



The Open Door Newsletter

November 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 – November 13th

Speaker: David Saetre, “Hallelujah: Praise and Thanksgiving in Religious Practice”

David Saetre will continue his series on the animating ideas at the heart of the western tradition. The series began last month with his talk on “Grace.” David will continue to explore a topic and theme central to the Judeo-Christian roots of modern progressive religion. David notes that many of us have come from those traditions, but have rejected them, for many different reasons. The question becomes then, is there something in the old stories and the old ideas that we might reclaim and articulate in new ways? Beyond the dogma, what’s in the traditions we might not want to lose?

This month’s topic is “Hallelujah: Praise and Thanksgiving in Religious Practice.” Central to the Jewish scriptures, the utterance of praise is at the very heart of the western tradition. It is central to the activity of prayer, and a key to the dynamic aspect of faith. But, praise can also seem like empty repetition, or emotionally shallow group-think. Thinking anew about the idea of praise flows naturally from our talk about “Grace.” Understanding that life and its bounty comes to us as a gift naturally leads us to exultations of praise for blessings. The African-American religious tradition is filled with a compelling sense of praise, from the old spirituals to the black preaching tradition, which puts that old “hallelujah” feeling in the bones. Poets also know the deep language of praise: from Gerard Manly Hopkins to Wendell Berry, or, from Walt Whitman to Gary Snyder... the poetry of praise offers a rich resource to reconsider the idea of praise in our own lives. (*The poem found in the newsletter, Pied Beauty by Gerard Manly Hopkins, was submitted by David*).

The service will be a celebration of the many expressions of praise, and the way praise animates and renews our daily life. Hallelujah! David

David W. Saetre

College Chaplain and Assistant Professor of Religion, Northland College

“The world is deep, and deeper than the day could read. Deep is its woe. Joy deeper still than grief can be.” Nietzsche “The opposite of faith is certainty, not doubt.” DS

Fellowship Service – November 27th

Speakers: Alan and Stacy Craig, “Peeling Back the Layers”

In 2008 and 2009 Alan and Stacy Craig moved into and renovated a turn-of-the-century Finnish settlers’ cabin. In this presentation we will explore the origins of Scandinavian dove-tailed log construction, take a look at some of the remaining dove-tailed structures in the area, and explain why, amongst the others, there is a single red chair at our dinner table.

Perhaps more importantly we will discuss the way the process has affected our views on place, and our own relationship to it, and how, as we peeled back the layers of particle board, wall paper, and siding, we gained a new appreciation for craft, continuity, and the power of a dream.

Alan and Stacy Craig are both alumni of Northland College. Stacy is currently the Coordinator of Applied Learning at Northland College, a volunteer with the Mason Area Ambulance, and on the board of the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters Institute. Alan is the Curator at the WI Canoe Heritage Museum in Spooner and serves as a board member for the Town of Kelly Planning Commission. With their bird dog Hope, they reside in Mason.

Caring Corner

Healing wishes go out to Peg Griese, who is recovering from eye surgery and June Bavlnka, who is recovering from knee surgery. Prayers are with Mark Brouder and family as they attend to his mother's illness.

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.

Hymnal Inventory

The Worship Committee would like to do an inventory of our hymnbooks, [Singing the Living Tradition](#), to see if more are needed for our services. If you have one at home and use it as a resource, please let someone on the Worship or Music Committee know. If it has been forgotten on top of the piano or buried under a pile of books, please return it so that it may be used on Sundays.

Save UU Money - Don't Pay Sales Tax

As CUUF is a non-profit organization, it is not required to pay sales tax. When you make a purchase for CUUF it is important to let the merchant know that the purchase is for a tax exempt organization and to provide the merchant with the tax exempt number. The Fellowship's Certificate of Exempt Status (CES) number is 038304. This number needs to be given to suppliers at the time the purchase is made. If you make regular purchases and would like a copy of the CES, please contact Brenda Brouder.

CUUF Website & Facebook page: Check them out....

