites:

National organization – UUA: UUA.org

Information regarding famous persons who were or are UUs: www.famousuus.com

Regional organization: Prairie Star District: www.psdoua.org

Prairie Star District newsletter: www.psdoua.org/newsletter

Letters to the Fellowship:

Have you always dreamed of visiting Alaska? Are you curious about the lifestyles of Alaskan UUs? Do you enjoy getting to know your fellow travelers? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2011 is for you! Four Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer as we celebrate our 15th year! See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bear, whales, bald eagles, seals, and caribou. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Enjoy all that our beautiful state has to offer. Programs led by Dave Frey and Bre Griffin, members of the farthest north UU congregation, with 36 years of Alaska living between them. To find out more about your Alaskan trip of a lifetime, visit www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email info@whalecoastak.org, or call 907-322-4966. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

Dear Fellowship,

I am looking for a runner sled. If anyone has one they would like to give away or sell please call: 682-9015 or 715-292-1676. I want to show my grandkids what "the good old days" were like.

Sincerely, Patty Dufek

Dear Fellowship,

I am delighted to report that my family temporarily increased by seven members – puppies – newfoundland/ golden retriever/lab mix. They are tv-commercial cute. They will be adoptable at the end of January – free. Please let me know if you are interested in giving one of these puppies a loving home. Marilyn Einspanier deltalod@cheqnet.net 715-372-4299.

MISSION STATEMENT - This fellowship exists to serve the human needs of its members and friends, to stimulate individual development of a positive and ethical philosophy of life, and to provide a common shelter for everyone's personal growth. -- Founded, February 22, 1998

UU Calendar of upcoming events:

January 9th	David Saetre
January 23rd	Kent Seldal
February 13th	Fellowship Service
February 27th	Fellowship Service
March 12 th	Camp Unistar anniversary - Minneapolis

Note: Fellowship service dates are in bold.

Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Website: <http://www.chequamegonuuf.org> Mailing address: PO Box 641, Ashland, WI 54806

CUUF Board Members and Staff:

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