



The Open Door Newsletter

February 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 – March 13th

Speaker: David Saetre

The Uncommon, Common Good: Religion and the Quest for a More Moral Society

This is also Membership Sunday – please notice the information regarding membership.

Our guest speaker in February, Laurel Liefert, suggested that religion in America has too often been understood as a private affair, emphasizing the individual over the communal. An increasing awareness of the social dimension of religious expression, and a deepening commitment to the “public square” is a hallmark of the last century of religious thought. From Martin Luther King’s “Dream” to the Unitarian commitment to the “interdependent web of all existence”, or to the United Church of Christ commitment to social justice as the hallmark of a lively Christian faith, American religious communities have increasingly sought to express the moral commitment to “the common good” as a centerpiece of religious conviction.

At the same time, there is a deep running theme of rugged individualism that characterizes the American narrative. Our nation’s social fabric seems torn at the seams by competing voices over what constitutes “the good” in society. The two competing visions are *private gain* and *public good*. The clash between the public good versus private gain is at the heart of our current national divide. It is important for religious communities to understand the deep roots of the divide, and to respond to the perplexing divisions made apparent in the current budget battles in Wisconsin and around the country. This talk will explore these themes in light of the current controversies in Madison, Washington D.C. and beyond.

March 13th is also Membership Sunday: During the service, we invite anyone who wants to become a member of Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship an opportunity to do so by signing the CUUF Membership Book. Please see the article that follows for further information.

Fellowship Service – March 27th

Speaker: Alan Brew

From Walden to The Joy of Sex: Meditations on Living the Good Life

Over the past four years, one of my greatest joys has been team teaching with David Saetre in Northland College’s *Superior Connections* program. In this role, I’ve had an opportunity to be a student again during sessions when David takes the lead.

Our sessions together have been rich in playful interchanges, and, for me, have included a number of insightful moments—moments, that is, when David’s approach or his unique turn of a phrase helped me to see a topic anew.

One of those moments came during a class session when David took time to parse the linguistic roots of *religion*. As he explained, the English word *religion* is likely derived from the Latin *religare*, a term that means to tie fast, to bind. Thus, as David observed, one might think of religion as an act of connecting, or reconnecting, oneself.

Although the linguistic roots of *religion* are hardly a well-kept secret, David’s observation, in the context of a curricular program devoted to connections, initiated for me an extended meditation on the role and value of connections in my life. In my talk, I will share some of these meditations and demonstrate (I hope) why there really is a meaningful connection between the masterwork of a confirmed bachelor and a work that is generally accepted as a milestone in the literature of sex and love.

Alan Brew is an Associate Professor of English and Interim Dean of the Faculty at Northland College.

Caring Corner

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.

Become a CUUF member – March 13th Service

Submitted by Karen Crowell

Note: If you are interested in becoming a member on March 13th please contact Karen Crowell, Andrea Huago or Brenda Brouder as soon as possible using the contact information at the end of this article.

We welcome you to become a member of the Chequamgon UU Fellowship. A member is anyone 16 years old or older who wishes to covenant to affirm and promote the UU principles of faith (below) and signs our Fellowship Membership book.

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.

The benefits of membership are being a part of a liberal faith community that you care about. It's asking questions of faith, hope, charity, love, grace, spirituality, religion, belief, ethical issues, divinity, or a transcendent experience of oneness with others who are also engaged in a quest for truth, meaning, and social justice. It's participating with others in services, meditation, discussion, the RE program for children and youth, social justice concerns, circle suppers, and other UU activities.

Members are expected to participate in the fellowship and give an annual pledge of financial support, offering their time, talent and support at a self-determined level.

You may become a member at any time or on **NEW MEMBER SUNDAY, MARCH 13TH**. To do so, please mention your interest in membership to Karen Crowell (dancingmoon01@centurytel.net) or Andrea Haugo (haugoam@hotmail.com), or Brenda Brouder (cuufad@gmail.com).

Child Dedication Service – April 10th

Submitted by Irene Blakely

A Unitarian Universalist Child Dedication ceremony welcomes a child into the fellowship. It is an opportunity for the fellowship to recognize each child and to offer support to the child as s/he grows.

