



The Open Door Newsletter

October 2011

Time and Location of Services: Fellowship Services are at 10am on the Northland College Campus. Both services this month are on the 2nd floor commons of the Ponzio Center.

Fellowship Service -- October 9th

Mary Shideler, Author of The Kayak Lady

Long on spirit, Mary Shideler did not let her short stature interfere with a quest to paddle all 1,007 lakes in northern Minnesota's Itasca County. Sometimes with the help of friends, but often on her own, she carried her kayak through brush, trudged across bogs in tall boots, and put up with hordes of mosquitoes and legions of wood ticks. Along the way, she also learned to trust her own capacity to overcome obstacles, including her fear of being alone. Her book, The Kayak Lady, is a collection of stories and photos—a mix of adventure and fun—that documents Mary's experiences over 15 years.

Mary will share with our fellowship the spiritual experience of this undertaking. A quote from her book: "I am most open to reflection when I am alone on the water in my kayak. There I become a willing captive. It is never too easy for me to be still, but the rhythmic activity of paddling naturally lulls me into a meditative state. The gentle routine movement encourages thoughts to visit through subtle channels....the listening is not just with my ears; my way-down-inside secret places pay close attention, too. I am just being, not wondering about motives or explanations or outcomes. Finally, it is safe to just let go."

Fellowship Service – October 23rd

David Saetre, Speaker: "Grace and Mercy"

Dear UU Friends: I plan to dedicate my talks with you this year to the classical themes and ideas that have animated the western spiritual traditions for centuries. These great themes include core ideas like "grace", "redemption", "atonement", "charity", even the meaning of a word like "faith". These words have also become loaded with historical baggage of church dogma. It's occurred to me that we risk losing the power of these ideas as we move away from the traditions associated with the terms. How might these classical themes inform a lively spirituality today? Can we rediscover or recover the power and meaning these words once conveyed?

In my talk on September 11, "The End(s) of Religion" I suggested that ideas like redemption and love were the proper and sometimes forgotten goals of religious imagination and spirituality. And, I suggested that religious communities like ours would do well to reconsider the world-healing power contained in these classical ideas. So, my first talk in the series is simply titled, "Grace and Mercy." What does the word "grace" mean; what is there in that core idea of the western tradition that might animate our sense of well-being in everyday experience? That seems like a good place to begin.

Future talks will include some of the other ideas mentioned above. I hope our explorations of these ideas will be meaningful contributions to deepening our spiritual lives as individuals and as a progressive, living and liberal spiritual community.

David

Religious Education for 2011-2012

All youth are welcome to participate in our Religious Education (RE) programs.

K-3 *Picture Book World Religions* which uses children's books to teach about world religions.

Middle School with teachers Erin Tenney and Tom Mitchell using the curriculum "What Do You Stand For? Discusses character traits with activities and discussions.

High School with teachers Beth Reed and Ruth Oppedahl. The older kids are ready to put their beliefs into action so we will focus on service projects of their choosing, possibly exploring Islam and Youth Weekends and making connections to the larger UU youth groups. This will be very youth directed.

For more information on Religious Education please contact Beth Reed at 715-682-8385, 4lipreeds@centurylink.net or Ruth Oppedahl at 715-292-3872 ruth@oppedahl.com

Circle Suppers

Food. Friends. What could be better? We are organizing CUUF Circle Suppers for this winter. They will be held once a month, January-April. This is a chance to get to know your fellow UUsers better. The circles will be 5-8 people, and the people in each circle will rotate monthly. Joining the Circle Suppers means that you will host one meal and try to attend three other meals. If your schedule doesn't allow that, you can be a Substitute Circle Supper, which means I will call you if someone can't attend their scheduled Circle Supper. Please email Andrea at haugoam@hotmail.com or call 682-9651 if you want to join (either the regular list or the sub list) or if you have questions. Please sign up by October 31st. Thank you!

UU Set-Up... Volunteer your time for our lay fellowship service

The Worship Committee is forming a sub-committee to help with set-up and take-down of tables, chairs and the PA system. The Set-Up committee needs about 2-4 active members. Each volunteer is responsible for only a few Sundays, assuming that multiple volunteers come forward. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Megan Perrine (Perrine@cheqnet.net) or Ed Calhan (elcalhan@centurytel.net).

Persuasive Editorial Comment: Everyone should be contributing in some way to facilitate our fellowship...maybe this is a way for you to help without making a huge time commitment.