The CUUF website is in the process of being updated – it will soon be unveiled. It will reside at the same location, URL <http://www.chequamegonuuuf.org/>, but will have a new look. We are now a presence on Facebook... <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Chequamegon-Unitarian-Universalist-Fellowship/185720978179>. Since it is a fan page, you will have to “like” it to follow it.

Volunteer Poster Distributer needed in the city of Bayfield:

CUUF is seeking a person who is willing to put up monthly posters in the Bayfield community. The monthly poster advertises our two services for each month. The posters are available at the beginning of each month. Please contact June Bavlnka @ 715-682-5221 if you can contribute in this way.

After Service Snack Host/Hostess Schedule:

Nov 13	Beguhn; Brouder; Chapman-Dowd; Kristen Christensen
Nov 27	Perrine; Brew; Calhan; Kent and Kathy Tenney
Dec 4	Granger; Quinlan; Bergeruhd-Quamme; Donn and Ann Christensen

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

Book Review:

Skeptics and True Believers by Chet Raymo

At last Sunday's service, two of the Joys & Concerns candles were lit to celebrate the virtue of a healthy measure of doubt. This prompts me to recommend to the Fellowship a wise and insightful book on the subject: [Skeptics and True Believers](#) by Chet Raymo. A central premise of the book is that as skeptics we accept the evolving nature of truth and are willing to live with a measure of doubt. Reconciling certainty and doubt and building a bridge between religion and science is the book's goal, one that is accomplished with intelligence, humor and humility. Chet Raymo is a physicist and astronomer who can describe the miracles and mysteries that science shows us in nature. He argues that religion should embrace the reliable knowledge of the world that science provides, while at the same time science should respect and nourish humankind's need for spiritual substance. *Submitted by Ed Calhan*

Pied Beauty

*GLORY be to God for dappled things—
For skies of couple-colour as a brinded cow;
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;
Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;
Landscape plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plough;
And áll trádes, their gear and tackle and trim.*

*All things counter, original, spare, strange;
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change.
Praise him.*

Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844–89)

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.

Leaders need to be optimists. Their vision is beyond the present. ~Rudy Giuliani

Planned Giving is good stewardship. For more information contact Ruth Oppedahl at 715-292-3872.

Podcasts: In Case You Missed It

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

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

In Our Community:

Faith In Action

Faith In Action would like to thank the Chequamegon Unitarian youth for helping with the raking effort this fall. The parents and RE students tackled two big yards. The seniors were very grateful for their help. Thanks to the CUUF congregation for its ongoing outreach and support of FIA! Submitted by Megan Perrine, FIA Program Coordinator *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.*

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). Chapter meetings are typically held on the fourth Tuesday of the month on the 3rd floor of the Washburn Cultural Center. However, the Nov. 13 concert will replace the Nov. meeting and December's chapter meeting will be held December 6.

Sunday November 13: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at **StageNorth**, Washburn. This promises to be a rockin' time! Local musicians Amy Bailey, Marky Rossow & Val Salas will perform a variety of music including blues. Leslie Wilson will be the announcer. There is no charge to attend. The music and silent auction benefit the scholarship fund: *Bayfield and Ashland County high school seniors who have contributed in the area of GLBT advocacy, support and/or education may be selected to receive a scholarship. Scholarships of \$500 will be awarded to students selected from those who complete an application.*

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

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.**

Human Resources

Tuesday, November 8, & Monday, November 14

Budgeting

Thursday, November 10, & Tuesday, November 15

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.

November CUUF, PSD and local community Calendar

Nov 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

18 Holiday Fellowship Service, Alvord Theatre, Ponzio Student Center, Northland College

Prairie Star District **Online Workshops:**

[Human Resources](#)

Nov 8 or Nov 14

[Budgeting](#) Nov 10 or Nov 15

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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"Be the change you want to see in the world." Mahatma Gandhi

Editor: In my quest to find appropriate quotes, made funnier by the truth-seeking quotes preceding and following it, I found this: *When trouble arises and things look bad, there is always one individual who perceives a solution and is willing to take command. Very often, that person is crazy. ~Dave Barry, "Things That It Took Me 50 Years to Learn"*