The ceremony is brief but meaningful and will take place in conjunction with the Coming of Age's class presentation of personal credos. Children (infant to twelve years) who participate, come forward with parent(s) or guardians during this part of the service. There are no special requirements of the children or their parents.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Irene Blakely at adahsdottir@gmail.com.

Music Service – May 8th

Submitted by Joni Chapman

It's time to dust off that clarinet and practice for the UU All Music Service on May 8. The music committee is working on a program of short pieces of music and readings that celebrate the Unitarian principles. We are particularly looking for songs for the fellowship to sing along. Joni Chapman is happy to accompany anyone who wishes to sing or play a solo instrument. If you would like to contribute to the service, please contact Joni Chapman at jonibchapman@yahoo.com or Megan Perrine at perrine@cheqnet.net.

Annual Garage Sale – May 21st

Submitted by Birgit Wolff

When I hear the word "spring," do flowers, song birds, or the smell of freshly mown grass come to mind? NO! **GARAGE SALE** comes to mind. The annual Ashland garage sale is May 21st. This is a great fundraiser for us. Volunteers are needed to make this a successful event. Please sign up for one of these responsibilities:

- set up before the sale
- mind the store during the sale
- clean up after the sale.

We also need a host garage. Please contact Birgit birgithwolff@yahoo.com to volunteer or host.

...And oh, yes, of course we need your unwanted, gently-used or new donations, so start setting them aside.

Podcasts: In Case You Missed It

The CUUF Christmas Program video is on YOUTUBE: www.youtube.com/watch?v=EP6QaVQripE.

Be sure to watch the credits. A great big thank you to Travis, he did a fantastic job on this. Most of this info can also be found on the CUUF website <http://www.chequamegonuuf.org/>

After Service Snack Host/Hostess Schedule:

March 13th Gonderzik, Hassart, Dufek, Crowell

March 27th Lorenz, Perkins, Ledin, Wichita

April 10th Wise, Brouder, Christensen, Crowell

April 24th Perrine, Kehn, Bussey, Quinlan

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.

Community Events:

PFLAG – Upcoming Programs

Submitted by Mary Wichita

- *Kevin Shanning*, Professor of Sociology at Northland College, will speak at the March 22nd PFLAG meeting regarding how to become a good ally of gays, lesbians, bisexual, transgender and queer individuals. Both gatherings will be eye-opening and supportive -7pm Washburn Public Library.
- Our 2nd anniversary Ice Cream Social Tuesday, April 26th. Plan on a good time and some fun as we launch our first ever variety show/open mic event! Read a poem, sing a song, perform a skit or tell a funny story! More info: Contact amy.pflag@hotmail.com or call 715.373.5355/Facebook: PFLAG Washburn WI or Mary Wichita, 715-765-4132; mary.wichita@yahoo.com

Everyone is welcome! Last month David Saetre gave a wonderful, insightful talk about same sex marriage throughout biblical times, beginning with the Byzantine empire. Thank you, David!

PFLAG'S vision is that the parents, families and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, celebrate diversity and envision a society that embraces everyone, including those of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. Only with respect, dignity and equality for all will we reach our full potential as human beings, individually and collectively. PFLAG welcomes the participation and support of all who share in, and hope to realize this vision.

Unitarian Universalist Association Events:

Prairie Star District

Prairie Star District holds its Annual Conference in Des Moines, April 8-10, 2011!

Talented storyteller, Rev. Brian Eslinger will present the keynote address, "Telling Our Stories" on Friday evening to a multigenerational audience. Bring the family.

You'll want to hear Rev. Kendyl Gibbons lecture on "Spiritual Maturity as the Goal of Faith Development". Choose from among 24 workshops being offered. Workshops that will inspire you: to strengthen your resolve on matters of social justice; to explore your beliefs and values; to revitalize your congregation; and to literally "Sing the Journey Together," where participants can learn new songs from the teal hymnal. Seize the opportunity to network with hundreds of UU's from around the District.

The Conference will be April 8-10, 2011 in Des Moines, Iowa. Discounted registration fee is available through March 18. More information at <https://www.psdoua.org/drupal/events/AnnualConference2011>.

Camp Unistar Summer programs: UniStar, located in northern Minnesota, 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. <http://www.campunistar.org>.