Podcasts: In Case You Missed It

You may listen to services on the CUUF website: www.chequamegonuu.podbean.com. Technology is amazing. Thanks Travis!

After Service Snack Host/Hostess Schedule:

Oct 9	Hassart; Wichita; Ledder; Lorenz; Lewis
Oct 23	Saetre-Bewely; Crowell; Rehwald; E. Tenney
Nov 13	Beguhn; Brouder; Chapman-Dowd; D.&K.Christenson
Nov 27	Perrine; Brew; Calhan; Kent&Kathy Tenney
Dec 4	Granger; Quinlan; Bergeruhd-Quamme; D.&A.Christenson

If you can't serve when scheduled, please call Patty to alert her. If you want to bring something but are not on the schedule, feel free to contribute - you don't have to let anyone know. Please call Patty Dufek if you have questions: 682-9015 Or 715-292-1676

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.

Have You Considered Making a Planned Gift to CUUF?

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.

The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit. ~Nelson Henderson
Planned Giving is good stewardship. For more information contact Ruth Oppedahl at 715-292-3872.

In Our Community:

Sunday, Oct 16 Cider Pressing Party

Start picking apples and saving clean containers (plastic jugs and 2 liter pop bottles) so that we can make apple cider on Sunday Oct 16 at 1:00pm at the Oppedahl home. A variety of apples makes for really good cider. Wild trees are a good source of apples. Please no apples that have fallen to the ground, but you can spread a tarp and shake the tree. Perfection is overrated (dry spots are OK) - but no soft, mushy spots. Pressing apples is fun for all ages – be an active participant or spectator.

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. From the T-intersection of Hwy 2 and Hwy 13 west of Ashland, turn north on Hwy 13 and go six miles (if you get into Washburn you have gone too far). Turn left/west onto Thompson Rd and go one block to Jones. Turn right/north onto Jones and we are the first place on the left. Ruth Oppedahl 715-292-3872.

Faith In Action

Faith In Action's Rake the Town Campaign: A nip is in the air, and senior citizens may need help with seasonal chores. Faith In Action takes requests from seniors in need of help with fall tasks such as raking, putting on storm windows, or hauling in wood. Volunteers can assist with a variety of services including basic household chores, small fix-it jobs, shopping, respite, lamp repair, Arts/Sports Buddies, Pets 'N Pals visits, and companionship. Seniors in need of assistance or people interested in volunteering should contact the Ashland County Aging Unit for more information (715) 682-4414 x3 or fiavolunteer@ashlandaging.org.

Faith In Action Mexican Dinner Fundraiser Take a siesta from cooking! Faith In Action-Ashland County is holding its 7th annual Mexican Fiesta Feast, **Thursday, October 20th** at the Ashland Senior Center at 400 Chapple Avenue from 4:00-7:00. A Silent Auction with many wonderful items is concurrently held – winning bids are frequently at bargain prices.

Three ways to participate:

- **Purchase tickets and attend:** Cost: \$9.00 adult in advance, \$10 at the door. \$4.00 ages 4-12 in advance - \$5 at the door. Ages 3 and under free. Carry out available. Tickets available at the Ashland County Aging office, 400 Chapple Ave. or by calling 682-4414 ext. 3. Proceeds will support this vital community program.
- **Donate a handcrafted item to the silent auction:** If you are a quilter, knitter, woodworker, potter, baker or candle stick maker (or a fill-in-the-blank-maker), please consider donating one of your creations to the FIA silent auction. Call the Faith in Action office at 682-4414 ext. 3 or email fiavolunteer@ashlandaging.org regarding your donated item(s).
- **Donate a gift certificate for a service to the silent auction:** Donate a certificate worth one hour of snowplowing, one manicure, one haircut or one hour of house cleaning – these types of service certificates are needed for the silent auction as well. See info above regarding donating.

Faith In Action recruits volunteers to help senior citizens with a variety of services to support them in living independently. For information call the Faith in Action office at 682-4414 ext. 3 or email fiavolunteer@ashlandaging.org.

In Our Community Continued:

Voter Registration

An effort to identify, educate, and assist voters in need of the new voter ID (now required under Wisconsin law) is underway in Ashland and Bayfield Counties. Debra Lewis is organizing a committee to reach as many voters as possible before the next election. A strategic plan is being devised and volunteers will be needed in the months ahead to help with educational efforts, phone calling, and transportation to the Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain the ID. For more information please contact Deb at jeffdeblewis@charter.net.

PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) – Washburn Chapter

If anyone has any questions, please contact Mary Wichita (mary.wichita@yahoo.com; 715-765-4132).

Tuesday, October 25, 7:00 p.m GLBT-Friendly Businesses - **Washburn Cultural Center**. Owners of area businesses discuss their experiences of support for the GLBT Community: Bill Luckenbill from Bill's Collision, Realtor Kathleen Russell, Sandy Hoth and Nancy Lee of Hoth Lee Gallery in Port Wing, Don Zifko and John Markus of Don's Berry & Pumpkin Patch

Sunday November 13: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at **StageNorth**, Washburn. Band and Silent Auction to benefit GLBT college scholarship fund. This promises to be a rockin' time! FREE - donations welcome

Tuesday, December 6: 7:00 p.m., **Washburn Cultural Center**. Holiday Party with special guests **Sara Thomsen**. Sara and her wife, Paula, will share their wedding experience with us.

UU Prairie Star District

- **Conference for Small Congregations:** Join us in Des Moines, Iowa, **November 4-5**. "**Seeds for the Sowing**" is a two-day conference designed for congregations with fewer than 150 members. The featured speaker is *Rev. Andrew Pakula*, senior minister of New Unity-Unitarians, a small congregation in London, England which has grown from 35 to over 100 members. Come hear Andy's inspiring story on Friday eve, then choose from a variety of workshops on Saturday. Workshop topics: *social media, music in worship, right relations, religious education and attracting young adults*.

Conference info: <http://www.psdoua.org/Workshops/SmallCongregationConference2011>. And to find out more about our presenter, visit Andy's blog at <http://throwyourselflikeseed.blogspot.com/>.

- **Monthly Online Workshop Series**
Online: High speed Internet connection and phone line are required - 6:45 – 8:00 PM. Each workshop offered twice. **Participants will need to have a Facebook or SlideShare account to participate.**

Sustainable Youth Ministry	Thursday, October 6, & Tuesday, October 11
Digital/Spiritual Literacy	Thursday, October 20, & Tuesday, October 25
Human Resources	Tuesday, November 8, & Monday, November 14
Budgeting	Thursday, November 10, & Tuesday, November 15

- **Youth Ministry:** *As the Coordinator of Emerging Youth and Young Adult Ministries (PS and other districts), I wish to hear from you with your questions, thoughts, and ideas. The goal is to look at new and emerging models of youth/young adult ministries.* Nancy Combs-Morgan ncombsmorgan@uua.org.

UUA – National

Michael McGlone, Public Information Assistant for the Unitarian Universalist Association encourages UUs to find monthly Congregational Bulletins at: <http://www.uua.org/communications/bulletin>. Visiting the general website www.uua.org is very educational.

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

October/November CUUF, PSD and local community Calendar

- Oct 9 Sun, Fellowship Service – Mary Shideler, author of The Kayak Lady**
16 Sun, Cider Pressing Party – *Ruth Oppedahl 715-292-3872*
20 Thurs, Mexican Dinner 4-7pm – Ashland Senior Center – *Megan 682-4414x3*
23 Sun, Fellowship Service – David Saetre – Grace and Mercy
25 Tues, GBLT-friendly Businesses – Washburn Culture Center – *Mary 765-4132*
31 Mon, Circle Supper signup deadline – *Andrea Huago 715-682-9651*
Nov 4/5 Fri/Sat, Conference for Small Congregations, Des Moines, Iowa
<http://www.psdwua.org/Workshops/SmallCongregationConference2011>
13 Sun, Fellowship Service
13 Sun, GBLT College Scholarship Fundraiser – Stagenorth - *Mary 765-4132*
27 Sun, Fellowship Service
Dec 4 Sun, Fellowship Service
6 Tues, Sara Thompson;PFLAG holiday party–Washburn Cultural Center-
Mary 765-4132

Prairie Star District **Online Workshops:**

[Sustainable Youth Ministry](#) Oct 6 or Oct 11 [Digital/Spiritual Literacy](#) Oct 20 or Oct 25
[Human Resources](#) Nov 8 or Nov 14 [Budgeting](#) Nov 10 or Nov 15

Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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CUUF Committee Contacts: (alphabetized, for no particular logical reason, by first name)

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Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time, and always start with the person nearest you.~Mother Teresa