Camp StarTrail, located in Nebraska, will be held July 31 to August 5, 2011. Camping that fits your budget and your soul. Find out how we "pamper the camper" at www.psdoua.org/campstartrail.

Online Workshops

Consider attending one of the free online workshops offered by District staff and knowledgeable guest speakers. To participate all you need is high speed internet access and a separate phone line.

Dealing with Conflict Positively

March 23 & 31, 2011

Tapestry of Faith Vision: Learn about the "Tapestry of Faith" religious education programs

March 22 & 29, 2011

All these workshops are at 6:45 p.m. Central/ 7:45 p.m. Eastern. Registration is available at <http://www.psdoua.org/Workshops>. Note: at the same address you can choose to watch previous workshops and/or view a tutorial slide presentation on how to participate in an online workshop.

People and Congregations in the news

Read about PSD people and congregations

<http://www.psdoua.org/Newsletter/61February2011PeopleAndCongregations>.

MidWest Leadership School (MWLS) and **Youth MidWest Leadership School** develops youth and adult lay leaders in the Unitarian Universalist (UU) community. MWLS will be held July 17 - 23, 2011, on the campus of Beloit College in southeast Wisconsin. For information or a registration form, visit <http://www.mwls.org/>. Scholarships from PSD are available.

General Assembly 2012 will be held in Phoenix, AZ. "Justice General Assembly", will be held where immigration is a flash-point issue. You may offer input if you wish – this General Assembly is in the process of being structured: <http://www.psdoua.org/Newsletter/61February2011> (bottom of page).

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:

Campus Center Elevator

This was sent via email to Northland Faculty and Staff (UU was not singled out to receive the email):
Over the past several weeks the Facilities Team has been called-out twice because the elevator stopped working. Each time personnel responded and investigated the situation the same root cause of the problem was diagnosed – the elevator doors were left propped open. Propping the doors open for a length of time will result in the elevator becoming inoperable. This is a safety feature built into the elevator program logic. Going forward, please do not prop the doors open. Signs will be posted in the elevator as a reminder.

Thank You, *Thomas Hmielewski* **The Facility Team:** Providing respectful, quality and timely service to the college community and its environment!

On Her Soap BoxLooking for a Milk Box

I am looking for an old-fashioned milk box. I'd like to find one like I had when I was a kid – the nubby aluminum type that holds a couple gallons of milk. If anyone has one they would like to sell please call (715) 682-9015. Thanks! Patty Dufek

Wine Country Excursions

The UU's of Napa, California proudly announce the sixth season of our Wine Country Excursions
We offer two choices: Both start with comfortable lodging in members' homes with full breakfast (up to 3 nights). *Editor's note: My grandfather, who quoted Benjamin Franklin, comes to mind "Guests, like fish, begin to smell after three days."* You can choose a 2-day "Wine Country Excursion," a guided, personalized tour conducted by one of our members--some with wine industry experience--or lodging and self-guided touring. If desired, we provide guidance, maps, etc. UU ministers will be personally guided by our minister, Rev. Bonnie Dlott. The program runs from April through October. Our fees are below market rate for comparable services and **all proceeds go to our small fellowship**. For complete details contact: Tom Wilson (707-254-7443) or 2wilsons1dog@comcast.net. **We look forward to sharing our lovely "home" with you!**

UU Calendar of upcoming events:

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|----------------|--|
| Mar 13: | CUUF - David Saetre, Northland College Campus Minister
New Member Ceremony – Karen Crowell |
| Mar 27: | CUUF - Alan Brew, Associate Professor of English and Interim Dean of the Faculty at Northland College |
| Mar 12 : | Camp Unistar anniversary - Minneapolis |
| Mar 18: | Deadline for registration at the discounted early rate for the PSD conference. |
| Apr 8-10: | Prairie Star District annual conference in Des Moines, Iowa |
| Apr 10: | CUUF - Coming of Age Credo Service - CUUF Youth; Child Dedication - Irene Blakely |
| Apr 24: | CUUF - Easter: David Saetre, Northland College Campus Minister |
| May 8: | CUUF - Music Service: members, friends |
| May 21: | CUUF – Garage Sale |
| May 22: | CUUF - Flower Ceremony; Chang'aa Mwetii, storyteller, Assistant Professor of Education and Curriculum UMD |

Note: Fellowship service dates are in bold.

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

Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

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